



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



**MUMBAI
STORYTELLERS
SOCIETY**

gatha

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MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 17th – 19th, 2023

ADAPT



About the event

Gaatha Mumbai International Storytelling Festival 2023



Gaatha:

Gaatha brings together a galaxy of storytellers, both from India and abroad, coming down to the campus to regale the audience with live storytelling or through music, dance, theatre, and art. The stories promise to enthrall the audience as the tellers, both Indian and international will weave their magic. Workshops, Talks, and Panel Discussions are proposed to be held as part of GAATHA to bring alive the various traditions and nuances of the art of storytelling. GAATHA thus brings together, on one platform, stories, and storytellers from across India and the world to encourage, promote and thus spread that facet of education, storytelling, which is much needed in this huge metropolis.

Somaiya Vidyavihar University:

Somaiya Vidyavihar University (SVU), Mumbai, is a self-financed private university recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with over six decades of rich experience in building and managing educational institutes of great repute. SVU is a place where you can explore new possibilities and pursue your passion. There are ten constituent colleges under the umbrella of SVU that offer students the flexibility to simultaneously earn degrees and certifications in the multiple disciplines offered by these constituent colleges. SVU aims to provide graduates with a holistic and quality education.

Mumbai Storytellers Society:


Mumbai Storytellers Society, a registered not-for-profit organisation, established in the year 2019 has been set up to promote and preserve the oral tradition of storytelling. Since ancient times, stories have always defined and shaped culture and tradition of our land. The art of storytelling is as ancient as the earliest of the civilisations. As civilisation progressed with the transition of eras, so did storytelling evolve. India is a unique country that enjoys the diversity of culture, traditions, regional histories, languages, lifestyles, food, and clothing. These variations have given rise to traditional folklore and myths that have become popular over the ages in their respective lands.



Day 1

Friday, 17th February, 2023

THE RED
THREAD OF THE STORY



Schedule of Events • Friday, February 17th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Developing your Storytelling Presence	Workshop	KJ SIM Red Auditorium	Adult 18+	Sita Brand
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Way of the Medicine Stories	Workshop	KJ SIM Blue Auditorium	Adult 18+	Salil Mukhiya Koitsu
01:30 pm – 03:00 pm	The Red Thread of the Story	Workshop	KJ SIM Red Auditorium	Adult 18+	Dan Yashinsky
05:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Inauguration Ceremony	Guest Speaker	Venue Gargi Plaza		
06:00 pm – 08:00 pm	Opening Showcase	Guest Speaker	Gargi Plaza	Family	Dan Yashinsky Salil Mukhiya Koitsu Usha Venkatraman Sita Brand Prithviraj Chowdhury Sampada Joglekar Utkarsh Majumdar Master of Ceremonies – Gurdip Wadwa Sial

Opening Showcase

An evening of performance storytelling in English, Marathi, and Gujarati.

The Red Thread of the Story

Here's a true mystery at the heart of storytelling: What makes your listener want to know what happens next? What is the "red thread" of the tale as it unfolds in our imaginations? Explore this mystery with Dan Yashinsky through a series of exercises, stories, and discussions. Suitable for newcomers and experienced narrators.

Way of the Medicine Stories

This is a workshop based on a guided visualisation or a group storytelling activity. This session explores the healing nature of specific stories and the traditional principles used in medicine storytelling.

Developing your Storytelling Presence

Do people really listen when you tell a story? Drawing on techniques from Stanislavski, Philippe Gaulier and Max Stafford-Clark you will learn to be centred and perform with greater precision and authenticity.



Day 2

Saturday, 18th February, 2023

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Schedule of Events • Saturday, February 18th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
10:00 am – 11:00 am	The Stream of Stories... and its Changing Course.	Guest Speaker	Sakarben Kaamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	Family	Nalini Ramachandran
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Little Things That Matter!	Personal Stories	KJ SIM Red Auditorium	Adult 16+	Shanty Rose Geetanjali Shetty Kaul Shelly Verma Dr Aarti Punjabi Sarita Shetty Curated by Shanty Rose
11:00 am – 11:40 am	Puppet Nani by The Puppetarians	Children's Showcase	Kitab Khana Fort	Children 5+	The Puppetarians
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Resplendent Rasam	Kitchen Tales	Kitab Khana Fort	Children 5+	Janaki Sabesh
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Story Trails	Day Pass	SVU trail	Family	Babita Krishnan
11:00 am 01:00 pm 02:00 pm 04:00 pm	Stitching Narratives	Workshop	KJ Somaiya Arts and Commerce College Conference Room	Adult 18+	Nina Sabnani

Story Trails

As the name suggests, a story always leaves a trail behind and is almost always part of an ongoing trail. We recreate the same for Gaatha with a collection of some known and some little-known stories in different languages and emotions as we walk around the Somaiya Vidyavihar campus, trying to unravel and learn the Somaiya Story along the way.

Resplendent Rasam

Join Janaki Sabesh, author, storyteller, and actor, as she shares the story of 'Paati's Rasam' in "Resplendent Rasam." Janaki dishes out the most aromatic rasam with special ingredients in this Kitchen Tale.

Little Things That Matter!

We all are our stories, that we tell others and to ourselves! Telling and listening to these personal narratives aid us to love, learn, engage and entertain to live and thrive beyond borders and differences!



Schedule of Events • Saturday, February 18th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
11:30 am – 01:00 pm	The Future of Oral tradition of Storytelling in the Digital Era.	Panel Discussion	Sakarben Kaamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	Adult 16+	Sushmita Singha of Udaipur Tales Shaguna Gehliote – Kathakaar Festival Lavanya Prasad of Bangalore Storytellers Society Eric Miller – Chennai Storytelling Festival Amrita Somaiya of Gaatha – Mumbai International Storytelling Festival Moderated by Usha Venkatraman
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Spotlight Performance Marathi	Marathi Storytelling	KJ SIM Blue Auditorium	Family	Madhavi Gharpure Rushikesh Dhabolkar Srinivas Narvekar Meera Paranjpe Curated by Veena Sanekar
02:00 pm – 03:00 pm	Dayro and Bharud	Traditional Folk Performance	Sakarben Karamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	Family	Chanda Tai Tiwari – Barud Sanjay Thanki – Dayro
02:00 pm – 03:00 pm	Imagining The Unimaginable – Figurative Sculpting	Workshop	KJ SIM Red Auditorium	Adult 18+	Mandakini Mathur
02:00 pm – 03:00 pm	Gillo Repertory Theatre works	Children's Theatre	Kalidas Auditorium	Family	Gillo Repertory Theatre Works Shaili Satyu and team

Dayro and Bharud

Bharud, an old poetic form from 16th century poets. The Bharuds are narrative songs conveying deeper spiritual meaning disguised at the surface level. Gujarati Dayro is known for lively music traditions of both folk and classical music.

Gillo Repertory Theater works

BAAL MITHAI (a short play in Hindi), is a play about the famous halwai, Dhan Singh. Every year Dhan Singh invents a new sweet for the museum of sweets, mithai ka sangrahalay. One year he invents Baal Mithai, but things don't turn out so well for this young sweet. Watch the play to find out whether Baal Mithai survives and finds a place in the museum of sweets or not.

Spotlight Performance Marathi

Marathi Storytelling by acclaimed storytellers.



Schedule of Events • Saturday, February 18th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
02:00 pm – 04:00 pm	Intercollegiate – Final Storytelling Contest	Guest Speaker	Tagore Amphitheatre	Family	Babita Krishnan
03:30 pm – 04:30 pm	Unique Voices– Tales Beyond Indian Peninsula	International Showcase	Sakarben Karamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	Family	Dan Yashinsky Salil Mukhiya Sita Brand
03:30 pm – 04:30 pm	OLIO Hindi	Showcase	KJ SIM Blue Auditorium	16+	Jyoti Pande Dr Aarti Panjabi Samvedna Amitabh Sarita Nair Facilitated by Shalini Bajaj Surve Meher Gehi
03:30 pm – 04:30 pm	Puppet Nani By The Puppetarians	The Puppetarians	Kalidas Auditorium	Children 5+	The Puppetarians Sanghya Ojha Hashim Haider
03:30 pm – 04:30 pm	Resplendent Rasam	Kitchen Tales	Kalidas Auditorium	Children 5+	Janaki Sabesh
04:30 pm – 05:00 pm	Story Trails	Guest Speaker	SVU trail	Family	Babita Krishnan

Story Trails

As the name suggests, a story always leaves a trail behind and is almost always part of an ongoing trail. We recreate the same for Gaatha with a collection of some known and some little-known stories in different languages and emotions as we walk around the Somaiya Vidyavihar campus trying to unravel and learn the Somaiya Story along the way.

Puppet Nani By The Puppetarians

'Puppet Nani' tells a story about the time she lived in a jungle, and about the cold night on which she just couldn't sleep! A story filled with animals, a mischievous thief, and messages of love, compassion, kindness, sharing, and co-existence. Language: English (with a little mix of Hindi)

OLIO Hindi

Hindi Storytelling Performance.



Schedule of Events • Saturday, February 18th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
05:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Dastan Miyan Azad ki Urdu	Spotlight	Sakarben Karamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	Family	Valentina Trivedi Askari Naqvi
05:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Dastangoi Gujrati	Spotlight	KJ SIM Blue Auditorium	Family	Hiten Anandpara
06:30 pm – 08:30 pm	Indian Storytellers – Showcase	Performance Storytelling	Venue Gargi Plaza		Anand Neelkantan Janaki Sabesh Kshamata Lad Shelly Verma Hema Subramanian Valentina Trivedi Shaguna Gehliote Master of Ceremonies – Gurdip Sial
08:30 pm – 09:00 pm	Nava Ras – Instrumental Storytelling through the emotions of Ragas.	Guest Speaker	Gargi Plaza	Family	Sarang Vechalekar
09:30 pm – 10:30 pm	Ghost Stories	Guest Speakers	Kutchi Haveli	Adults 18+	Dan Yashinsky Sita Brand Salil Mukhiya Hema Subramanian Hosted by Usha Venkatraman

Dastan Miyan Azad ki Urdu

Dastan Goi is a 13th-century Urdu oral storytelling art form. In this hugely popular Daastan, a compilation of anecdotes and encounters with its central character – Miyan Azad, will bring alive, the Lucknow of the post-1857 era.

Indian Storytellers – Showcase

A bilingual storytelling concert showcasing acclaimed Indian storytellers in their inimitable style.

Ghost Stories

Fright awaits you in the open air at Kutchi Haveli!!! Listen to haunting stories by acclaimed storytellers.

Nava Rasa- Instrumental Storytelling through the emotions of Ragas.

Sarang Vechalekar, a sitarist, weaves stories through the language of music. Music unlike folklore and scripted stories have a universal language. Each raga arouses a particular emotion and connects the listeners to it. This connection will transcend the listeners to the realm of the story.



Day 3

Sunday, 19th February, 2023



Schedule of Events • Sunday, February 19th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Story Trails	Guest Speaker	SVU trail	Family	Babita Krishnan
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Ragas and Kathas	Musical Storytelling	Sakarben Karamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	12+	Usha Venkatraman Janaki Sabesh Mukta Dharma Sunita Gangarade Accompanied by Veena Sanekar
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Soul of a Gardner – Nurturing self and environment while adapting to change	Workshop	KJ SIM Red Auditorium	Adults 18+	Jyoti Pande Geetanjali Shetty Kaul
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	The Laughing Cauldron	Children's Showcase	Kitab Khana Fort	For Children	Dan Yashinsky Salil Mukhiya Sita Brand Gitanjali Chandrashekharan Shelly Verma Sarita Shetty Niyati Vaidyamehta
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Pratima- Ramayan from Kaikeyi's perspective	Sanskrit Spotlight	KJ SIM Blue Auditorium	Family	Prasad Bhide and SVU students
12:00 pm – 01:00 pm	Sahayog with Nareshwadi Warli Tribes	Tribal Storytelling	The Somaiya School Auditorium	Family	Dr Sherline Pimenta

Ragas and Kathas

"Ragas and Kathas" attempts to make classical music accessible through stories to wider audience. Our featured storytellers will include Carnatic and Hindustani classical music and will paint visual pictures through their stories.

The Laughing Cauldron

Humour Tales for children by Indian and International Storytellers.

Soul of a Gardner – Nurturing self and environment while adapting to change

A workshop with a healing touch where participants learn from nature to accept and surrender to the grand change while nurturing self and environment in the process.

Pratima- Ramayan from Kaikeyi's perspective

प्रतिमा – The Image Ramayana – the journey of Ram to forest, but through the eyes of Kaikeyi! Was Kaikeyi responsible for the forest-dwelling of Rama? Or she was the one who saved the eldest son of the Raghu dynasty? Hear the other side of the story as narrated by Kaikeyi herself, a Hindi – Sanskrit adaptation of the 2,500 years old Sanskrit play.



Schedule of Events • Sunday, February 19th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
12:00 pm – 01:00 pm	Threads of Time– People , Places and Possessions	Heritage Storytelling	Sakarben Karamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	Family	Lopamudra Mohanty Lavanya Prasad Simran Nangwani Shalini Bajaj Surve Rushikesh Dabholkar
12:00 pm – 01:00 pm	Storytelling Contest Schools	Guest Speakers	The Somaiya School Auditorium	12+	Parveen Shaikh Usha Venkatraman
12:00 pm – 01:00 pm	Story Swap	Guest Speaker	Kutchi Haveli	Family	Conducted by Meher Gehi
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	The Six Yards Story – Saree tales of the Deccan	Workshop	Venue KJ SIM Blue Auditorium		Vrunda Sehkar
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Hindi Spotlight	Showcase	Tagore Amphitheatre	Family	Jyoti Pande Dr Aarti Punjabi Valentina Trivedi Shelly Verma Simran Nangwani
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Powada	Folk Storytelling Performance	Kalidas Auditorium	Family	Prasad Bhide and Team Mr Vijay Patil

Threads of Time– People , Places and Possessionst

Heritage Stories & Performing Arts (HSPA) is an initiative established with the intent to celebrate cultural heritage, share, and transfer heritage knowledge through stories and, performing arts. HSPA in collaboration with Gaatha brings to you stories narrated by well-known Indian storytellers. The stories of people, places, and possessions that have been passed down through the threads of time. Curated by Sarita Nair and Hema Subramanian.

The Six Yards Story – Saree tales of the Deccan

Join Vrunda Sehkar as she narrates the journey of a specific weave of the Deccan, 'The Ilkal Sarees'. Traversing 1000 years through history, culture, traditions and customs.

Powada

Powada is a popular vocal music form of folk music tradition of Maharashtra. It's a kind of melodious description of a heroic act. It is presented by a singer called "Shahir" along with his team. The powada to be performed in this festival narrates the story of a heroic act of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It will be presented by the students of K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce.



Schedule of Events • Sunday, February 19th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Cultural collections – India' history under colonial rule	History Trunkies	The Somaiya School Auditorium	12+	Curated by Savita Vij
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Kathakshari	Storytelling Game	KJ SIM Blue Auditorium	Family	Conducted by Hema Subramanian
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Story Slam: Theme – Memories	Story Slam	Kalidas Auditorium	16+	Conducted by Shanty Rose
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	The Laughing Cauldron	Children's Showcase	The Somaiya School Auditorium	For Children	Gitanjali Chandrashekar Geetanjali Shetty Kaul Meher Gehi Dan Yashinsky Salil Mukhiya Sita Brand
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Olio English	Showcase	KJSIM Red Auditorium	Family	Meher Gehi Geetanjali Shetty Kaul Lopamudra Mohanty Shanty Rose Sarita Nair
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Abhinaya Katha	Dance and Stories	Sakarben Karamshi Somaiya Sabhagruha	12+	Swapnokalpa Dasgupta Pavitra Bhat Lavanya Prasad Shalini Bajaj Surve

Story Slam: Theme- Memories

Story Slam celebrates storytelling by inviting participants to share brief stories with an audience. Participants deliver the stories verbally and stories are limited to 5 minutes. Stories should be around the theme – Memories. Registration on the spot. Names will be picked out of the hat.

Abhinaya Katha

Dance is an expression, a communication of thoughts and feelings! 'Abhinaya Katha' amalgamates abhinaya – dance expressions with oral storytelling.

Kathakshari

Kathakshari is a storytelling game designed on the lines of Antakshari. The difference between Antakshari and Kathakshari is that the medium of the game will be stories instead of songs. On-the-spot registration.



Schedule of Events • Sunday, February 19th

Timings	Event	Type of event	Venue	Audience	Storyteller/Facilitator
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Gajamukha – a Kaleidoscope of Indian storytelling traditions	Grand Finale	Gargi Plaza	Family	Usha Venkatraman Hema Subramanian Geetha Venketeshwar Anupama Devarajan Ketan Jawdekar Master of Ceremonies – Gurdip Wadwa Sial
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Mersha	Sufi Rock	Gargi Plaza	Family	Mersha Team Oushnik Majumdar Srinath Sridhar Siddharth Shenoy
7:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Closing ceremony with Vote of Thanks				

Gajamukha – a Kaleidoscope of Indian storytelling traditions.

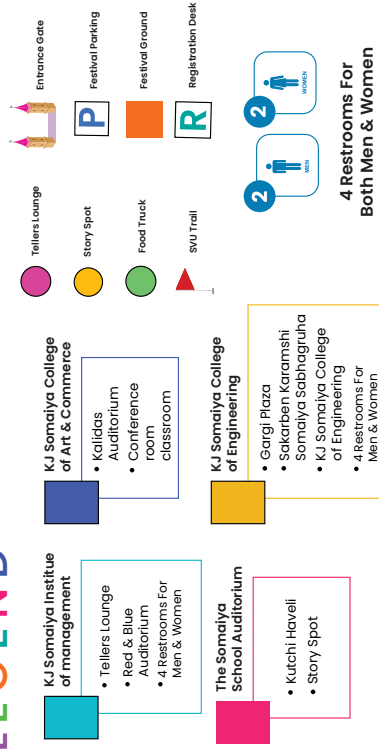
Gajamukha – One Story... The mystical story of Gajamukha is presented through a kaleidoscope of five art forms – Poetry, Dance, Storytelling, Classical Music, and painting. Curated and Ideated by Usha Venkatraman.

Mersha

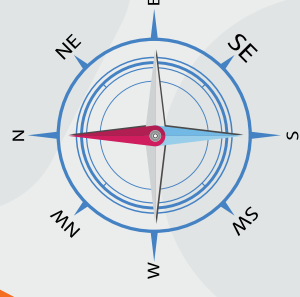
Mersha – blending an iconic style of classical music and progressive rock with a unique selection of sounds to provide a surreal experience.



LEGEND



Map of the Festival Grounds





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