

Veena Manish

STORYTELLER · PUPPETEER · PERFORMER

Kathalaya Certified Storyteller — International Academy of Storytelling,
Bengaluru

Sixteen years on stage | Mumbai · Thane · Pune · Bengaluru · Kerala

*Soon to launch under her own brand — **Once Upon a Story***



*“Turn off the screen.
Turn on their imagination.”*

*She tells stories for a living — and has done so for sixteen years,
before more than a thousand children, **without ever needing a screen.***

16	100+	1000+	5
YEARS OF PRACTICE	SHOWS PERFORMED	CHILDREN INSPIRED	CITIES REACHED

About Veena

Veena Manish believes a story, well told, is the oldest classroom in the world. For sixteen years she has proved it — in schools, homes and halls, at festivals and community events, before children aged three to twelve who arrive restless and leave transformed. Her craft joins Indian folklore, moral tales and live puppetry into sessions that children carry home and remember for years.

She came to the stage from the classroom. A teacher before she was a performer, Veena has taught across the **IGCSE, ICSE, CBSE and SSC** boards, and she brings a teacher's discipline to an artist's freedom: every session is built with intent. It entertains, certainly — and while the children laugh, each session does its deeper work: building language, empathy, attention and confidence.

Her stories travel. She has performed across **Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Bengaluru and Kerala**, and her work reaches far beyond the ticketed stage — into hospital wards, NGO classrooms and communities where a story is not a luxury but a lifeline.

Education

- **M.A. English Literature** — University of Mumbai
- **B.Ed.** — University of Mumbai
- Taught IGCSE, ICSE, CBSE & SSC curricula

Certification

- **Certified Storyteller** — Kathalaya's International Academy of Storytelling, Bengaluru
- Sixteen years of professional storytelling & puppetry

The Performing Arts

- ◆ **Hindustani classical vocal** — five years of training; a versatile singer
- ◆ **Bharatanatyam** — ten years of training
- ◆ Song, movement & voice woven into every performance

What she offers — and what children take away

What I Offer

- Live interactive storytelling
- Puppetry performance sessions
- School & corporate events
- Birthday & cultural programmes
- Weekend story circles
- Performances for terminally ill young patients in hospitals

Skills Children Develop

- Communication & expression
- Emotional intelligence
- Creativity & imagination
- Focus & active listening
- Cultural roots & values
- Confidence & self-esteem

Stories where they are needed most

Some of Veena's finest audiences will never appear on a poster. Working alongside NGOs, she carries her puppets and her songs into the **cancer wards of Mumbai's hospitals**, into sessions for **children with special needs**, and into classrooms serving **underprivileged communities** — because a child in a hospital bed deserves wonder as much as any child in a front-row seat. This, she will tell you, is the heart of the work.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

The Story Circle

Weekly storytelling and puppetry in small, warm groups — never more than eight children — where every child is seen, heard, and given a voice. Screen-free by design; confidence-building by intent.

AGES 3-12

MAX 8 PER CIRCLE

WEEKLY SESSIONS

VASANT GARDEN, MULUND, MUMBAI

■ ■ ■ Ways to work together

1

Corporate CSR

Bring storytelling to children who need it most — meaningful CSR with visible impact.

2

School Tie-Ups

Weekly or monthly storytelling programmes as a structured enrichment activity.

3

Co-Branded Events

Lend your event a story session — memorable, child-safe, quietly unforgettable.

4

Referrals

Recommend Veena to schools, clients and friends — and join the movement.

Let's put a story to work.

Stories that teach. Moments that last. Children who shine.

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