

ORGANIZERS:



Grupa Studnia O.



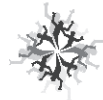
JEDNOSTKA
ORGANIZACYJNA
SAMORZĄDU
WOJEWÓDZTWA
MAZOWIECKIEGO



PATRONAGE:



Embassy of Finland
Warsaw



CASSANDRA
SOC.ALLY ENGAGED STORYTELLING
Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



Muzeum
Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie
w Warszawie

**QueerMuzeum
Warszawa**



ARCHIWUM/KOBIET



Społeczna
Odpowiedzialność
Nauki



Ministry of Science and Higher Education
Republic of Poland

MEDIA PATRONAGE:



dwójka
POLSKIE RADIO



**RADIOWE CENTRUM
KULTURY LUDOWEJ**
POLSKIE RADIO

e-teatr.pl

This public project is co-funded by the City of Warsaw and by the
state budget from the funds of the Culture Promotion Fund operated
by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland



projekt współfinansuje
miasto stołeczne
Warszawa

22.11 SATURDAY

midday–1:00pm The Tales of Mothers | 9+
– Beata Frankowska, Małgorzata Patrzykont,
Helena Matuszewska | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 20

When we look for the voices of mothers in ancient indigenous
cultures, we find them inseparable from Earth and the powers
of Nature: the little mother and the Great Mother – manifest-
ing as Water, Mountain, Moon, Animals, Plants – are one.

midday–2:00pm Workshops, p. 2: *La parole en
mouvement* / Word in Motion – Alberto García
Sánchez (Spain/Belgium/Germany) | FR / PL
Workshop Hall | registration required

How to introduce dialogues so that it is clear who is speak-
ing? Alberto will lead you through valuable exercises and
share guidelines from a seasoned storyteller, director,
and teacher.

2:00pm–4:00pm Screening of *Mothers.*
A Song for Wartime
Main Auditorium
Free tickets required

Twenty-one women from Ukraine, Belarus, and Poland rise
up against the machinery of destruction. Summoning the
power of their voices, they speak the unspeakable. After
the screening, director Marta Górnicka and actors Valeriia
Obodianska and Elena Zui-Voitekhovskaya will take part in
a discussion chaired by Beata Frankowska | PL / PJM

4:00pm–5:00pm The Power of Diversity.
Stories in Dialects and Minority Languages | PL
Elektorska Hall | free tickets required

A performance by the finalists of the competition
organised by the Polish Institute of Linguistic Diversity.

5:00pm–6:00pm *O lásce a jiných kuchyňských
záležitostech* / On Love and Other Kitchen Affairs
– Michala Piskačová, Jan Piskač, Šimona i Juliána
Piskačova (Czechia) | CZ / PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

This is her story, and this is his story – the two are inseparably
linked, each born from the other, and neither making sense
without the other. So listen to stories that may be old, yet
never out of date.

8:00pm–midnight The Night of Tales: Twenty
PJM – part 1 / PL / ENG / FR
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 50

What tales are still with us after twenty years of the
festival? Where do we look for inspiration? One thing is
certain: during The Night of Tales we tell the stories we
love the most.

23.11 SUNDAY

midday–1:00pm *Frida's Huipil* | 7+
– Aneta Cruz-Kąciak, Roman Mendez | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 20

A performance inspired by the life and work of the Mexican
painter Frida Kahlo. Ancestral tales from various cultures
of Mexico will transport us into a world where every *huipil*
tells its own story.

3:00pm–4:00pm International Début Stage:
Cassandra, or, Listen to the Young
– Winter de Cock, Daan Arnauts (Belgium) | ENG
Main Auditorium | free tickets required

Winter de Cock invokes the mythical image of Daphne to
reflect on resisting the oppressive power of the male gaze.
And, through Daan Arnauts's queer autofiction, we will peek
into the world of gay dating.

4:30pm–6:00pm Seminar: The Cassandra Project,
or, young socially engaged storytellers
moderator: Agnieszka Ayşen Kaim | PL / ENG
Elektorska Hall | free tickets required

Seminar with project participants (storytellers
and mentors) from Poland (Natalia Drąka, Wera Kałna,
Dawid Pigut, Adam Markuszewski) and Belgium
(Winter de Cock, Daan Arnauts, Tom Van Mieghem).

6:00pm–7:00pm The Moon Band. Girl and Other
Ballads – Jarosław Kaczmarek, Nasta Niakrasava,
Jonasz Hałas, Jakub Hałas | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

A concert that unfolds as a surreal poetic narrative
for voices, guitar, button accordion, and trumpet.
Original lyrics are interwoven with poems by Leśmian,
E.E. Cummings, Lorca, and Mickiewicz.

8:00pm–9:00pm The Book of Kings or the Book
of Queens?
– Sahand Sahebdivani (Iran/Netherlands) | ENG
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

In his new interpretation of the *Shahnameh*, Sahand retells
stories from the famous medieval pre-Islamic *Book of Kings*,
but from the perspective of well-known heroines of epic
Persian tales. He also allows the strong women of his own
family to speak with their own full and rightful voices.



interpretation into
Polish sign language
(PJM)



interpreted
from the stage



interpretation into
Polish sign language
(PJM) available
upon request



Polish subtitles



induction loop



event in Polish sign
language (PJM)

Printed on recycled paper.

MAZOWIECKI INSTYTUT KULTURY

**20th International
Storytelling
Festival**

**HISTORIES
HERSTORIES**

19-23 November 2025



**FESTIVAL
PROGRAMME**

INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
19–23 NOVEMBER 2025
The Mazovia Institute of Culture,
Elektoralna Street 12, Warsaw, Poland
Organisers: Grupa Studnia O. Association,
The Mazovia Institute of Culture

The 20th edition of the International
Storytelling Festival will be held at
The Mazovia Institute of Culture in Warsaw
from 19 to 23 November this year, under
the motto of “HISTORIES/HERSTORIES”.

Even though contemporary storytelling contin-
ues to draw from age-old, mostly male-centred
narratives, it retells them afresh, from view-
points that have long been overlooked, hidden
in the shadows, excluded, or marginalised.

For this year’s programme we’ve invited artists
of all genders who adopt the perspective of
women and queer people in their tales, and who
crack open rigid gender categories in favour
of fluid, diverse identities. After all, we all
inhabit the space somewhere “in between”.

PERFORMANCES – Main Auditorium
ACCOMPANYING EVENTS – Elektorska Hall
WORKSHOPS – Workshop Hall

TICKETS:
The Box Office opens on 20 October 2025 at
The Mazovia Institute of Culture and online:
www.mik.waw.pl/repertuar

Morning performances (for children): PLN 20
Evening performances: PLN 30
The Night of Tales: PLN 50
Festival Pass (excl. The Night of Tales): PLN 200
Workshops – registration via kasa@mik.waw.pl
is required; opens on 20 October 2025



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upon request



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event in Polish sign
language (PJM)



induction loop

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
PERFORMANCES /
ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

19.11 WEDNESDAY

11:00am–12:10pm Radioactive.
A Tale about Maria Skłodowska-Curie | 12+
– Magda Lena Górską, Serge Tamas
(Poland/France/Guadelupe) | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 20

In Warsaw, little Mania ventures into an enchanted forest in
search of the enchanted fern flower. The elusive blossom
shimmers and lures with an emerald gleam. Its gleam will
soon be echoed by the tiny vial of radium that Maria
will discover in her Paris laboratory.

5:30pm–7:00pm *In the Circle of Women, in the Cycle
of Nature* – Opening of an exhibition of Czarli
Bajka’s paintings | PL
Elektorska Hall | free tickets required

The female experience unfolds visually on the canvases of
Czarli Bajka, an artist creating a woman-centred mythology
that is simultaneously tender and warm yet steeped in folk
wisdom and the mysterious forces of nature.

7:00pm–8:10pm Radioactive. A Tale about Maria
Skłodowska-Curie – Magda Lena Górską, Serge
Tamas (Poland/France/Guadelupe) | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

A spellbinding piece combining theatre, song, and live music.
The well-known and less-known facts of her life are inter-
twined with dreams, yearnings, and the shimmer of fairy
tales.

9:00pm–10:00pm Flora Tristan
– Catherine Gaillard (Switzerland) | FR / PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

The tale transports us to Paris at the start of the nineteenth
century. Known to her contemporaries as Madame la Colère
– Madame Rage – Flora Tristan sparks scandals by exposing
the oppression of women and labourers. Tireless and prophet-
tic, she emerges as a pioneering voice of nascent feminism.



event in International Sign (IS, a system of signs
and gestures used in communication between
people from different countries who use different
sign languages)



event in Visual Vernacular (VV, an artistic form of
storytelling that uses the spatial-visual grammar
of sign language, facial expression, mime, gestures,
and body movements to create a narrative)

20.11 THURSDAY

10:00am–10:45am Hello? I Can’t Hear You,
but I Understand You! | 9+
– Edyta Kozub, Arnoldas Matulis (Poland/Lithuania)
Main Auditorium | free tickets required
Performance interpreted into PL

A warm and funny story of a family that is fluent in many
languages – signed, spoken, and visual. It’s also a tale of
the “good-night stories” told in sign language by the pillow
in the gentle glow of a nightlight.

midday–1:00pm Upon the Hill. The Knights’ Tales | 9+
– Łukasz Kamil Szykowski, Emilia Raiter | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 20

The Knights’ Tales is a musical voyage through the legends,
sagas, and epics of the Middle Ages – from the far north,
via medieval Wales and Ireland, to the far east, to Rus and
the boundless steppes.

3:00pm–5:00pm Workshops, p. 1: *La parole en
mouvement* / Word in Motion – Alberto García
Sánchez (Spain/Belgium/Germany) | FR / PL
Workshop Hall | registration required

How to move on stage? What do you do with your hands?
Where to look? Alberto will share valuable exercises and
the tips of a seasoned master storyteller and teacher.

5:00pm–6:00pm Hello? I Can’t Hear You,
but I Understand You! – Edyta Kozub,
Arnoldas Matulis (Poland/Lithuania)
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30
Performance interpreted into PL

Is it possible to build a bridge between worlds where people
speak in tongues – signs, sounds, and images? This performance
shows miscommunications and moments of tenderness, explor-
ing the power of gesture and of communication that may not
even be heard yet can always be sensed.

7:00pm–8:15pm A Tale of a Fearless Woman who
Twirled and Whirled all Round the World. Regina
Salomea Pilsztynowa and Her Memoirs – Agnieszka
Aysen Kaim, Marta Maślanka | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

A tale of a young maiden, who, in olden times, took her life and
career into her own hands and dared to work and make a for-
tune, while remaining unmoved by men’s opinions on the matter.

The performance is part of the “In Constant Motion: A Tale of Global
Migration” grant co-funded by the Minister of Science under
the Social Responsibility of Science II programme.

9:00pm–10:30pm *Les Amazones* / The Amazons
– Catherine Gaillard (Switzerland) | FR / PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

What’s the link between the queen of the ancient Amazons
and a contemporary lesbian campaigner for sexual minority
rights? The storyteller-activist invites you to listen to a tale
of freedom, solidarity, and hope that reveals the strength of
bonds between women.

21.11 FRIDAY

10:00am–11:00am Upon a Carpet of Sand.
Arabian Tales | 7+
– Szymon Góralczyk, Bart Pałyga | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 20

When you sit on the desert sand you can feel its warmth
and see its multitude of colours and shades. When night
falls, a sea of stars pours into the sky. It’s a beautiful
time to listen to fairy tales.

midday–1:00pm Journey at Night | 14+
– Sahand Sahebdivani (Iran/Netherlands) | ENG
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 20

A play about what it is like to leave the land of your birth
and all the people you have come to know in your short life.

The performance is part of the “In Constant Motion: A Tale of Global
Migration” grant, co-funded by the Minister of Science under the
Social Responsibility of Science II programme.

2:00pm–4:00pm Workshops: *Building Images
and Storybridges*
– Tom Van Mieghem (Belgium) | ENG
Workshop Hall | registration required

During the workshops we will discover the similarities
between personal and traditional stories.

5:00pm–7:00pm Discussion panel: Whose Story
Are You Telling? Herstorical and Queerstorical
Perspectives | FR / PL
Elektorska Hall | free tickets required

The discussion will feature: Barbara Gołębiowska (Director
of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum in Warsaw);
Katarzyna Nadana-Sokołowska (Women’s Archive, Institute
of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences);
Adriana Kapała (QueerMuzeum Warsaw / Centre for Com-
munity Archives); and festival artists: Catherine Gaillard
(Switzerland), Magda Lena Górską, and Agnieszka Aysen
Kaim. Moderated by Magdalena Ulejczyk (Director of
the Mazovia Institute of Culture) and Beata Frankowska.

7:00pm–8:15pm Kalevala. In Pursuit of Happiness
– Szymon Góralczyk, Bart Pałyga | PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

Kalevala – the great Finnish epic – weaves a tale of marvels
and enchantment. Its magical, picture-bright narratives have
stirred composers, painters, writers, and storytellers.
Its heroes are not always successful in their quests for
happiness.

The event is held under the patronage of the Embassy of Finland.

9:00pm–10:40pm *Elle et mon genre* / She and
my Gender – Alberto García Sánchez
(Spain/Belgium/Germany) | FR / PL
Main Auditorium | tickets: PLN 30

A certain actor is commissioned to stage a play about
the contemporary condition of women. He struggles
to connect with the subject until, on the morning of
the premiere, he wakes up in his wife’s body.