

Curriculum Vitae

Post Doctoral Research Fellowship, George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling, University of Glamorgan, June 2007-present.

Honorary Fellow of the English Association, May 2006 to present.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Storytelling)

Note: For over 30 years, I have participated in numerous innovative and diverse Storytelling residencies. The following list is a sample of those relevant to current trends

- **Active Learning** New, innovative training programme run by Artsform and Morley Literature Festival for teachers and storytellers/writers in Leeds LEA and Public Libraries, developing professional collaborations to develop students' storytelling and listening, and reading for pleasure
- **Research - University of Chicago Lab School Story-Time Records.** Researcher. *The Lab School emphasizes experiential learning incorporating storytelling. Librarians have over 60 years of detailed records on told stories, reactions to stories, and follow-up work, which we are now analysing to understand relationships between memory, language, narrative and literacy.*
- **NAWE Writing Together** - Writers in Schools Research Programme, 2006-2009 *Verbal artists working with the same class over 3 years in 9 schools. This is a study on the impact of writers' residencies on students' learning and teachers' practices.*
- **Kick into Reading/Sports Stories.** 2002 to present. *National Literacy Trust project: I train football coaches and players to tell stories to KS2 children invited to libraries, to provide positive role models to promote reading and library use. Over 26 Premier & Football League clubs have taken part, and the project was the subject of a BBC2 documentary in April 2009*
- **Poetry Ireland** - Writers in Schools Scheme Mentor *On the writers-in-schools scheme since 1994, I now also work as a trained mentor to new writers and storytellers on the scheme*
- **London Transport Museum/Greenwich Heritage Centre Storyteller-in-Residence**2004-6 *Residency with staff training, workshops for visiting school groups, and public performances.*
- **T3-Teachers Telling Tales**2004-5. *Course leader for programme training student teachers and newly*
- *qualified teachers to tell stories and incorporate storytelling in their teaching. Run in conjunction with the Verbal Arts Centre and Stranmillis and St Mary's Colleges and University of Ulster (PGCE)*
- **Storyteller in Residence, Jonesborough International Storytelling Centre, Tennessee, USA**2004. *Premier storytelling venue in the US*
- **School / Library Storyteller Residencies: Bath Festival of Literature Write Team Project** (2004) **International School of Brussels** (2004), **Hong Kong International School** (2002), **Flintshire Legends** (2001), **American Community School, Uxbridge & Cobham**(2000), **Tall Tales at Broadgreen** (Croydon, 1999), **Hackney Libraries Summer Scheme**(1996-97-98)
- **Listen Up!** (2001-2005) *Innovative residency in N Ireland. Primary, Secondary and Special Needs schools had 8 to 12 half-day sessions of storytelling activities teaching students to tell stories and using oral activities to develop creative writing and literacy.*
- **Revolution in Reading** *World Book Day Event, 2002, with several children's authors and storytellers performing on the London Eye*
- **Tate Children's Book Conferences** (1998, 2000, 2002) *Storytelling in Tate Britain and Modern galleries, organised with IBBY,*
- **Animal Magic**(2000) *Residency at Croydon Clocktower Art Gallery*
- **Steps to Storytelling** (1998-99) *residency in inner London secondary schools, developing literacy and oracy by using storytelling across the curriculum*
- **Voyage into Books** (1999) *Year of Reading project for Sussex Libraries; set in Lewes Prison's Young*
- *Offenders Unit, a series of workshops i with a poet, stand-up-comic and teller (me).*

- **Read One Tell One Share One**(1999) *National Year of Reading Project with Kensington and Chelsea Libraries, providing storytelling workshops for parents, childminders, and grandparents*
- **Expanding the Frame** (1998) *Storytelling project with 3 other tellers, in 7 London primary schools, using storytelling to develop materials and methodologies for the National Literacy Strategy*
- **All the World's a Story** (1997-98) *Conference and Schools/Community project with Lion's Part Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe, using storytelling to explore Shakespeare's works.*
- **Word in Action**(1997-8 *Residency in six secondary schools in Northern Ireland, using storytelling across the curriculum to develop oracy and improve students' self-esteem and confidence.*
- **Great North West Story Fest** (1997) *Artistic co-ordinator for storytelling festival in Stockport and Salford, Greater Manchester,*
- **London Yarnspinners**(1995-1990) *Monthly storytelling club in Chelsea Arts Centre*
- **Cock and Bull Stories: A Picasso Bestiary**(1993) *Series of stories inspired by Picasso's life and art, for Croydon Clocktower Art Gallery. Stories were performed in the exhibition space, and also in schools for classes about to visit the exhibition.*
- **Living Stories of the World** (1992) *Multicultural, multidisciplinary arts project with inner and outer London schools, involving several artists from various cultural backgrounds.*
- **Wirral Schools and Libraries Project** (1990-91) *Series of workshops for KS2/1 students with Brian Jaques, Levi Teffaris, and me.*
- **Centro Internazionale Studi** (1990 to present) *Residency in Italian state secondary and middle schools, using stories and storytelling to support the teaching of English as a foreign language*
- **Belfast Libraries Summer Storytelling Scheme**(1984-89) *Summer storytelling programmes, guest storyteller-in-residence*

In addition, the past twenty years include participation in numerous festivals and concerts.

Some of these include: *Ulster Storytelling Festival, Illinois Storytelling Festival, Scottish Storytelling Festival, Great North West Storytelling Festival, Cape Clear Storytelling Festival, Festival at the Edge, Dublin Storytelling Festival, Kiltimagh Storytelling Festival, Warwick Folk Festival, Sidmouth Folk Festival, Whitby Folk Festival, Towersey Village Festival, Mid Wales Folk Festival, Make Hay While the Sun Shines Festival of Story and Song at Farmleigh House in Dublin, National Garden Festival Wales, Chestnuts Folk Festival, Chippenham Folk Festival, The Word - London Festival of Literature, Shakespeare's Globe Midsummer Fair, Lion's Part May Games and 12th Night Pageants at the Globe, Isle of Man Storytelling Festival, Chestnuts Folk Club, Bracknell Folk Club, Brighton Storytelling Club, Cambridge Storytelling Club, A Bit of Craic Club, Guid Craic Club, and Stories at the Edge*

During the past twenty years, I have also done many one- and two-day residencies in schools, libraries, museums, art galleries, prisons, old people's homes, sports clubs, sports and leisure centres, shopping centres, pubs, hospitals, hospices, arts centres, working men's clubs, social clubs, and theatres in Britain and Ireland, most countries in Europe, the USA, and Australia. In a given year I usually visit 80-100 schools for workshops and performances.

WORKSHOPS, CONSULTANCIES, RESEARCH, TRAINING

- **Inset-Training day for Lincolnshire Primary School Heads**, July 2008
- **Narrative Inc., Ltd.** *Partnership with author and teller Shahrukh Husain, providing training days for LEAs, libraries and corporations, 2006 to present*
- **Storytelling Development Coordinator**, The Verbal Arts Centre *Research and development of the VAC's storytelling programme, 2004*
- **Guest Lecturer**, University of San Diego, California, USA *Storytelling Course May 2004*
- **International School Library Association 2004 Conference**, Trinity College Dublin, *Keynote Speaker*

- **United Kingdom Reading Association**, Conference, Christ Church College, Canterbury, Feb 2003, Key Note Speaker
- **The National Storytelling Network Conference** Workshop facilitator, Providence Rhode Island (2001), Chicago (2003), and St. Louis (2007).
- **Reading is Fundamental** Workshop leader for National Literacy Trust, 2002 and 2007
- **Children's Books Ireland Conferences**, 2001 and 1989
- **The American Folklore Association National Conference**, Columbus Ohio, 2000
- **Baiku Summer School, Roehampton Institute**, Storytelling workshops for visiting Japanese student teachers, studying children's literature in Europe. 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006
- **IBBY International Board of Books for Young People**, Conference speaker/workshop leader for conferences in 2001, 2002 and 2006
- **Education Extra** Training for Westminster Schools, sponsored by Random House Publishers, and the Guardian, 1999
- **Building the Future** Workshop leader for early childhood conference 1998 and 1999.
- **ECIS Early Childhood Education** Workshop leader and speaker for Frankfurt conference, 1997
- **ECIS conferences** Workshop leader, Paris 1989, the Hague 1990, Vienna 1991, Nice 1993, the Hague, 2001, Berlin 2002, Madrid 2007
- **Literacy Conferences** Workshop leader for education conferences organised by Nigel Hall at Manchester Metropolitan University School of Education, 1995 and 1998
- **Storytelling in Ireland - A Reawakening** Researcher in residence for the Verbal Arts Centre, Derry,
- a report on the current state of storytelling in Ireland

TEACHING

- **University of Glamorgan**, Part time lecturer, storytelling module for first year students, academic years 2001-2 and 2002-3, and Elizabethan-Jacobean Theatre Module 2002-3
- **TASIS**, international school, 4th grade (9 year olds) teacher, Thorpe, Surrey, England, 1984-89
- **St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School** 4th grade (9 year olds) teacher, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 1981-84
- **Woodridge Elementary School**, 6th grade (11 year olds) teacher, Woodridge, Illinois, USA, 1980-81
- **University of Chicago Laboratory School** Student teacher for grades 2-5 (7-10 year olds), Chicago, Illinois, 1980-81

PUBLICATIONS

- **Storytelling Overseas'** in *Storytelling Art and Technique*, Ellin Green and Janice Del Negro (A new chapter for storytelling textbook,, publication pending 2009)
- **The Storyteller in Context'** *Storytelling Self and Society (Journal of the Storytelling in Higher Education Special Interest Group in National Storytelling Network)*, August, 2008.
- **Once Upon A Time Into Altered States'**in *Time Everlasting, Representations of Past, Present and Future in Children's Literature* (Pat Pinsent, ed.) paperpresented for IBBY conference, 2006, published by Pied Piper Press 2007
- **Celticity and the Storyteller Identity: The Use and Misuse of Ethnicity to Develop a Storyteller's Sense of Self'** *Folklore, Folklore Society, December 2006*
- **Storytelling'** article for *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Children's Literature*, ed. Jack Zipes and Kimberley Reynolds, 2004
- **Secure Storytelling: Storytelling in Prisons and Young Offenders' Units'** *All Our Children, Library Services to Children at Risk*, ed. Anne Marley, Young Libraries Group (YLG) publication
- **A Beautiful Game: Oral Narrative and Soccer'** *Children's Literature and Education*, June 2002

- **Shakespeare's Storybook, Folk Tales that Inspired the Bard**, illustrated by James Mayhew, published by Barefoot Books, awarded an Aesop Accolade by American Folklore Society, 2001
- **Storytelling in Ireland-A Reawakening** Report for the Verbal Arts Centre and the arts councils of Ireland and Northern Ireland, reporting on state of storytelling. 1994
- **Connla Ruadh'** in *The Virago Book of Witches* by Shahrukh Husain, Virago Books, 1991
- **Big Wide-Mouthed Toad Frog'** *Time for Telling*, ed. By Mary Medlicott, published by Kingfisher Books, 1990, re-issued in two volumes, 1996 as *The Big Wide-Mouthed Toad Frog'* and *The King With Dirty Feet'*
- **Storytelling in Schools'** *Telling the Tale*, ed. Liz Weir for YLG Publications, 1988
- Various reviews and articles for storytelling, education and folk magazines and journals

MEDIA WORK

- **Kick into Reading**, BBC2 documentary by BBC Wales, on storytelling and football, April 2009
- **Mark Patterson** - BBC Radio Foyle, 2004-5
- **The Big Yellow Bus Summer Tour** - BBC Radio Ulster, 2004
- **Water Love** - BBC Radio Ulster (various times)
- **Tellytubbies** - *consultant and researcher for Ragdoll Productions*
- **Myths and Legends** - *research writers for RTE/The Learning Channel documentary series*
- **Nicky Campbell Show, BBC Radio 5** - *guest featured to tell ghost stories for special morning programme*
- **A Many Faceted Thing**, BBC Radio 4 *guest and consultant/researcher for science documentary on memory*
- **Something to Think About**, BBC Radio 4 and 5 schools/children's programme *writer and reader/teller*
- **Playtime**, BBC Radio 4 and 5 children's/schools programme *writer and reader/teller*

EDUCATION

- University of Glamorgan, PhD under a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board, 2004 (thesis: The Storyteller in Context)
- University of Chicago, Master of Science (teaching and education), 1981
- University of Illinois, Bachelor of Fine Arts, with Honours (Drama, Theatre and Literature), 1978

REFERENCES

- Liz Weir, Glean na Sceal, 127 Ballyeamon Road, Cushendall, County Antrim, N Ireland, liz@lizweir.net
- Cristina Alzarri, Director, Centro Internazionale Studi, c/o Laguna Travel, Pze Leonardo da Vinci, Mestre (VE) Italia
- Professor Michael Wilson, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, Wales, CF37 1DF, mwilson@glamorgan.ac.uk
- Professor Hamish Fyfe, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, Wales, CF37 1DF, hfyfe@glamorgan.ac.uk
- Professor Jack Zipes, Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, University of Minnesota, 205 Folwell Hall, 9 Pleasant St, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-1024 zipes001@umn.edu
- Jim Sells, Administrator, Reading the Game, National Literacy Trust, 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1R jim.sells@literacytrust.org.uk