



Community Compass

American storyteller Michael Lockett gestures while relating a story at a press conference last Wednesday promoting two storytelling evenings at Howard International House in Taipei this Friday and Saturday night. PHOTO: CNA

Storytelling master to share his talent at English festival

By JennyW. Hsu
Staff Reporter

Parents and teachers can bring children to see a master storyteller in action this weekend.

Award-winning storyteller Michael Lockett of Normal, Illinois, is in Taiwan for “Grandpa Mike’s Summer Story Festival” at the invitation of publishing companies and is also conducting workshops for English teachers on using the art of storytelling in classes.

With his white, straw hat and hearty smile, Michael Lockett, says the secret to unleashing the “inner child” in most people is getting them involved in the storytelling process. Indeed, not many people can lead a room full of adults — including two US officials — in making monkey sounds in a matter of minutes as Lockett did last Wednesday on the top floor of the Taipei World Trade Center International Trade Building.

“Storytellers can take [their audience] to another time and another place,” Lockett says.

The lifelong educator has been telling stories all his life and believes strongly in the power of storytelling to teach children and stimulate their imagination. Storytelling can help children learn to read faster, broaden their vocabulary and maintain a higher retention rate of what they’ve learned, Lockett says.

Lockett will perform again on Friday and Saturday from 7:30pm to 9pm at the Howard International House on Xinsheng S Road, Section 3.

For more information, visit www.cet-taiwan.com/story2008. All stories will be told in English, except for animals sounds, of course.