



Please

oh please...

Stories of Asking for the Inconceivable

Asking for what we need can make us feel vulnerable, and asking for what seems impossible, well, that takes a special kind of courage. Will our wishes forever stay out of reach? Why yearn for something that you might not get? But when we do ask, despite the odds, sometimes the universe rewards us in unexpected ways. From a young woman asking for her family to be something it isn't to a son watching his own Christmas wishes evolve as he ages, listen as Four Tellers ask for the universe for their deepest desires.

Brendan
Kelly

LaTanya
Lane

Sarah
Zematis

Hadar
Lazar

The Teal Room Pub 626
12.11.15 FRIDAY
SATURDAY 12.12.15, SUNDAY
12.13.15

Tonight's Storytellers



Brendan Kelly

Brendan has performed as an actor, improviser and as a singer in Chicago for two decades. He now adds storyteller to the mix. He been a trolley driver, dolphin show narrator & researcher to round things out. Bredan has recently finished writing a full length musical & he looks forward to writing more for 2nd Story.



Sarah Zematis

Sarah is a Chicago native who performs, writes, directs & produces. She has worked throughout Chicagoland with theater companies such as Porchlight, Emerald City & Strawdog. Recently, Sarah was thrilled to be a featured cast member in the Chicago production of Listen to your Mother, Giving Motherhood a Microphone, a nationwide storytelling event.



LaTanya Lane

LaTanya is currently a writer who is interested in how we use our stories to construct and navigate our personal experiences. LaTanya holds a B.A. in English, and came to Chicago to earn an her M.A. at The Chicago Theological Seminary. She attended the Voices of Our Nations Arts Writer's Workshop. She enjoys participating in Chicago's lit scene.



Hadar Lazar

Hadar is a physics student at The University of Chicago who really likes telling stories.

Tonight's Crew



Curator

Jessica Young

Jessica has been published in several literary magazines and was a regular contributor to WBEZ radio. Jessica has her degree in Performance Studies from Northwestern University & an MFA from Columbia College.

Director

Dorothy Milne

Dorothy is artistic director and an ensemble member of Lifeline Theatre, where she has directed many plays and acted in a few as well. In the world of storytelling, she is a founding member of the 23-year-old collective, Sweat Girls.



Producer

Ali Drumm

Ali has worked in numerous capacities for a wide variety of companies including Steppenwolf, The Apollo Theatre with Million Dollar Quartet, About Face, terraNOVA, & House Theatre of Chicago.



Sound Engineer

Matthew Chapman

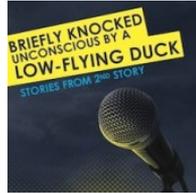
Matt is a sound designer, composer and engineer. Recent work includes Posh with Steep Theatre where Matt is an artistic associate.



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We are proud to announce the publication of our first print anthology! It features 23 stories in 248 pages!

Mission.

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Donate.

From \$1 to \$1,000,000, your donation supports the creation of story sharing spaces around Chicago. Donate at [www.2ndstory.com/donate](#). Or donate right from your computer or mobile phone today!

Volunteer.

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Up Coming.

Shows

4.17.16 @ Mayne Stage

5.24.16 @ Revolution Brewing Co.

Classes/Workshops

2.27.16 - 2.28.16 Winter Intensive

Submit.

Submissions are being accepted for our 2016/2017 season. The deadline to be considered is May 4th, so get writing! You can always find more information about submitting to us at [www.2ndstory.com/tell-a-story](#).

Special thanks to





Presents

When Words Escape Us: Stories of Deciphering Meaning

Sometimes the goldfish is more important than you are. Sometimes the news is worse than you thought. Or a person you love seems like someone else. At the highest and lowest and most ridiculous moments in our lives, words can be poor tools for capturing and expressing our reality. Syllables become foreign when we're shoved into unfamiliar territory, immersed in the absurd, or when we're facing down the incomprehensible. Sometimes, the act of discovering comes from throwing ourselves fully into the world around us and noticing what's out there. Other times, we have to step back and take the time and space to notice what's within ourselves. Every day we're presented with moments where we choose to speak up or stay silent. But what happens during those moments of indecision? Life is constantly surprising—whether it's us surprising ourselves, seeing a new side of someone we've always known. Surprises can set us back, move us forward, or just give us a new perspective on the world. Have you ever experienced a moment where you knew that your life would be completely different from that point on? When something fundamentally changes us, sometimes we can see it coming, but what about the times we're taken by surprise? What do we do then? This month, four storytellers tell you everything about moments in their lives when words lost their meaning.

Featuring

Brendan Kelly

Brendan has performed as an actor, improviser and singer in Chicago for two decades. He now adds storyteller to the mix. He been a trolley driver, dolphin show narrator and researcher to round things out. He recently finished writing a full length musical, and is looking forward to writing more for 2nd Story.

Sarah Zematis

Sarah Zematis is a Chicago performer, writer, director & producer. Sarah has worked around the Chicagoland area with companies such as Porchlight, Emerald City & Strawdog. Recently, she was thrilled to be a featured cast member in the Chicago production of the nationwide storytelling event, called Listen to your Mother, Giving Motherhood a microphone. You can hear her tell her latest story "Crazy Lazy Eye" on YouTube.

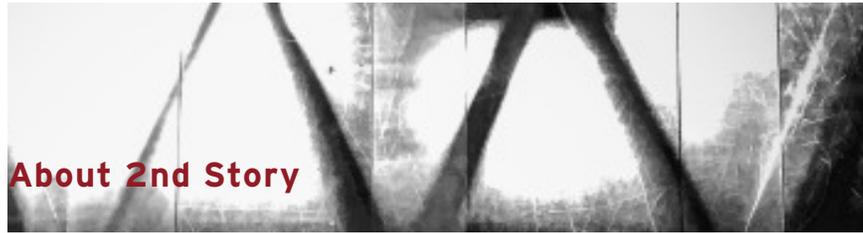
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LaTanya Lane is a writer interested in how we use stories to construct and navigate our experiences. She holds a B.A. in English, and came to Chicago to earn an M.A. from Chicago Theological Seminary. LaTanya attended the Voices of Our Nations Arts Writer's Workshop and enjoys participating in Chicago's vibrant live lit scene as much as her six-year-old son allows.

Hadar Lazar

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january 11-january 13 @ pub 626



About 2nd Story

Who We Are.

2nd Story is a collective of story-makers and story-lovers working together to build community through the power of storytelling. We host events (around Chicago and beyond) that fuse page, stage, and sound to deliver a unique, live, literary/theatrical experience.

What We Do.

We host story-sharing experiences in the form of both performances and workshops/classes. A typical show consists of four (or three or five) stories dispersed throughout the evening like courses in a meal. The stories range from the very serious to the silly and can at once provoke and entertain. Each story is combined with expertly-performed musical accompaniment or well-placed audio accents to enhance the spoken story and the pregnant pause.

Our venues are as varied as our stories, and run the gamut from intimate wine bars to spacious performance halls. Ditto for our storytellers, who come from all walks of life. A pastor, a bartender, a child psychiatrist, and a lawyer...their individual stories help to bridge the gap between the personal and the universal to break down the walls between artist and audience.

We also run classes and workshops in order to empower individuals to be the best storytellers of their own lives. Our training program is based in our core beliefs of the power of ensemble and sharing stories, and is geared both towards artists/writers/performers seeking to hone their technique and individuals with no experience at all who just love what we do and want to deepen their own creative practice.

Collaborative to our core, 2nd Story believes in the power of storytelling to change the world.

Mission.

We believe that sharing stories has the power to educate, connect, and inspire. We do exist to host the celebration and ritual of your own shared stories.

Donate.

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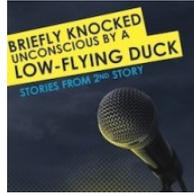
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presents

Who's That in the Mirror?

Stories of Growth and Reflection.

Often we think we know ourselves, then life comes along and hands us an experience that turns us on our heads.

How do we discover what we want out of life?

How do we grow into who we were meant to be?

From a young boy's reckoning with his strict father to a young woman's brush with **consent**. From love to loss to laughter. These four stories explore what happens when someone on the outside **changes** who we are on the inside.

626 pub the teal room

friday, february 11-sunday, february 13 **7:30pm**

Featuring

Lauren Sivak

**Emily Hooper Lansana
& Onam Lansana**

Andrew Reill

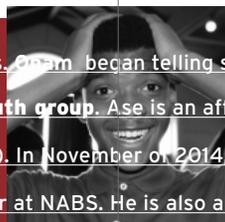
Ramon Charriez



Storytellers



Emily Hooper Lansana is a performing artist, arts administrator, and educator. **She is most known** for her work with the Performance Duo: In the Spirit. **For more than twenty years she has been performing** as a **storyteller**, sharing her work with audiences **of Rebirth Poetry Ensemble, second place finalist in Louder Than a Bomb** the largest **throughout Chicago and across the country. She has** **been featured at the National Storytelling Festival,** the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival, museums, colleges and performance venues.



Onam Lansana is 16 years young born in Chicago, Illinois. **Onam** began telling stories **at the age of six. He is an active member of the ASE youth group. Ase is an affiliate** of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS). In November of 2014, **Onam** **was the first youth teller to be a fully featured performer at NABS. He is also a member** of **Rebirth Poetry Ensemble, second place finalist in Louder Than a Bomb** the largest **throughout Chicago and across the country. She has** **been featured at the National Storytelling Festival,** the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival, museums, colleges and performance venues.



Ramon Charriez is a founding member of the Salsation Theatre Company, NFP. He has written, performed, stage managed produced, and directed several of its productions. Ramon is currently pursuing a communications/theatre degree at North Eastern Illinois University. He has also had the privilege of studying at the Artistic Home for acting, The Annoyance Theatre, The Improv Olympic (I.O.) and at the Second City.

Lauren Sivak is
Managing Director
of 2nd Story



Since moving to Chicago, Lauren has had the privilege of working as an actor, arts administra-

tor, as well as a storyteller Her story 'Beginnings' was published in Story Club Magazine's first issue and has been reprised for LezFest, a benefit – for Pride Films and Plays. (Write Club, Story Club, The BYOB Story Hour, Loose Chicks, Sidetrack's OUTspoken!, and Beauty Bar's Salonathon series).



Andrew Reilly's journalism essays photography and fiction have appeared in a number of fine publications

Including:

He has also performed on a number of equally fine stages, including his solo shows "Paris Of The South Pacific" at the Lifeline Theater's Fillet of Solo Festival and "Running Free" at the Side Project Theatre.

Vol. 1 Brooklyn
The Houston Chronicle
Crain's Chicago Business
The A.V. Club

The Crew



dorothy milne

curator



jessica young

director



ali drumm

producer



matthew chapman

sound engineer

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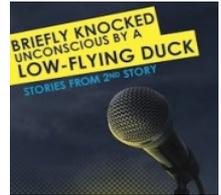
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