

**BASE (BRITISH AWARDS FOR STORYTELLING EXCELLENCE)**  
**PRESS RELEASE – MILTON KEYNES 12<sup>th</sup> OCT 2013**

Grasmere Storyteller Taffy Thomas M.B.E. has once again been applauded by the general public and his peers at the BASE Awards Ceremony in Milton Keynes. Taffy received awards for ‘Outstanding



British Male Storyteller’ and also for ‘Outstanding Storytelling Performance’ for his presentation ‘Ancestral Voices’.

Taffy had just finished performing at the Settle Storytelling Festival and made the drive down to the ceremony just in time, having been simply invited to present an award to the best newcomer, so was both amazed and delighted to himself receive two awards. Peter Chand, one of the

organisers of the event commented on the inspirational impact of the amazing Taffy Thomas’s acceptance speech on the ‘up and coming’ generation of young storytellers, many of whom were present. Taffy said ‘If I stand tall it is because I am standing on the shoulders of those that have gone before’ reinforcing the fact that the acknowledgement of our oral tradition is imperative in order for this heritage to survive.

Taffy’s role as First Storyteller Laureate 2010-12 was seen as a triumph for traditional storytelling, and these awards continue to realise the importance of this traditional art-form.