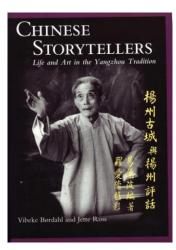
## CHINESE STORYTELLERS: LIFE AND ART IN THE YANGZHOU TRADITION

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Chinese storytelling, or *shuoshu*, is a living oral form of art that was introduced as early as around 1,000 AD. For more than a thousand years the art of storytelling continued to play an essential role in the daily life of the Chinese. Chinese Storytellers introduces Yangzhou, the town where one of the oldest branches in the tradition of storytelling has flourished for centuries. Vibeke Børdahl leads you through Yanzghou's ancient alleyways, teahouses, and hidden corners to learn the settings, artistic devices, and techniques used by storytellers during their performances. Interviews with seven contemporary masters of the art, gives us a rare glimpse into the personal and professional lives of storytellers today.

"A watershed for specialists in Chinese verbal art... and a delight for the general reader." *Aaron Tate, Journal of Folklore Research* 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Vibeke Børdahl is a Senior Research Fellow and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. She has taught Chinese language and literature at the University of Aarhus, the University Oslo and the University of Copenhagen. Børdahl has been an active facilitator of literary and cultural exchange between China and the West, having arranged visits of Chinese storytellers to Europe to conduct live performances and broadcasts. Changing the face of Asian language and cultural education in North America by envisioning, developing, translating, and publishing awardwinning language and culture learning materials.

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