



VERENA TAY

~ EMPLOYMENT RESUME ~

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MA in English Literature (National University of Singapore, 1993)

MA in Voice Studies (Central School of Speech and Drama, London, 2005)

For more than 25 years, Verena Tay has acted, directed and written for local English-language theatre in Singapore, working for companies such as The Necessary Stage, ACTION Theatre, TheatreWorks and Practice Theatre. She created various solo and collaborative performances, often based on original, self-written material while she was as an Associate Artist with The Substation (2002–09).

Three collections of her plays have been published: *In the Company of Women: Selected Plays* (Singapore: SNP Editions, 2004), *In the Company of Heroes* (Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2011) and *Victimology* (Singapore: Math Paper Press, 2011). An Honorary Fellow at the renowned International Writing Program, University of Iowa (Aug-Nov 2007), she is now working on her first volume of short stories and debut novel.

Apart from theatre, Verena brings stories vocally and physically alive in her unique fashion. She chooses her storytelling repertoire carefully, adapting folktales with strong characters or creating original tales with a twist. Where possible, she invests her quirky brand of humour, especially in her stories for adults, to delight and encourage her audience to appreciate a different perspective on life.

Together with Kamini Ramachandran with whom she founded MoonShadow Stories in November 2004, Verena has been telling stories at various community venues across Singapore, much to the delight and enjoyment of adults and children. In particular, MoonShadow Stories has done much to push the boundaries of storytelling for adults in Singapore.

A Professional Member and founding member of the Storytelling Association (Singapore), Verena has successfully coached members of the SAS and members of the public to improve their craft of telling stories through various courses, particularly her intermediate level workshop, *Beyond Storytelling 101*, that she has been conducting on a regular basis since 2008.

Outside of theatre and storytelling, Verena has worked in public affairs, marketed books, and edited newsletters and books on teaching and learning issues in higher education. Her interest in performance led her to pursue an MA in Voice Studies (2005) at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London during 2003-04, thereby augmenting her MA in English Literature (1993) from the National University of Singapore. Since 2005, she has taught voice, speech and presentation skills at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, LaSalle College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and other local institutions.

EDUCATION: Academic

- 2003–2004 **M.A. in Voice Studies**, Central School of Speech and Drama, London, UK (Passed: Feb 2005)
 - Thesis: *The Rooted Voice: What It is and How to Cultivate It*
- 1988–1992 **M.A. in English Literature**, National University of Singapore (Conferred: Mar 1993)
 - Thesis: *Migrants' Narratives: The Novels of Salman Rushdie, Timothy Mo & Kazuo Ishiguro*
- 1984–1988 **B.A. Hons. (Second Lower) in English Literature**, National University of Singapore
 - Thesis: Shaw's Argument with Shakespeare: Playwright as Parodist
 - B.A. subjects: English Literature, History, Political Science, Philosophy
- 1982–1983 **G.C.E. 'A' Level**, National Junior College
- 1978–1981 **G.C.E. 'O' Level**, Methodist Girls' School

FORMAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Since Oct 2004 Freelance Coach in Voice, Presentation Skills, Performance, Storytelling & Creative Writing
 - National Institute of Education (Visual & Performing Arts Group)
 - Aug 2005–Apr 2007; since Jan 2008:
Part-time lecturer for module, *CAV280/AAU280: Voice Studies and Production*
 - Nanyang Technological University (Wee Kim Wee School of Communication of Information)
 - Aug–Nov 2011: Part-time lecturer/tutor for module, *CS2005: Speech & Argumentation*
 - Aug 2008–Apr 2011: Part-time lecturer/tutor & course leader for module, *COM 205: Speech & Argumentation*
 - Jan 2006–Apr 2007: Part-time lecturer/tutor & course leader for module, *CS106: Speech & Presentation Skills*
 - LaSalle College of the Arts (School of Theatre & Dance, Faculty of Performing Arts & Integrated Studies)
 - Aug–Nov 2008: Voice teacher, BA (Hons) Acting Programme; taught 1st & 3rd year students, & conducted twice weekly vocal warm-ups for students of all three year levels
 - Sep–Oct 2009: Part-time lecturer in Dramatic Structure (Playwriting), Theatre Arts Programme
 - Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Theatre Department)
 - Part-time voice lecturer/tutor for 1st year acting students (English stream)
 - Republic Polytechnic (Centre for Culture & Communication)
 - Sep 2005–Dec 2005: Academic Associate (part-time)

(For a full list of my workshops/course conducted on an ad hoc basis, please refer to subsequent pages.)
- Since Oct 2004 Freelance Storyteller, Writer & Editor
(For a list of my commercial storytelling engagements, please refer to subsequent pages.)
- 12 Oct 1998–16 Aug 2003 Publications Officer, Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning, National University of Singapore (<http://www.cdtl.nus.edu.sg>)
 - Edited &/or wrote material for CDTL's publications, e.g.:
 - Newsletters: *CDTLink*, *CDTL Brief*, *Successful Learning*
 - Guidebooks: *The Effective Student: A Guide to Higher Education at NUS*; *Learning to Teach*, *Teaching to Learn: A Handbook for NUS Teachers*; *The Write Right Guide: An NUS Writing Guide*
 - Other books: *Reflections on Teaching: The NUS Experience*; *Proceedings to CDTL's Symposium on Teaching & Learning in Higher Education* (2000, 2002); *Ideas on Teaching* (Vol. 1 & 2); *CDTL Monograph Series*
 - Other duties: Assisted in writing/editing general & publicity information about CDTL; conducted workshops for teaching staff and students; wrote scripts for NUS Go Green Campaign video ads; created *Voice Awareness: Tips for NUS Teachers* web site (<http://www.cdtl.nus.edu.sg/Verena/Voice/>).
- 10 Dec 1996–9 Oct 1998 Actor-Facilitator/Member of Actors' Ensemble, The Necessary Stage
 - Performed in theatrical productions & helped create original works for TNS.
 - Facilitated TNS' theatre-related school programmes.
- 11 Jul 1994–28 Jun 1996 Marketing Executive, Times Editions Pte Ltd

- *Voice Workshop* (Chung Cheng High School; 23 Mar 2005)
- *Expand Your Vocal Possibilities* (Kranji Secondary School; 17 Mar 2005)
- *Enriching Your Performance Voice* (Workshop for young actors; The Fun Stage; 8 Jan 2005)
- *Vocal Savvy*: Private workshops (Jan 2005, Feb 2005, March 2005, July 2008, Mar–Apr 2010, Feb 2011, Jun–July 2011)
- Since 2005: Private voice coaching for individual clients
- *Voice Power: Speaking with Confidence: A Sharing Session With Students* (Singapore Polytechnic; 22 Sep 2004)
- *Connecting to the Rooted Voice* (Chinese Mental Health Association, London; 1 Jul 2004)
- *Connecting to the Rooted Voice* (3 practical research workshops conducted as partial fulfilment for the MA Voice Studies programme at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London)
 - 15 & 22 May 2004 for a misc. group
 - 5 June 2004 for the Chinese Energetic Young Enthusiasts, youth group of Islington Chinese Association
- Teaching practice with 1st Year BA Drama Education students at Central School of Speech and Drama, London (As partial fulfilment for the MA Voice Studies programme at CSSD; Apr–Jun 2004)
- *Voice Workshop* (Asian Storytellers' Network; 12 Apr 2004)
- *Introduction to Voice Work* (Buds Youth Theatre, The Substation; 4 & 11 Apr 2004)
- *Voice Awareness for Teachers*
(Staff workshop conducted for Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning, National University of Singapore: 5 Apr 2004 & 9 Mar 2005)
- Teaching practice at Oak Hill Theological College, London
(As partial fulfilment for the MA Voice Studies programme at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London; Jan–Mar 2004)
- *Letting Go: Physical Relaxation Techniques*
(Student/staff workshops for Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning, National University of Singapore; 2002–2003)
- *Voice Awareness*
(Staff workshops conducted for Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning, National University of Singapore; 1999–2001)

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED: Storytelling

- *Beyond Storytelling 101: An intermediate level workshop organised by MoonShadow Stories*
 - 18, 21, 25, 28 Oct 2011
 - 17, 20, 24, 27 May 2011
 - 2, 9, 16 & 23 Apr 2011
 - 4, 8, 11 & 15 May 2010
 - 14, 18, 25 Jul & 11 Aug 2009
Organised for Associate Members of Storytelling Association (Singapore); included private coaching sessions for participants from Sep to Oct 2009; culminated in paid performances (*Twists: Tales of Surprise and Suspense from Around the World*) by the participants at Classroom 2, The Substation, on 23–24 Oct 2009.
 - 5, 12, 26 May & 2 Jun 2008
Organised for Associate Members of Storytelling Association (Singapore); included private coaching sessions for participants from Sep to Oct 2008; culminated in paid performances (*A Touch of Wisdom: Wisdom Tales from Around the World*) by the participants at Classroom 2, The Substation, on 7–8 Nov 2008.
- *Basics of Storytelling: A Talk* (The Charisma Toastmasters Club, Club No. 153416/Executive Coach International; 17 Oct 2011)
- *Spark: The Art of Developing & Telling Personal Stories to Enliven Your Teaching*
(Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Nanyang Technological University; 13 Jul 2011)
- *From Colleagues to Friends: Bonding Through Sharing Personal Stories*
(National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre Singapore; 6 May 2011)
- *Spark: How to Tell Personal Stories that Kindle Mind and Spirit*
(Workshop for teaching staff of Covent of the Holy Infant Jesus (St Joseph); 21 Sep 2010)
- *Taking the Plunge: Learning to Tell a Story without Memorisation*
(Co-conducted with Kiran Shah for Darwin-based school teachers at Wagaman Primary School; organised by Asia in Schools; Curriculum, Teaching and Phases in Learning; Department of Education & Training, Northern Territory Government, Australia; 12 Aug 2010)
- *My Story: How to Craft & Tell Personal Stories* (MoonShadow Stories/Storytelling Association (Singapore); 26 & 30 Jan 2010)

- *Voice for the Storyteller: Enhancing Your Vocal Potential to Bring Stories Alive* (MoonShadow Stories/Storytelling Association (Singapore); 12 & 16 Jan 2010)
- *Timeless Tales: Bringing Yesterday's Stories into Today* (Asian Congress of Storytellers [1st Singapore International Storytelling Festival]/National Book Development Council of Singapore; 30 Aug 2006)
- *Treasured Tongues: How to Become a Teller with a Thousand Voices* (Asian Congress of Storytellers/National Book Development Council of Singapore; 11 Nov 2005)
- *Stimulating the Mind's Eye: How to Choose/Create Stories & Tell Them Effectively* (with Kamini Ramachandran, MoonShadow Stories/AWARE; 7 & 14 Jun 2005)
- *Stories in Art: Shoes That Tell Tales*, storytelling performance and craft workshop for children aged 5 to 7 (with Kamini Ramachandran, MoonShadow Stories/Singapore Art Museum; 31 May 2005)
- *Communicating to Youths Through Personal Stories* (The Salvation Army; The Substation Dance Studio; 25 May 2005)

WORKSHOPS/COURSES/MENTORSHIPS CONDUCTED: Creative Writing

- *My Story: Crafting Personal Life into Art* (BooksActually; 29 Nov 2011)
- *Perspectives: Seeing New, Writing New* (BooksActually; 15 Nov 2011)
- *My Story: Crafting Personal Life into Art* (BooksActually; 1 Nov 2011)
- *Object Writing* (BooksActually; 4 Oct 2011)
- *My Story: Crafting Personal Life into Art* (BooksActually/Splash Productions Pte Ltd; 16 Sep 2011)
- *Perspectives: Seeing New, Writing New* (BooksActually; 6 Sep 2011)
- Mentor for two writers: Gemma Lee Pereira & Joanne Tan Mae Shen (Mentor Access Project, National Arts Council (Singapore)/The Arts House; Apr 2011–Apr 2012)
- Part-time lecturer in Dramatic Structure (Playwriting) (Theatre Arts Programme, Faculty of Performing Arts & Integrated Studies, LaSalle College of the Arts; Sep–Oct 2009)
- *Basic Playwriting Workshop* (St Andrews' Junior College)
 - 5, 19, 22 & 26 Aug 2009
 - 6, 13, 20 & 27 Aug 2008
 - 18, 23, 25, 30 May 2007
 - 1 Jun 2007; 11 Jul & 1 Aug 2007

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED: Drama & Acting

- *Basic Acting Workshop* (St Andrews' Junior College)
 - 5 & 12 Mar, 2 & 9 Apr 2011
 - 26 & 27 Feb & 3 & 6 Mar 2010
 - 9, 16, 23 & 30 Jul 2008
- *Physical Acting Workshops* (St Andrew's Junior College)
 - 28 Jan; 4, 11 & 18 Feb 2009
 - 22 & 29 Apr; 6 May 2009
- Main Facilitator, Inaugural 'Drama in Production' Programme for lower secondary students (National Junior College; Feb–Sep 2009)
- Acting workshop for Chestnut Drive Secondary School (The Necessary Stage; Nov 1996–Jan 1997)

STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS: Commercial Engagements

- *The Darker Side of Twilight*, part of *Fright Night! @ the Asian Civilisations Museum* (MoonShadow Stories/Storywise; Ngee Ann Auditorium, Asian Civilisations Museum; 29 Oct 2011)
- Dinner Storytelling as part of The Arts House's *My Own Series* (MoonShadow Stories/The Arts House/National Book Development Council of Singapore; The Hall, The Arts House; 16 May 2008)
- Dinner Storytelling for sponsors of the Singapore International Storytelling Festival 2008 (National Book Development Council of Singapore; The Hall, The Arts House; 15 May 2008)

- *Body Parts: Dissection of the Male Ego*
(MoonShadow Stories/NUS Arts Festival 2007; University Cultural Centre Courtyard; 16 Mar 2007)
- *Halloween Storytelling* (MoonShadow Stories/The Lightworkers' Space; 31 Oct 2006)
- *Tales Apart: Asian Tales for Adults*; storytelling for the *Power Dressing* exhibition of traditional Chinese costumes and textiles
(Asian Civilisations Museum/MoonShadow Stories; Discovery Room, Asian Civilisations Museum; 25 Feb & 25 Mar 2006)

STORYTELLING FOR CHILDREN/FAMILIES (SINGAPORE): Commercial Engagements

- Storytelling for children
(MoonShadow Stories/Singapore Chinese Swimming Club; Singapore Chinese Swimming Club, The Atrium; 26 Nov 2011)
- Sarong Kebaya Storytelling Sessions at The Peranakan Museum
(MoonShadow Stories/The Peranakan Museum; Special Exhibition Galleries; The Peranakan Museum; 8, 15, 18, 19, 22 & 29 June 2011)
- *Water, Water, Everywhere!*
(MoonShadow Stories/Forum The Shopping Mall; World Storytelling Day Celebrations @ Forum The Shopping Mall, Atrium; 19–20 Mar 2011)
- Royal Ramayana Weekend Festival: Amazing Adventure Tales
as part of the *Ramayana Revisited: A Tale of Love & Adventure* Exhibition
(Peranakan Museum, Special Exhibition Galleries; 26 Feb 2011)
- Storytelling for children (National University of Singapore Society, Kent Ridge Guild House; 12 Feb 2011 & 21 Aug 2010)
- Storytelling for children and adults for the Mid-Autumn Mooncake Festival
(Bukit Batok Neighbourhood Committee; Hoover Park; 13 Sep 2008)
- Storytelling for McDonald's Red Pea Programme
 - McDonald's @ Sun Plaza, Serangoon Ave 3 & King Albert Park (20 Jul 2008)
 - McDonald's @ Bukit Batok, Queensway & West Coast Park (3 Aug 2008)
- Storytelling for children as part of the *Greek Masterpieces from the Louvre* exhibition
(National Museum of Singapore; 3–5 Mar 2008)
- Main storyteller for *My Grandfather's House/People & Memories*
(Act 3 International Pte Ltd/National Heritage Board, as part of Singapore Heritage Festival Kids' Zone 2007;
Suntec City Galleria Atrium; 18–29 Jul 2007)
- Storytelling (Asian Civilisation Museum; 16 Oct 2005)
- *Story Caravan: Stories in the Park* (Drama Plus Arts/Asian Storytelling Network; West Coast Park; 25 Sep 2005)
- Telling of Hans Christina Andersen's 'The Ugly Duckling' for Parry Primary School
(Asian Storytelling Network; 4 Apr 2005)
- *Ethnic Tales: Story Dancing* (NAC-Shell Community Arts Series; Woodlands Civic Centre Open Space Plaza; 20 Nov 2004)

ARTICLES PUBLISHED: Commercial Publications

(Pseudonyms used: Verena Tay, Tay Siew Hui, S.H. Tay, Victor Tay, Valerie Siew)

- *Silver Lining* (Dec 2008, inaugural issue)
- *Far Eastern Economic Review*, online, <http://www.feer.com/authors-corner/2008/june/Bringing-Life-to-a-Simmer> (26 June 2008)
- *The Arts Magazine* (Jul/Aug 1999 – review; May/June 2000)
- *ID* (Apr/May 1993, Dec 1996/Jan 1997, Oct/Nov 1997)
- *Singapore* (May/Jun 1997, Jul/Aug 1997 – cover story)
- *8 Days* (20-27/7/96 – book review)
- *Financial Planner* (Sep 1996, Dec 1996)
- *Apartment Living* (Aug/Sep 1996)
- *Vogue Singapore* (Jul 1996, Nov 1996 – 2 articles)
- *Man* (Jun & Aug 1995, Jan 1996)
- *Personality* (Aug 1994)
- *The Straits Times* (9/4/94, 11/6/94, 25/6/94, 6/8/94, 20/7/96 – Life! Section book reviews)
- *M3* (Jul 1994)
- *Parents* (Apr & Jul 1994)

- *NTUC Lifestyle* (Jun/Jul 1994, Sep 1996)
- *Scene* (Mar, Apr & Jun 1994)
- *Singapore Tatler* (Apr 1994)
- *Hot Nouveau* (Nov/Dec 1993)
- *Celebrity* magazine (Thesaurus Media Consultants), 'Asia Beat' Coordinator (Jun–Aug 1992)

AFFILIATIONS/AWARDS: Selected

- Nov 2011 Victimology: Editor's Choice of the Month, (Short Play Writes-Fiction Category), National Critics' Choice (<http://www.nationalcriticschoice.com/>)
- Oct 2011 Lifetime Award 2011, South East Asia Play Write Category, Female Playwriter, National Critics' Choice (<http://www.nationalcriticschoice.com/>)
- 25 Aug–20 Nov 2007 Honorary Fellow at International Writing Program, University of Iowa, USA
- Since Feb 2006 Founding member of the Storytelling Association (Singapore)
- 1 Jun 2005 *The Car*, winner of Theatre Idols 2005; ACTION Theatre (Awarded Jury Prize: Best New Play and Audience Choice Award: Best New Play)
- Since Nov 2004 Formation of MoonShadow Stories with Kamini Ramachandran
- 2002–2009 Associate Artist of The Substation
- Since 2004 Member of the British Voice Association
- Since Jan 2003 Member of the Singapore Drama Educators Association
- 2002–2007 Member of Association of Singapore Actors
- Mar 2001–Jun 2002 Performing artist, supported by the Substation, with free rehearsal and performance space to create and perform new work
- Since 1999 Associated with the Magdalena Project, an international network of women in contemporary theatre