



# *Wayland the Smith*

## *& other tales of transformation*

*Accomplished storyteller Martin Maudsley collaborates with cellist Ruth Wakefield to bring this stirring Norse tale to life. A carefully crafted performance of lyrical language and spellbinding images forged in the flames of music and melody.*

*Wayland the Smith* is an ancient, epic story rooted in Norse mythology and percolated through the rich imagery of Old English storytelling. The themes are timeless and enduring: love and loss, power and revenge and our deep-seated relationship with the natural world, explored through the magic and beauty of wild swans. This new music and storytelling performance, jointly commissioned by Bristol and Aberystwyth Storytelling Festivals, evokes the physical landscape and emotional world that Wayland inhabits - creating a sense that we are up there, flying with the swans. The show includes two other short tales of transformation, shape-shifting stories that conjure the beauty and mystery of the natural world and our interconnectedness with it.

*“The themes of flight, freedom and a sense of the wild resonate strongly in this retelling where confinement, and perhaps even civilisation, mean death. A fine addition to the Tobacco Factory’s storytelling programme.”*

Lee Calloway, Bristol Evening Post

*“Martin Maudsley is a master craftsman, telling old tales with a new resonance.”* Peter Stevenson, Aberystwyth Storytelling Festival

*“We were offered a wonderfully lively and stirring telling of WAYLAND THE SMITH by Martin Maudsley at last night’s Story Cafe, along with Ruth Wakefield’s beautiful and resonant accompaniment on the cello. Their rapport and engagement with the enthusiastic audience swept us along on a wild and epic journey of flight and eventual freedom, cloaked in swans’ feathers.”*

Christine Bell, Bridport Story Café

For bookings and further info contact [martinjmaudsley@gmail.com](mailto:martinjmaudsley@gmail.com), 07761 026460.