



MUMBAI
STORYTELLERS
SOCIETY



VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

ONE WORLD ONE FAMILY

15 & 16 August, 2026

Godrej Dance Theatre,
National Centre for the Performing Arts,
Mumbai, India.

M I S T

MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL








Schedule of Events

Day 1: Saturday 15 August, 2026

Time	Event Details	Artists	Event Description
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Inauguration Ceremony & Felicitation - Followed by Keynote Address Inauguration of Mumbai International Storytelling Festival - MIST		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening Remarks by Usha Venkatraman - Felicitating Ms Geeta Ramanujam. - Keynote Address by Ms. Geeta Ramanujam - Speech by Chief Guest
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Monsoon Ragas and Kathas Musical Storytelling	Anupama Devarajan / Mukta Dharma	Spoken Melodies - We present the spoken word against the backdrop of live music; creating a unique experience for the listener. In this showcase, each artist will work with a classical Raga to find the musical nuances of their stories, and create a captivating performance.
11:15 am - 12:00 noon	Abhinaya Katha Storytelling through Dance and Expression	Apeksha Niranjan / Dr. Prachi Jariwala	Abhinaya is the art of expressing emotions; a narrative through dance, utilizing body language, facial expressions, and subtle gestures to convey themes. It combines technical precision (Angik) with deep emotional involvement (Satvika) to connect with the audience, bridging the gap between technical footwork and storytelling. Our featured artist will use narrative expressions through two dance forms and tell their story.

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12:00 noon - 1:00 pm	Timeless Tales - New voices Storytelling	Sree Karuna / Debjani Bhaduri / Mangalam Senthil / Priyanka Chatterjee	Enduring stories that remain relevant across generations. These narratives, ranging from classic literature to traditional folklore presented by emerging New Voices.
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	   LUNCH    		
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	The Art of Narrative- Multiple Storytelling Forms Panel Discussion	Panelists: Tara Khandelwal / Mara Menzies / Ameen Haque / Sowmya R Srinivasan/ Hema Subramanian Moderator: Usha Venkatraman	Insights to discover, from experts in the field, at the Panel Discussion.
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Special Featured Showcase Master Storytellers	Geeta Ramanujam Mara Menzies	Krishna's Last Walk: The Lasting Silence. A contemplative performance drawn from excerpts of Krishna, reimagined as a man and woven into a new script by Geeta Ramanujam. The Land and the Sea: Drawing from the mists of the Scottish Highlands and the vibrant heat of the Kenyan coast, Mara brings together myths that explore our dual identities.

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3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Sangam: Ek Rooh, Anek Awaazein Storytelling	Ameen Haque / Mehak Mirza Prabhu / Swetcha Pershad / Aarti Punjabi	A confluence of India's Master Storytellers. Where India's most talented come together to create a symphony of stories.
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	How To Hold A Cockroach Intergenerational Storytelling Performance	Usha Venkatraman / Shelly Verma	A two-woman intergenerational storytelling performance about what women carry across borders and generations. Blending humour, warmth, and intimate conversation, the performance asks a simple but unsettling question: what do we carry when everything else changes, and how does that shape who we become?
5:45 pm - 7:30 pm	The Story Soirée- Evening Showcase Storytelling	Mara Menzies / Mahitha Ravilla / Hema Subramanian / Rachel Smith	Intriguing tales from the Epics, interspersed with stories that shaped their personal journeys by acclaimed International and Indian Tellers.

Schedule of Events

Day 2: Sunday 16 August, 2026

Time	Event Details	Artists	Event Description
10:00 am- 12:00 noon	Whimsical Adventures in Storyland Potpourri of stories in Hindi and English	Mara Menzies / Shalini Bajaj Surve / Hema Subramanian / Nidhi Bagaria / Swetcha Pershad / Simran Nagwani / Shraddha Nigavekar.	A medley of stories in English and Hindi by International and Domestic tellers targeting young audiences.
12:00 noon - 12:30 pm	Spotlight Performance - Villu Pattu Bow Song A musical storytelling from Southern India.	Lavanya Prasad	Villu Pattu (Bow Song) is an ancient musical storytelling art form from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Sri Lanka, where narrators use a large, stringed bow (villu) adorned with bells as their primary instrument. This traditional folk art, dating back to the 15th century, blends music, narration, and drama.
12:30 pm - 1:00pm	Spoken Puppetry Premchand Ki Kahani, Dada Dadi ki Zubani	The Puppetarians Sangya Ojha and Hashim Haider.	A unique blend of spoken word and puppetry, inspired by Munshi Premchand's Eidgah.
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	LUNCH		

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1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Luminous Legends Storytelling	Anagha Prasad / Parvathy Easwaran / Meera Venkatesan	The Five Great Epics of Tamil Literature that adorned the Tamil Sangam Era. Through the lens of music, dance, narration and drama, adding flavour of the culture of ancient times.
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Past and Future - Intergenerational Connections Personal Stories Curated by Hongkong Stories	Niharika and Rachel / Shelly Verma / Srishti Chabria / Meher Gehi / Shraddha Nigavekar	Past and Future - Celebrating Personal Stories of intergenerational connections curated by Hongkong Stories. First hand accounts of life experiences - ranging from triumphs over adversity to everyday moments - shared to connect, teach, and foster empathy.
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Rooted in Many Soils: Voices of Eco-Feminism Eco - Feminist Tales	Usha Venkatraman / Dr. Gayatri Sampath / Mehek Mirza Prabhu	Folk, Personal and Goddess tales reinterpreted through an eco-feminist lens.

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5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Prime Time Tales Evening Showcase	Niharika Agrawal / Sowmya Srinivasan / Shalini Bajaj Surve / Sidd Gupta / Swati Pandey	Highlights exceptional narratives, ranging from curated short fiction anthologies to personal, professional, or entrepreneurial journeys in English and Hindi by acclaimed International and Indian Tellers.

*All stories are for a family audience. Programme schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

	Members	Non Members
Ticket (per day)	INR 300/-	INR 400/-
Box Office	9 July, 2026	12 July, 2026