

Praline Gay Para is a modern storyteller.

Her repertoire is wide: from traditional tales the world over, to urban life stories.

She'll knock on doors, listen and transform the magic of everyday life, then plunge into ancient lore. What comes out always relates to our social reality today.

In French, English or Arabic, she performs for all ages throughout the five continents: on international stages, theatres, libraries, city streets, ... her work gets around.

For Praline, revitalizing art is a life quest: she collaborates with contemporary artists in music and in dance, and is currently learning sign language for a new show.

Her show, *Caravane, récits ambulants* (Caravan, Tales on Wheels) is a commissioned project, based on people's stories collected over three years in Chevilly-Larue, a mixed southern suburb of Paris... a red caravantheater... parked in a square... come in and listen to the stories... *My Island Stories* is a compelling collection of continuously surprising tales about contemporary urban life, migration and the strange details of things that have happened to people as they make their lives on the 'Ile de France'; Paris and its suburbs.

Her recent show *Pourquoi je ne suis pas née en Finlande ?* is a monologue in the streets of Paris of a woman who remembers her arrival from Beirut and how she lived the Lebanese civil war through medias and telephone calls.

Praline started collecting and reflecting about traditional folktales and life stories in the late 70's. She is regularly invited to give conferences and head projects throughout the world. She coaches and directs artists writing their own shows; gives workshops for storytellers.

A writer and translator (from English, Arabic and Creole, into French), she's published many books for children and adults: Carribean Folktales, Folktales from Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Ethiopia, etc.

Her most recent book: *Contes curieux des quatre coins du monde*, (Strange Stories From the Four Corners of the World) Actes Sud, coll. Babel. 2007

Praline Gay Para obtained her PHD in 1985 (anthropology and linguistics), based on a study of traditional folktales she'd collected in Lebanon during the late 70's early 80's.