

# zoe mak people



## Andrea Darvill, storyteller



GLOBETROTTING CANADIAN STORYTELLER ANDREA DARVILL HAS FINALLY SETTLED DOWN IN AUSTRALIA. PHOTO: JONATHAN WONG

### Profile

- Born in Toronto, Canada
- Obtained university education in Montreal, Kingston and Vancouver in Canada
- Taught in Japan and Hong Kong as an English teacher
- Began sharing tales as a storyteller 16 years ago
- Bilingual in English and French and speaks a little Japanese
- Has at least 50 stories in her head to share with anyone at anytime
- Currently lives in Australia



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# A world of stories to tell

**F**rom the Scottish tale of the glimmering king fish to the Korean fable of Cho, the hard-working farm boy, Andrea Darvill has gathered some wonderful stories from around the world to share with young audiences and those young-at-heart.

And Darvill's storytelling is definitely more than just a listening experience. Determined to get her audience involved, she uses all sorts of stage skills and visual elements in her shows.

At one storytelling workshop at this year's Faust Festival, Darvill hopped on stage to the sound of beating drums before captivating her young audience with her African dancing.

Darvill considers the retelling of stories that she herself heard in different parts of the world, to be a wonderful gift to others.

"It's not just me the performer, it's you the audience who has to go out and tell the story. Don't keep them to yourself," she says.

Born in Toronto, a multicultural city on the east coast of Canada, Darvill grew up experiencing different cultures. This fuelled her desire to explore the world.

"We were exposed to so many [cultures]. And we grew up hearing them," she says.

Telling interesting and catchy stories requires more than just narration, explains Darvill.

Adding different accents can

accentuate the personality of the characters.

To be a storyteller the first thing you require is a love of reading, Darvill says. She

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spends most of her time flipping through books to find interesting tales that she can share.

Taking classes on acting and studying stage performance

would also help make you a better storyteller, she adds.

Of course the experiences she has had while travelling have helped make her a more engaging storyteller. But having seen so many vibrant and exciting places, it's difficult for her to know where, precisely, is her favourite part of the world.

"I do love diversity, I love contrast," she says.

Sometimes it's nice walking around the IFC Tower and shopping in the mall, but once in a while she would like to stay in small towns, near trees and mountains.

"It's not perfect, once you travel. You like a little bit of everything and no place has that," she reflects. "So I kind of like the world."

But Darvill, who has enjoyed visiting so many different places and meeting so many different people, has found a place to settle; a small yet vibrant town in Australia that people from around the world visit at different times of the year.

"I'm settled now. I have a house, I have a cat, I'm settled in Australia."

Despite now having a base, Darvill believes the reason she's still single is because she has been travelling too much.

"I love kids, of course I've thought of that [having a family]. But it just didn't happen. I'm a free spirit," she says.

So every holiday she visits her families around the world, from Australia to Canada.

**say it**

Phrases from this story

**glimmering**  
微弱地發光的

**multicultural**  
多種文化的

**narration**  
講述

**accents**  
口音

**contrast**  
對比

**vibrant**  
活躍的