

OUR DEFINITION OF A STORYTELLER (2013)

The following is considered to be a baseline text for APAC, France's Professional Association of Storytelling Artists. The goal of this text is for each member to see a reflection of him or herself, as well as identify the specific skills and know-how of a storyteller as a performing artist. The following five points are to be taken as a whole.

Role

The storyteller contributes to enriching and circulating humanity's narrative heritage. He or she does so by using his or her craft and singularity.

Filiation

As an oral narrator of a story, the storyteller is linked to a traditional practice and repertory that he or she renews as a contemporary artist.

Repertory

The storyteller tells all kinds of stories and is the adaptor or author. These tales often have a poetic and/or symbolic dimension.

Implementation

As the storyteller's art stems from words and narration, writing orally is what characterizes his or her art form. In order to tell a story, a 'score' is created which is made up of the story itself, the teller's own words, and the way his or her voice and body expresses these details. Sometimes other art forms are used as well. The storyteller's score is unique and can be completely, partially or not at all written out.

Audience

The storyteller speaks in his or her own name, often in a direct relationship with an audience. As author and performer of a score, he or she is free to adapt it through improvisation while performing in front of an audience.