

Report on Kathakar – International Storytellers Festival

Date: 14th Nov 2016

Venue: Seminar Hall, IGNCA SRC,
Bengaluru

14th Nov, Children Day celebrations attracted much joy and happiness at IGNCA SRC as Kathakar – International Storytellers Festival took shape and staged various stories. The programmes was a blend of Indian and Western styles of storytelling that included artists from UK Mr Giles Abbot and Ms. Sarah Rundle coupled with Katha Keerthana by Shaarvari Somayagi and Sootrada Gombe Aata by the students of Swami Vivekananda Education Society.

“I love the sense of intimacy and connection with the audience,” says Sarah Rundle. “A storyteller has more control over their material than an actor; it is slightly different each time,” she adds.

The Festival was inaugurated by Ms. Bhavana Ramanna, Popular Cine Artist and Mr. Prakash Belawadi, Theatre person and Dr. Deepti Navaratna, Executive Director, IGNCA SRC.

Giles Abbott from the U.K., says, one has to go beyond storytelling as an idiom and start looking at it as a function of human consciousness. “I went ‘nearly blind’ in 2008 and lost the ability to read a book. My girlfriend used to like me to read to her but I could no longer do that. So I began to tell her my favourite stories. Then I came across a storytelling club, The Shaggy Dogs, at West Yorkshire and fell in love with traditional storytelling.”

A Workshop was also held for primary and nursery teachers as how to inculcate storytelling as a part of teaching aid in the class rooms.

