

WELCOME TO

FEST 2014

Skellefteå / Malå / Umeå / June 9-12



3 days of storytelling and networking in Västerbotten,
the County of Storytelling, in northern Sweden.



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Berättarnätet Sverige – The Swedish Storytelling Network

Berättarnätet Sverige, BNS, is a non profit umbrella organisation for Swedish local storytelling organisations, professional storytellers and festival organisers. There are 23 member organisations gathering about 900 individuals.

BNS aims to:

- Be a storytelling promoter for oral storytelling, to spread and develop it.
- Be a network catalyst and facilitate contact, interaction and collaboration.
- Support old and new members, e.g. via the website and Facebook.

Federation for European Storytelling

Whether you are a national or regional organisation, international festival or educational institution in the field of storytelling – this is the place for you!

FEST promotes the mobility of ideas and collaborations in and across Europe. By offering mechanisms for sharing, learning, advocacy and relationship building, it wishes to empower the world of storytelling .

FEST is an international non-profit organisation (INPO) based in Belgium but with membership all across Europe.

Welcome to FEST 2014!

The Swedish Storytelling Network would like to invite you to Västerbotten in 2014, to the FESTconference held in three towns – and in a bus travelling between them:

- Skellefteå – The Storytelling Town.
- Umeå – The Cultural Capital of Europe, 2014.
- Malå – experience the sami storytelling tradition.

We offer you three exciting days in northern Sweden, where the nights are bright and white during summer, in a region where the general keywords are: co-operation, networking, experimenting and developing.

We are happy to announce that Mats Renman, one of the founders of FEST, will open the conference.



Photo: Fabula Storytelling

Thanks to a great network of local and regional organisations, which are presented in this brochure, we are able to create this conference and welcome you to FEST 2014!



Photo: Sanna Näsström



Photo: Tage Olsin



Photo: Sanna Näsström

Västerbotten – the County of Storytelling

In Västerbotten, a vast region as big as Denmark in the northern part of Sweden, we have a project called “Västerbotten – the County of Storytelling”. This project is an engine in our region, and it has a strong growth perspective. It's about using storytelling in a region where we need to create more job opportunities and enterprise. It is also about building self-respect and a strong identity, in peoples lives and in business areas.

The concept ”County of Storytelling” was created in Västerbotten over ten years ago. Since then it has been widely used in many different contexts: at libraries, museums, theatres and other places of activity and interest.

The Storytelling Town of Skellefteå

In Skellefteå there is a strong tradition of storytelling. Building on the area's rich tradition of oral and written narration, such as famous author Sara Lidman, the city council has proudly proclaimed Skellefteå to be "The Storytelling Town". Efforts to launch "The Storytelling Town of Skellefteå" as a concept is thus an effort to highlight and make visible something that already exists and develop it for the future.

The Storytelling Festival

The Storytelling Festival in Skellefteå is a week full of the power of storytelling and delight in watching and listening. Here, we meet storytellers from the Storytelling Town of Skellefteå and from the region of Västerbotten. Together with national and international guests, they offer a host of storytelling experiences for all ages and tastes.

The Storytelling Festival is a display window for all forms of storytelling. The aim is to show the importance of storytelling, both on stage and as a working method in several other contexts such as teaching, integration, transfer of cultural inheritance and corporate storytelling.

The Västerbotten Museum



At the Västerbotten Museum oral tradition is considered an integral part of our cultural heritage. The only Storytelling Curator in Sweden, Marianne Folkedotter, works here to preserve and develop storytelling in the region and in the museum's in-house operations. Storytelling is included in exhibitions and activities as an educational tool. Through storytelling performances the museum plays an active role in bringing the region's cultural environments to life.

Västerbottensteatern

Västerbottensteatern aims to develop storytelling as an integral part of the artistic profile and to become one of Europe's leading storytelling theatres.

During 2012–2014 Västerbottensteatern operates the project *Europe's Leading Storytelling Theatre* funded by the Regional Council of Västerbotten, the Municipality of Skellefteå and the Swedish Arts Council.

Umeå – the European Capital of Culture 2014

Umeå is the European capital of culture 2014. It is a window to all of Europe and will be used to show that Umeå is one of the foremost culture-driven cities in Europe. Before, during and after 2014 cultural exchanges between Umeå and the rest of Europe will increase. This means that Europe has an opportunity to become acquainted with Umeå's cultural scene. It is also an opportunity to establish bonds with new European friends.

The logo for 'berättarnätet SVERIGE' is a green speech bubble shape. Inside the bubble, the text 'berättarnätet' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'SVERIGE' is written in a smaller, green, uppercase, sans-serif font.

Contact BNS

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Photo: Paul Thompson

FEST 2014 is hosted by The Swedish Storytelling Network, BNS, in co-operation with:



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BERÄTTARNAS
STAD

