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[Photos and videos are available on request.]

Women's Stories Shared – In-person and Online

Better Said Than Done Presents the 2025 Women's Storytelling Festival, both in-person in Fairfax City, VA, and online

February 5, 2025 -- Fairfax, Virginia -- The Women's Storytelling Festival (WSF) will take place March 20 - 23, 2025. Hosted by Better Said Than Done, in-person performances will be held at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030 Friday March 21 – Sunday March 23, with a special virtual only showcase premiering on March 20. The festival will also be live-streamed online. Showcasing a wide range of storytelling styles, the 2025 festival features 19 storytellers who will be performing spoken word stories, and is intended for a mature audience. All ticket holders, whether in-person or virtual, will be able to watch the festival videos for one month after the festival concludes.

For schedules, other details, and tickets, visit

<https://bettersaidthandone.org/womens-festival/>

The 19 storytellers in the 2025 Women's Storytelling Festival will be sharing personal stories, folk tales, and stories of adventure and magic. They are coming from across the nation, from Alaska to Colorado, Minnesota to Virginia. They also span a wide range of experience, with relative newcomers telling alongside veterans of more than two decades. Among the festival performers are authors, poets, podcasters, teaching artists, and contributors to storytelling shows and festivals across the country including WGBH's Stories from the Stage, the National Storytelling Festival, and the Moth storytelling series.

Storyteller Andrea Kamens (Boston, MA) describes the festival as “a venue for having women's voices heard but also a collaborative space for listening to and working with each other with an open welcome to all genders to join in that listening and creating.”

Veteran Storyteller Laura Packer (Wayzata, MN) adds, “Women's voices matter, our lived experiences are real, and yet those voices and experiences are often dismissed. Storytelling festivals generally feature more men than women, though there are far more women who tell; the existing bias silences us. This festival gives women a chance to share their personal stories, their interpretations of traditional material, and to be heard without apology or fight.”

“A festival is a celebration, so dedicating a weekend to celebrate the voices and stories of women shows their perspectives are valued,” says Storyteller Jennifer Hillery (Reading, MA).

“Women need to feel valued and that sense of empowerment today as much as in the past for we continue to strive for equality and representation.”

Storyteller Amanda Lawrence (Blairsville, GA) agrees, adding, “Women continue to need spaces in which they can share their stories without interruption or judgment, and now, more than ever, the world needs to hear those stories.”

“Telling stories can be how a woman survives,” says Storyteller Sarah Beth Nelson (Whitewater, WI). “Ask Scheherazade.”

About the evolution of the festival, producer Jessica Robinson (Fairfax, VA) has this to say, “2025 will be our 6th event. Since the festival’s debut in March of 2020, there’ve been a lot of changes. Starting in 2022, and continuing through today, the festival is a hybrid experience. The audience is invited to attend in-person in Fairfax, VA, but for the many people across the country who cannot make it for one reason or another, we continue to offer a live-stream as well as the recordings for one month after.”

When asked what people should know about attending the festival, Storyteller Sarah Snyder (Herndon, VA) says, “It’s like hanging out in the living room of someone’s house, whom you may or may not know. But one thing you do come to know, if you stay, is that everyone is welcome, and you get to meet and befriend so many amazing women.”

Storyteller Ingrid Nixon (Anchor Point, AK) adds, “You will hear stories here that you will likely hear nowhere else. Or you will hear stories that the teller is taking out for a spin for the first time because this is a safe, supportive place.”

Storyteller Miriam Nadel (Vienna, VA) goes on to say, “It’s more interactive than most forms of entertainment you can experience. Everyone in the audience ends up nodding their heads in understanding and agreement.”

Returning Storyteller Carol Moore (Herndon, VA) enjoys the entire atmosphere of the festival; “It feels like an escape into an entirely different world for days, where somehow, you’re constantly comforted by comradery but also guaranteed to hear, learn, or experience something new. There is laughter and joy, discovery and wonder, empathy and healing. Honestly, it’s one of the best emotional vacations you could take!”

The Women’s Storytelling Festival kicks off Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 8:00 pm ET, with our virtual showcase, and the in-person and live streaming storytelling begins on Friday March 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm ET. The festival concludes Sunday, March 23, 2024, at 5:00 pm.
[Performer bios [here](#).]

Early-bird pricing for a full festival pass, effective through February 16, 2025, is \$35 for a virtual ticket and \$55 for an in-person ticket. Starting February 17, 2025, the price of a virtual ticket

will be \$45, and an in-person ticket will be \$70. There will also be one-day in-person passes available at the door for \$35 per day.

“In my experience, what makes women’s stories different is that they are unafraid to dig deep into feelings and emotion through their stories,” says Storyteller Jennifer Hillery (Reading, MA). “Women also wear many, many hats. So, women often have a deep well of stories to draw from for they have done or continue to do so much in their lives.”

Storyteller Sarah Snyder feels the same way. “Women aren't afraid of getting raw and personal. We aren't afraid of being vulnerable, once we're together and realize this is a safe place to be who you are,” she says. “Having attended just about every WSF so far, I feel totally comfortable letting loose, going deep, and trusting that the listeners will hold me and honor me.”

Festival tickets are on sale now at <https://bettersaidthandone.org/womens-festival/>. The stories are intended for a mature audience; we welcome people of all gender identities to attend.

“It always impresses me what a variety of experiences women have had. We may come from different places and cultures, but our experiences can bring us together across the generations,” says Storyteller Miriam Nadel (Vienna, VA).

“I've never seen a more warm and welcoming audience than the ones at the Women's Storytelling Festival,” raves Storyteller Laura Deal (Boulder, CO). “Storytellers were enveloped in love and appreciation no matter their experience level.”

Storyteller Aimee Snow (Manassas, VA) felt the love as well, adding, “So many women from different backgrounds and ages in one place makes for an amazing experience!”

Of producing the festival Jessica Robinson concludes, “The stories go deep, the performances are amazing, and the audience is rapt. The WSF is truly one of the best festivals, of any performance art, I have ever seen, each and every year. The WSF features many of the best storytellers in the country and gives them a space to let loose and tell stories they might not share on other stages. You might think, I'll only go for one showcase, but once you have started to watch, you are not going to want to miss a second of the rest of the weekend. Plan to come and stay! You won't regret it.”

Storyteller Laura Packer (Wayzata, MN) agrees: “It will exceed your expectations,” she says. “Each story is powerful, and the stories heard together become a celebration and exploration of what it is to be human. Be prepared to feel feelings, to laugh, and to connect powerfully with everyone there.”

Better Said Than Done defines storytelling as the art of performing a story in front of a live audience. Storytelling is a performance, an art, a form of entertainment, and, from our mouths, a reality the audience will not forget. **Better Said Than Done, Inc.**, was launched in May 2011 by

Jessica Piscitelli Robinson, to bring the art of storytelling to Northern Virginia. For more information on upcoming shows, storytellers, or workshops, please visit <https://bettersaidthandone.org>.

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Storyteller Bios:

Festival attendees will find a range of stories and storytelling styles featuring diverse experiences and cultures. Learn more about the festival's 19 storytellers here:

<https://bettersaidthandone.org/womens-festival/2025-festival-storytellers/>