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[Photos and videos are available on request.]

Women Storytellers Take the Stage – In-person and Online

Better Said Than Done Presents the 2026 Women’s Storytelling Festival, both in-person in Fairfax, VA, and online

January 15, 2026 -- Fairfax, Virginia -- The nation's first and only storytelling festival devoted to women performers returns March 19 - 22, 2026 to Fairfax, VA, and online. Hosted by Better Said Than Done, the Women's Storytelling Festival (WSF) features in-person performances at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030 Friday March 20 – Sunday March 22, and a special virtual-only showcase premiering on Thursday, March 19. The festival will also be live-streamed. Showcasing a wide range of storytelling styles, the 2026 festival features 20 performers of spoken word stories and is intended for a mature audience. All ticket holders 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 20 storytellers in the 2026 Women’s Storytelling Festival will be sharing personal stories, folk tales, stories of adventure and magic, and historical stories, some marking the United States' 250th anniversary. Performers are coming from across the nation, from California to Connecticut, Georgia to Ohio, and even from as far as Ireland, and represent some of the best-known storytellers working today. Among the festival performers are authors, content creators, stars of TV shows, podcasters, theatre performers, and contributors to Risk!, Stories from the Stage, the National Storytelling Festival, and the Moth storytelling shows.

Audiences can expect a festival that not only showcases women storytellers, who are often underrepresented in other national festivals, but also features stories that center women's experiences. “The Women's Storytelling Festival boldly focuses on our female artists - putting them all ‘center stage.’ This lifts up the often unlifted,” says Storyteller Megan Wells (Forest Park, IL). “Having a weekend of art rich in female POV adds up from set to set, nourishing respect and heightening awareness of the feminine voice at the pulse of our earth.”

Veteran Storyteller Jennifer Munro (Madison, CT) agrees, adding, “The Women’s Storytelling Festival provides a space where female artists can tell the stories that other venues are frequently too timid to host, and it does so in an atmosphere of celebration and appreciation. It’s refreshing to see women take center stage and own it!”

“Women’s experiences are often portrayed as monolithic, but a women's storytelling festival reminds us of our rich diversity and tapestry of experiences,” says Storyteller Meghna Bhat (Sacramento, CA). “It’s a chance to celebrate the creativity, complexity, and connections that shape our lives.”

Storyteller Jezrie Marcano-Courtney (New Haven, CT) is new to the festival and can’t wait to be a part of the experience. “I’m very excited to immerse myself into women’s stories that celebrate us, transcending barriers built to keep us divided. I’ve heard quite a bit about WSF from friends and colleagues who’ve performed or attended, and I’m so happy to be invited!”

Returning Storyteller Bonnie Gardner (Vienna, VA) is a long-time supporter, adding, “It feels positively subversive to say it, but a festival that centers women's stories, women's perspectives, and women's lived experiences promotes empathy and understanding. It's a much-needed balm in these fractured times.”

About the evolution of the festival, producer Jessica Robinson has this to say, “2026 will be our 7th year hosting this incredible festival. I don’t want to say that each year it gets better, because 2020 was fabulous, as was each year since. But the festival has grown a following, not only of audience members, but also of storytellers, including the lineup of the 2026 storytellers. Because the performers have also had the chance to absorb the previous six years of storytelling, they have a stringer sense of the types of stories that work well with our audience. As a national festival, we’ve developed a voice of our own.”

When asked what people should know about attending the festival, Storyteller Nina Lesiga (Stratford, CT) says, “A storytelling festival enables the time for beautiful surprises and beautiful connections to happen!”

Storyteller Kristin Pedemonti (Allentown, PA) agrees, highlighting the festival’s inviting environment. “The Women's Storytelling Festival provides a much needed safe and welcoming space for female artists to share stories often untold on other stages,” she says. “These stories allow us to understand each other more deeply while also amplifying our lived experiences which have, at times, been dismissed, discounted or buried. This festival is a gift for the listeners who may hear their own lived experiences spoken and feel less alone.”

Storyteller Hope Wilder (Durham, NC) goes on to say, “Women's stories are shaped by the experience of being a woman in the world, which isn't always easy. This brings a unique perspective that everyone can learn from, whether it resonates with your own life or whether it's an experience you haven't had.”

The Women's Storytelling Festival kicks off Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 8 pm ET, with our virtual showcase, and the in-person and live streaming storytelling begins on Friday March 20, 2026 at 7 pm ET. The festival concludes on the evening of Sunday, March 22, 2026. [Performer bios [here.](#)]

Early-bird pricing for a full festival pass, effective through February 20, 2026, is \$35 for a virtual ticket and \$55 for an in-person ticket. Starting February 21, 2026, the price of a virtual ticket will be \$50, 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.

"As a multidisciplinary and immigrant feminist storyteller, I deeply believe in the power of women's voices- our wisdom, reflections, lived experiences, joy, friendships, and lessons learned," says Storyteller Meghna Bhat (Sacramento, CA). "Women's storytelling should be the norm, not an exception, in our communities, because our stories can help positively shift our culture, build empathy, and foster intergenerational friendships and healing. Women's stories are the medicine."

Veteran Storyteller Lyn Ford (Columbus, OH) feels the same way. "Women tellers seem to more easily and empathetically connect with a broad age and skill range of listeners. Their stories seem to carry wisdom and be more thought provoking, too."

Virtual and In-person festival tickets are on sale now at:

<https://bettersaidthandone.org/wsf-tickets/>

The stories are intended for a mature audience. We welcome people of all gender identities to attend.

"What's amazing about the experience is how much a storytelling festival can feel like a family reunion. I've had the pleasure to watch this in action, it's awesome," says Storyteller Jezrie Marciano-Courtney (New Haven, CT) "[It's] like a show or event on steroids, but in a really good way."

Storyteller Kristin Pedemonti (Allentown, PA) adds, "More magic happens in live performance without that fourth wall of theatre. There is a deep connection between the teller and listener which is palpable and long lasting. When we hear each other's stories, we hear each other's humanity."

Storyteller Liz Z Pardue (Fuquay-Varina, NC) encourages attendees to get involved in making that magic happen. "The audience is as much a part of the show as the speaker! With the audience, the story grows, changes, and flourishes, so don't be shy about expressing your reactions to what's happening onstage!"

Better Said Than Done Executive Director Jessica Robinson agrees. "It's a beautiful thing – that moment when the teller and the listener connect. It usually happens about five minutes in to

the first story of the festival, but always happens long before the last story is told. Though this is a women's storytelling festival, the artists share stories with characters who inspire, drama that excites, and tales with so much heart they hold universal appeal."

"The sheer diversity of storytelling styles and content you'll find at the festival sets it apart from other performance-based events," adds Storyteller Bonnie Gardner (Vienna, VA). "Prepare to be surprised, moved, and a little awestruck."

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 20 storytellers here:

<https://bettersaidthandone.org/womens-festival/2026-festival-storytellers/>

Read our emcee bios here:

<https://bettersaidthandone.org/womens-festival/emcees-and-volunteers/>