

KAMISHIBAI WORKSHOPS



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A little bit of history

Kamishibai means “paper theatre”. It is a style of oral narration of Japanese origin. Thanks to illustrated sheets, the narrator can tell a story while showing pictures as the story happens. This way of telling stories is quite popular in Japan and it is usually targeted at children, who inevitably enjoy it.

Butai is a little theatre, originally built in wood with three doors. Inside there are the illustrated sheets that will give visual support to our story. Behind the sheets there is the text that tells the story and the front illustration is shown to the audience. Along with the storytelling, sheets are being moved, showing the sheet immediately behind; this way the story moves on in time with the illustrations.



Gaito kamishibaia

Originally he was a street storyteller who went from town to town riding his bicycle, selling candies in exchange for storytelling. When he arrived at a town he called the audience by clapping his *hyoshigi* (two pieces of wood tied with a cord). The *gato kamishibaia* told his stories with the help of a *butai*, in exchange the audience bought his produce before the show (candies he was carrying in his bicycle, under the *butai*).

Artistic and Teaching resources

The *kamishibai* is a style of storytelling that helps to develop a workshop in various ways because it joins together different abilities and interests within a group. Participants can choose between building a *butai*, drawing the illustrations, writing a story or a poem, reading aloud, setting the whole performance and telling the story *gaito kamishibaia* style...

or doing everything!



This wonderful ancient tradition succeeds in developing imagination and fantasy among students, encouraging them to read and write. It is used as a valuable teaching resource in illustration, creative writing, and in reading enhancing programs; the West has started using it for students with learning difficulties. Furthermore, it is an excellent tool for teaching a second language.



Some ideas for working in a group: workshops

- *Project kamishibai*

Participants will be part of an artistic and collective process. Depending on the workshop timing as well as the interests and objectives of the group, it will be more important to concentrate on the creative writing, drawing or performing. There will be different stages in the project: 1. Presenting *kamishibai* storytelling 2. Building the *butai* 3. Decorating the *butai* 4. Reading and selection of texts 5. Creating the script 6. Drawing the illustrations 7. Directing and performing.

- *Kamishibai* for teachers and educators

A workshop designed for those teachers and educators interested in knowing *kamishibai* as a pedagogic tool and its multiple educational possibilities. Each participant will bring a story, or a poem, of their choosing to be used within the workshop and later as a teaching resource. *Kamishibai* can be very versatile in different areas: literacy, foreign languages teaching, oral expression and communication (presentations or debates), etc.

- We learn Spanish with *kamishibai*

One of the many pedagogic possibilities of *kamishibai* includes the learning of foreign languages. Thanks to the colourful and interesting visual impact of *kamishibai* it makes learning languages fun and exciting.

We can interact in pairs using the *butai* as a support for the conversation, or like a 'blackboard' for learning grammar or vocabulary, creating a *kamishibai* show with the whole class; the options for how *kamishibai* may be used are only limited by one's imagination.

- We develop our skills with *kamishibai*

From 2013 I've been using stories and poems as tools to improve oral expression and communication in people with learning difficulties. In this path *kamishibai* has outshone others as a storytelling style that allows people with learning disabilities to express themselves from different places. Graphic design, drawing, literacy, creative writing, storytelling, oral and body expression, all have a place in the naturally inclusive language of *kamishibai*.

In the workshop we'll approach this art with a sympathy for the interests and needs of each participant. At the same time, collective activities will be a motivational force to bind together and continue learning.