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Northstar Storytelling League presents its ninth Tellabration!™ at Open Book

Minneapolis, MN, November 18, 2009. Northstar Storytelling League presents its ninth annual Tellabration! on Saturday, November 28, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN. The theme for this year's Tellabration!, on the tenth anniversary of Northstar's founding, is *Memory and Imagination*. Join us as we remember the past and imagine the future – through story. All daytime activities are free and open to the public.

The morning begins promptly at 10 a.m. with three, 75-minute workshops. From noon to five p.m., a variety of local artists will offer performances, open mics and small group workshops and discussions. The culmination of Tellabration! is an evening storytelling concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Performance Hall.

Morning workshops include *Sing and Tell*, taught by the Singing Curmudgeon, Joan Calof, producer of the CD *Songstories*; *Finding Your Healing Story*, by Andre Heuer, D.Min., LICSW; and *Mining the Mundane*, on finding material for personal stories taught by award-winning Rockstar and Fringe performer Amy Salloway. Workshops are free, but a donation is requested; seating is limited, and preregistration is strongly encouraged. For those not inclined to attend a workshop, the popular *Liar's Contest* will be facilitated in the Coffee Gallery by the Taleweavers Toastmasters Club. A variety of Open Mics will follow in the Coffee Gallery throughout the day, including one hosted by internationally known hip hop performance artist Desdamona Rox, founder of *B Girl Be*.

In the afternoon in the Performance Hall, both the Rockstar Storytellers and the Black Storytellers Alliance will present showcases, and Austin storyteller Michael Cotter, winner of the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence award, will host a two-hour concert of *Greater Minnesota Tales*. Tom Cassidy's *Tales on the Edge* will end the day by exploring experimental techniques and the relationship of storytelling to other art forms.

Two additional classrooms also offer free programming. In Room 203, Northstar members will tell stories specifically geared to families. Memory and Imagination reign here as well, with *Stories We Can't Forget*, *Foolish Wishes*, *Clever Tricks*; *Imagination Constellation: A Sky Full of Stories*; *Holiday Memories*; and the ever-popular *Stories of the Heart*. Room 208 is geared toward small group work and discussions, and will include a debut of *PJ Stories* producer Pam Schweitzer's *Story Club* for children; Loren Niemi's *Two Chairs HowTos*, in which secrets of performance in that paired teller venue will be revealed; a demonstration of refining stories in small group process by Northstar's *Storm Fools*; and Lennie Major's *New Endings for Old Beginnings*, a creative romp through folk and fairy tales.

This year's Evening Concert, hosted and curated by Northstar President Katie Knutson, will take us deep into the woods of memory and imagination with Hansel and Gretel. How Grimm will that woods be? Come and see. Artists includes solo Fringe performer Katherine Glover; 2009 National Poetry Slam winner Khary Jackson (aka 6 is 9); teller of "relentlessly true" stories Alison Bergblom Johnson; contemporary bard Rachel Nelson; award-winning playwright and Rockstar Storyteller Rik Reppe; and veteran performer of tales with a twist, Sara Boyle Trautner. The concert is ASL interpreted by Renee Kerrigan and Krystal Riordan.

Admission is \$12.00, \$10.00 for seniors, students, Northstar members, and Fringe button holders. Concert tickets may be purchased on Northstar's website. For more information go to <http://northstarstorytelling.org/tellabration-2009/>, leave a voice mail message at 612.782.7121, or email info@northstarstorytelling.org.

The mission of Northstar Storytelling League is to promote storytelling and develop and support storytellers. Tellabration! 2009 is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation of the Minnesota State Legislature, and by our partners at Open Book. Tellabration! is a trademarked program of the National Storytelling Network, locally produced by storytelling organizations around the world.

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