

## Sylvia Bishop: Events information

Hello! I am the author of *Erica's Elephant*, *The Bookshop Girl*, *The Secret of the Night Train*, *Trouble in New York* and *A Sea of Stories*. I am also an improvised comedian. I offer a range of events which draw heavily on my work in comedy to ensure, above all, that my audience enjoy themselves!



*"The children responded brilliantly to Sylvia's warmth and infectious enthusiasm. She has a very natural, humorous, un-patronising skill with children, and they very much enjoyed her sessions, listening hard, behaving well, and visibly learning."* Sue Vermes, head teacher at Rose Hill Primary School.

---

## About the events

### Making stories: a practical introduction

*"So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they're impossible."* - Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

I use story-telling games and exercises developed for theatre practitioners, to show the class that ideas are everywhere, and that it is only the struggle for the 'right' idea that holds us back. I show children how to 'work out' what happens next in their story, encouraging logical but playful story-telling.

I can be joined by illustrator Ashley King, for a joint workshop in story-telling and drawing. He leads the children through a drawing exercise based on the results of our story-telling games, allowing them to draw the characters they have created.

This workshop is suitable for 6+

### Musical workshop: Thinking like a writer

For this workshop, I am joined by musician and comedian Dylan Townley on the piano. I guide the pupils through creating a new story as a group. Along the way, Dylan and I improvise comedic songs about the settings and characters created.

The ideas and word choices given by the pupils will be reflected back to them in the piano music; Dylan will change styles in response to their ideas until they are happy with the result. This immediate feedback will be used to demonstrate how word choice affects atmosphere and characterisation.

This workshop is suitable for 6+.

Dylan and I have performed improvised comedy together for eight years, including multiple runs at the Edinburgh Fringe and a tour of the USA.

*"Brilliant performance... these two consummate performers had their audience laughing before the show even started"* – Foyer Talk

## About us



Sylvia Bishop writes middle-grade fiction books, and has been translated into twelve languages.

She graduated from Oxford University with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, but her real education there was in comedy. She continues to perform comedy, and uses her training in high-energy improv to write fast-paced, funny books.

Sylvia lives in London, with a motley crew of chums and more lamps than are strictly necessary.



Ashley King is a passionate Illustrator who hand draws, paints, creates, doodles, scribbles and loves coffee and cake.

He graduated from Coventry University with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Illustration and Animation. He continues his illustrative journey based in the West Midlands, UK. He is represented by Plum Pudding, and in addition to his existing chapter books he is working on his first picture book in the USA.



Dylan Townley is a versatile musician and actor. He has toured Shakespeare to Japan and around the UK, music-directed renowned physical theatre group Dancing Brick, and provides improvised music for Racing Minds (*\*\*\*\*\*Never in my life have I witnessed a funnier live comedy show – Three Weeks*) and Peablossom Cabaret. He was musical director of the best reviewed show of the entire Edinburgh Fringe in 2016, *How To Win Against History*.