

## Sylvia Bishop: Events information

Hello! I am the author of *Erica's Elephant* and *The Bookshop Girl*, humorous chapter books for children aged 6 – 10. I am also a musical comedian, and I have volunteered as a TA for Rose Hill primary school (three full school-days per week providing literacy support). Both of these experiences have shaped my author events.

I offer two events, each with a different aim. Both 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.

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## 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.

After the show, if the audience are available to contact, I can send an electronic copy of the story. Suitable for age 6+.

Dylan and I have performed improvised comedy together for seven 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

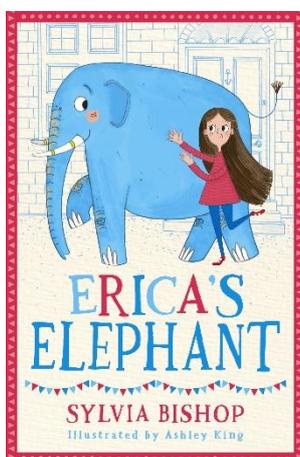
## Prices

	Half day	Full day	Recommended length per class
Making stories	£150	£250	1 hr
Making stories, with illustrator	£300	£500	1.5hr
Musical workshop	£300	£500	1 hr

Please note that hosts are asked to cover the cost of travel (by public transport from London; and from Nuneaton for Ashley King).

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## About the books

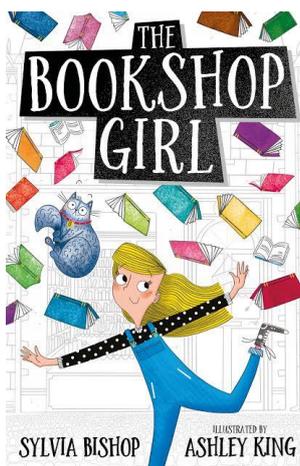


### Erica's Elephant

When 10-year-old Erica Perkins wakes up on the morning of her tenth birthday, the last thing she expects is to find a very confused elephant sitting on her doorstep. So begins an unlikely friendship. But can a small girl and a rather large elephant learn to live together in a tiny terraced house? And when the dastardly owner of the local zoo plots to steal the elephant, will Erica be able to outsmart him?

*Erica's Elephant* has been translated into 8 languages, and was *Sunday Times* children's book of the week.

"A delight from start to finish" - Booktrust



### The Bookshop Girl

Eleven-year-old Property Jones doesn't think it's odd that she lives in a bookshop. After all, she was found in the shop's lost property cupboard at five years old, and nobody ever came to collect her – so of course calling the bookshop home seemed like the wisest thing to do in the circumstances.

But when Property's adopted bookshop family announce that they've won a competition, and that the prize is Montgomery's Book Emporium – the most magical, most magnificent bookshop in the world! – Property realises that not all is as it seems. The bookshop may come with more books than they've ever dreamed of (as well as one extremely grumpy cat), but it also comes with a mystery – and Property is determined to solve it.

*The Bookshop Girl* was *The Observer's* children's book of the week.

"Don't miss out – this could be your child's golden ticket to a lifelong love of books." - MinervaReads

## About us



Sylvia Bishop is the author of two middle-grade fiction books, and has been translated into eight 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*.

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## Any questions?

Please get in touch! I can be reached by email at [sylviarosebishop@gmail.com](mailto:sylviarosebishop@gmail.com), or by phone on 07963 875920.

I am always happy to discuss working on bespoke events.