



Giles Abbott

Storyteller

Voice Teacher and Writer

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I started storytelling in 1999 in response to sudden, but not total, sight loss. Since then I have become an award-winning storyteller who just happens to be the UK's only professional blind storyteller. In 2004, I added to my skills by training at Central School of Speech and Drama as a Voice Teacher. I love taking the audience with me on a journey; challenging their perceptions, making them think, making them laugh. I also have a passion for enabling the creativity and expressiveness of others.

Storytelling

1999 to present day

Repertoire includes: Iron-Age myth from British and Norse traditions, Greek myths, folk tales from around the world. All can be told in traditional style or with a more modern twist. I also create original and bespoke storytelling from historical sources for specific clients and site-specific venues.

I am the Storyteller in Residence at the Last Tuesday Society where I tell stories for adults in the magical, macabre and intimate setting of the Viktor Wynd Museum Of Curiosities, Hackney, London, on the second Sunday of every month.

I am a regular at storytelling and literature festivals, frequently performing at festivals such as *Festival At The Edge*, *Beyond The Border*, *Whitby Folk Week*, *Westcountry*, *Sting In The Tale* and the Birmingham, Warwick and Oxford Literature Festivals. I have performed at many other venues in the UK and internationally for both adult and child audiences.

Between 2006 and 2012 I was the Storyteller In Residence at Chelsea Community Hospital Schools, making weekly visits to tell stories in groups or 1:1 with young patients in the classroom, at bedsides and in intensive care and burns units.

I work extensively in schools, many with high rates of ESL students, using storytelling to help children unlock their creativity, gain confidence and increase their literacy skills. For further information about storytelling workshops, please go to my website.

Awards and Commissions

- 2016 Imagine Children's Festival, London – Story Mayhem, story making workshop for visually impaired children
- 2016 Kathakar International Storytellers Festival, Delhi – Invited as part of a British delegation to perform stories for adults and children
- 2016 British Council – Kolkata Literature Festival and an 11 day tour of India working with schools and training teachers
- 2014-15 Arts Council England - "Tongues Of Flame", national tour, storytelling devised from historical data, the life of Capt. Sir Richard Francis Burton (b. 1821 d. 1890)
- 2014 South London Botanical Institute - "AO Hume, a life" storytelling about life of SLBI founder
- 2013 Information Age Gallery, The Science Museum - consultancy and youth-work to find narrative structure, devise content, to guide visitors through "the largest and most ambitious Science Museum project of the last ten years"
- 2013 BASE Awards - "Caught On The Horns" shortlisted for Best Storytelling Performance 2013

- 2012 Disability Arts Cymru, Olympic Commission - "Breaking The Wall", narrative poetry, two scripts (one solo voice, one choral), recorded by BBC Wales Symphonia, performed by UCAN and toured in Wales
- 2011 British Museum - "Treasures Of The Saints", family storytelling, devising and performing
- 2010 British Museum - "A History Of The World In 100 Objects", family storytelling, devising and performing
- 2008, 2009, 2014 Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew - family storytelling on the theme of trees, devising and performing
- 2008 Arts Council for Baluji Srivastav - "Song Celestial", to write poetic text based on Bhagavad Gita, then tour nationally with band, singing and reciting in English and Sanskrit
- 2007 Dubasha Foundation - devise and deliver six week storytelling workshop syllabus to celebrate bilingual heritage of 3rd generation Gujarati children
- 2007 BT Speaking and Listening Award conferred for project above
- 2004 Arts Council England - "See Through Mouth", a storytelling tour of hotels owned by Action For Blind People

Voice

- 2014 to present day, SlengTeng – accent softening courses, University College London
- 2006 – 12 Lecturer in Voice, Birkbeck College, London, devised and taught syllabus for two acting courses
- 2007 – 10 Sessional Lecturer, Arts Ed., London - voice teaching on Foundation Acting courses
- Public workshops including Birmingham Book Week, Warwick Words, Society for Storytelling
- Public courses on vocal confidence, presentation, accent softening, professional storytelling skills

Professional Training

Since 2005, I have devised bespoke training packages for companies using voice training, storytelling and rhetorical composition skills to transform clients' effectiveness in spoken and written communication. In 2012 I co-founded The Academy Of Oratory and lead on devising and delivering courses. Clients have included:

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| • Air Products Ltd | • HSBC | • Mindshare |
| • BP | • Red Bull | • Fox International Channels |
| • Groundwork Trust | • ITV | • Star Consultancy |
| • Commerzbank | • LSIS | • Z/Yen |

Other Work

In 2009, I became RNIB AudioBook Services first blind narrator. For their Talking Book Service, I have recorded numerous novels and poems. Twice a year, I record their RNIB Legacy Services Magazine, Foresight.

Education/Professional Qualifications:

- 2004-5 MA, Voice Studies, Central School of Speech and Drama
- 1999 Counselling Skills in the Development of Learning, Calderdale College
- 1996 NCTJ Post-Graduate Diploma, Journalism, Camborne College
- 1991-3 BA (MA Oxon.) English Language and Literature, St Catherine's College, Oxford

Storytelling Examples:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/gilesabbott/playlists>

The House of Stories: <http://thehouseofstories.com/GilesAbbott.html>

Sound Cloud: https://soundcloud.com/giles_abbott_storyteller

Please note that some of the above may not be suitable for children.

Further Information:

Website: www.gilesabbott.com

Twitter: [@storygiles](https://twitter.com/storygiles)

Facebook: [Giles Abbott - Storytelling and Downloads](https://www.facebook.com/GilesAbbott-Storytelling-and-Downloads)

Academy Of Oratory: www.academyoforatory.co.uk

Live Residency/Stories on a Sunday: [The Last Tuesday Society](https://www.thelasttuesdaystorytelling.com)