

YOUNG TONGUES YOUNG STORYTELLERS' PROJECTS & THE YOUNG STORYTELLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The object of this programme for young people between 15 and 25 in England and Wales is to nurture and develop a lively and sustainable group of young storytellers who will take their place in the ever-expanding world of storytelling. The teens and twenties have been unrepresented, ignored or excluded in an art that is held by the sage and the specialist as being theirs by right, and is often judged by young people as only suitable for children. The young people we work with have passion, energy and commitment but no platform to practise their art. Because of their age, isolation and relative inexperience they need support for their development.



YOUNG STORYTELLER OF THE YEAR (YSOY)

Now in its fifth year, this is a competition to select the Young Storyteller of the Year (aged between 18 and 25) and the best Young Storyteller between 15 and 18. There are a range of other awards including cash prizes and performance platforms at various festivals.

Important as this is, YSOY is also a great celebration of the young storytellers' work, and raises the profile of these young public speakers, providing them with a platform and showcase. The majority of active young storytellers in England and Wales under the age of 30 have come through Young Storyteller of the Year. There is a dedicated web site at www.ysoy.org.uk and a young storytellers' blog.

YOUNG TONGUES YOUNG STORYTELLERS' PROJECT

This project works in a range of formal and informal educational settings with young people in Y10 and above, and their mentors and teachers. It aims to develop confident young public speakers through the medium of oral storytelling. Group projects offer progressive development from absolute beginners to confident public performers. Stories are chosen from the worldwide traditional repertoire but with special reference to young people's own cultural background. The project offers training in the art of oral storytelling, enhancing young people's confidence and self-esteem, and improving their facility with the spoken word and their public speaking.

The Traditional Arts Foundation (TAF) offers Young Tongues Projects to schools and other settings in its own area, the West Midlands, and supports other storytelling organisations to do the same elsewhere in England and Wales. Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Young Storytellers, Cambridge Young Storytellers and the Young Storyteller of Wales Festival are all examples of independent projects which were supported by TAF in 2009 and brought young storytellers to Young Storyteller of the Year 09.



For advice, encouragement and support in developing young storytellers in your area contact the Traditional Arts Foundation or see our web site at www.ysoy.org.uk. We are happy to help you