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[Photos and videos are available on request.]

**Women Telling Stories – Online and In-person**

*Better Said Than Done Presents the 2022 Women’s Storytelling Festival, both in-person in Fairfax City, VA, and online*

February 15, 2022 -- Fairfax, Virginia -- The Women’s Storytelling Festival, hosted by Better Said Than Done, will take place March 18-20, 2022, in-person at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. The festival will also be live-streamed online. All ticket holders, whether in-person or virtual, will be able to watch the festival videos for one month after the festival concludes. The 2022 festival features 22 female storytellers and showcases a wide range of storytelling styles and themes.

For schedules, other details, and tickets, visit

<https://www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/>.

Storyteller Bonnie Gardner (Vienna, VA), has this to say about the festival weekend, “Live, in-person storytelling is all about connection -- the storyteller with the audience, the audience with the story -- and after two years of COVID living, we're all a little starved for connection. The festival is a great opportunity for all of us, whether on the stage, in the room, or watching remotely, to refill our tanks.”

Noa Baum (Silver Spring, MD) adds, “I am so excited to BE with others, and especially other women! I look forward to learning and growing as an artist with this opportunity to share the stage with so many amazing women artists - some I know and have long admired, some I've only heard about and am excited to finally meet.”

About the festival being a hybrid event, festival producer Jessica Robinson has this to say, “Because we were forced to present the festival virtually last year, our entirely virtual audience joined us from all over the world. Though we are excited to be able to perform in-person this year, we wanted to allow our new fans to experience this year’s festival. We decided to live-stream it, so all ticket holders could watch during the festival weekend, no matter where they live, and also to give everyone who has a ticket the ability to watch the festival videos over the course of a month. So, if anyone misses any part of the live events, or just wants to enjoy again, they have a month to watch.”

The Women’s Storytelling Festival kicks off Friday, March 18, 2022, at 7:00pm EDT, and concludes Sunday, March 20, 2020, at 6:00pm. The festival will include performances from 22

female storytellers and a Story Swap, which is an open mic storytelling event open to all in-person ticket holders.

[Performer [bios here](#).]

Early bird pricing, effective through February 28, 2022, is \$25 for a virtual ticket and \$45 for an in-person ticket. Starting March 1, 2022, the price of a virtual ticket will be \$40, and an in-person ticket will be \$55. To keep storytellers and listeners safe, attendees must show proof of vaccine and/or a negative COVID test taken within 24 hours to enter the Old Town Hall. All attendees are required to remain masked while inside at the event.

“I come from a long line of incredibly strong women,” says Susanne Schmidt (Burlington, VT). “Some came to this country in search of a better life, some came to escape horrible situations and others came at the will of someone more powerful. They all had one thing in common, a story that has outlived them.” Denise Page (Madison, CT) adds, “In most cultures, women are the keepers of generational transfer of information. Herstory is often not found in history. Spotlighting women gives a platform and a practice which allows the perspective and journey of womanism to be heard.”

Lyn Ford (Columbus, OH) continues, “I learned the art and craft of storytelling from elders in my family. I’m proud to carry on their traditions in my own way. Their storytelling has given me a foundation in my Affrilachian heritage, creative tools in communication, and an appreciation of the importance of really hearing others.”

“For me, shared stories inspire resilience,” says Cyndi Wish (Kingston, NJ). “I sat next to a woman for three days on a greyhound trip from Portland Oregon to NYC. She ate pickled pigs’ feet from a jar the whole way. She was going to New York to repair her relationship with her son and to meet her grandchildren. She’d messed some things up, big time, but was going to fix what she could. I was 18 at the time and I still think about her when I feel like I’ve made huge mistakes.”

Andrea Young (Baltimore, MD) continues on the theme. “In today’s world of information overload, storytelling is a way to capture attention, connect with others through emotion and remind us that humanity exists through stories we tell, hear and remember.” Mary D’Alba (Malden, MA) adds, “Stories can help us feel like we’re not alone. Listening to someone’s vulnerable, heart-fueled story bonds us together as audience and storyteller. It’s life-changing.”

On the power of storytelling, Laura Packer (Minneapolis, MN) says, “Storytelling is arguably humanity’s oldest art form. Our brains evolved for storytelling. When we share stories, we connect in deep and powerful ways, finding common ground that creates community and relationships.” Margaret Burk (Oak Park, IL) adds, “Stories not only entertain, they also have the power to touch the heart, spark imagination, inspire hope, and embolden the spirit.”

Of the festival’s importance as a space for women artists, Linda Schuyler Ford (Tallahassee, FL) adds, “There is an exponential richness that happens among women who share their art, and

little opportunity for that unique sharing to happen. Though female storytellers outnumber their male counterparts, men are given more opportunities. And most coveted opportunities are at large festivals, where the stories are often expected to be funny. There is a very narrow criteria in the vast world of female wordsmiths.”

“We as women are bombarded by filtered, artificial, tech communication that feeds the fire of female competition, divide and self-doubt,” Kim Weitkamp (Mount Vernon, OH) explains. “This event is a shining beacon. Sharing, listening, telling - knee to knee. Keeping it true and real and letting each other know, you are not alone, things aren’t perfect, there is power in the coming together.”

“Women's empowerment is essential, but that is only part of why we need to spotlight women's voices and stories. Women should be leading and influencing, not playing catch-up for all the years we have not been given a seat at the decision-making table,” adds Jude Treder-Wolff (Selden, NY) “The spotlight on women's voices and stories is a way to get control of our own narrative, define our own experience, but also illuminate visionary ideas that help shape the larger conversation about the world we are creating together.”

“Women are often stereotyped in the storytelling world as telling entirely to children, typically as teachers and librarians. The WSF highlights the range of women's stories,” says Miriam Nadel (Vienna, VA). Carol Moore adds, “This festival specifically celebrates female voices, putting our creativity and visions front and center. We've also become this sisterhood of storytellers, creating a network that spans far beyond a festival. All of our styles are also so different and diverse, which makes the festival as a whole exciting.”

Lindsey Lange-Abramowitz (Queens, NY) adds, “Storytelling matters because it’s how we as humans make sense of the world on the most fundamental level. The process of creating narratives from lived experience shapes how we process these experiences and connects us to others, either because they can see themselves in these narratives or because now they have a small window into a world not their own.” Heather Forest (Huntington Station, NY) agrees. “The stories we tell others and the stories we tell ourselves shape the way we see the world. Stories are a powerful kind of metaphor and can be used to inspire and motivate people to action.”

As Sheila Arnold (Hampton, VA) puts it, “I believe storytelling is a way of building community, bringing down walls while inspiring, educating and entertaining.”

Festival attendees will find a range of stories and storytelling styles featuring diverse experiences and cultures. Join these 22 storytellers online or in-person, starting on March 18, 2022. Festival tickets are on sale now at <https://www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/>. The stories are intended for a mature audience; people of all gender identities are welcome to attend.

“WSF is a festival where the voices of women are unconditionally honored and valued, and recognized as limitless in their scope and power,” says Lyn Ford.

Of producing the festival Jessica Robinson concludes, “I founded Better Said Than Done in 2011 to share the art of storytelling with a wider audience. Since 2011, I’ve realized that part of what we’re accomplishing as an organization is entertaining audiences, and part of what we’re doing is giving storytellers a space. Some of the storytellers who have joined us on stage over the years had never performed before. Some had performed a little but not nearly as much as they wanted to. As with our monthly shows, the festival will entertain audiences and also give storytellers, in this case women storytellers, a platform, a stage that wasn’t there before.”

Better Said Than Done is grateful for the continued support of its sponsors – Fairfax City, Capture Video, Financial Advantage Associates, and Transformational Storytelling.

Of joining the festival lineup, Ria Spencer (New York, NY) exclaims, “Storytelling has always connected people. It’s how we share our truth and proves that, in the end, we’re all human. Living through a global pandemic has taught us that that human connection is more important than ever. And that’s why I’m so excited to be participating in the festival this year. It’s a chance to be with people again and experience some storytelling magic with a great group of storytellers!” Vijai Nathan (Alexandria, VA) concurs, “I’m thrilled to be a part of this amazing community of powerful women who are revolutionizing the world of storytelling.”

**Better Said Than Done** defines storytelling as the art of performing a true, personal 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.com>.

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#### Storyteller Bios:

The 22 storytellers in the 2022 Women’s Storytelling Festival are joining us from Chicago, NYC, Washington, D.C., Florida, and many states in between. They will be sharing personal stories, folk tales, stories of history, and stories of adventure. Some of them are new-ish to storytelling and some have been performing for over 30 years. Among the festival performers, we have authors of books, creators of CDs, stars of TV shows, podcasters, and contributors to the Washington Post, Snap Judgment, and the Moth. There are too many credits to list. Please check out all of our [storytellers’ bios here](#).