

28 August 07, 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Nurturing and Optimizing the Craft of Storytelling: Exchanging Perspectives with the Singapore Film Community by James Bonnet, U.S

@ Playden, The Arts House

At the current, extremely exciting stage of Singapore's film production industry development, one of the critical success factors identified is the ability to tell good stories well. The local film community could not ask for a better resource person than master storyteller James Bonnet, who, in this important public talk, will explain the importance of storytelling in the cinema domain, and review the essential elements that all great stories have in common and the things that make them unique. James will also share his insights into contemporary developments and issues in screenwriting, and debunk some of the myths (plus clarify many of the facts) about the creative development process. This talk will also be a unique opportunity to hear about successes and failures from around the world, and the key learning experiences arising from them. James will provide case studies of selected seminal works, as well as advice to young and aspiring screenwriters. This is one talk that all involved and / or interested in Singapore filmmaking cannot afford to miss!

James Bonnet, US

For the last twenty years, James Bonnet, writer, teacher and story consultant, has been the director of Astoria Filmwrights, a research project studying all the significant story models and theories about story from around the world and their connection to the creative process, storymaking, psychology, myth and film. The culmination of this work is the breakthrough "unified" theory of the origin and nature of story and a revolutionary new story model that can be used by writers and filmmakers to create more successful stories.

The book he has written on these findings, *Stealing Fire from the Gods: A Dynamic New Story Model For Writers And Filmmakers*, was published by Michael Wiese in 1999. A second edition, *Stealing Fire from the Gods: The Complete Guide to Story For Writers And Filmmakers*, is published in July of 2006. His new book, *Cracking the Story Code: The Secrets of Story and the Art of Storymaking*, will be ready for publication in the Fall of 2007.

Since 1990 he has been giving intensive weekend seminars, *Storymaking: The Master Class*, to screenwriters, producers, directors, psychologists and mythologists. The radical new ideas about story revealed in his books and his seminars are having a major impact on writers in all media. He has written or acted in more than forty television shows and features. He was elected twice to the Board of Directors of the Writer's Guild of America (a ten thousand member union) and served four years in that capacity.

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