

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]: Theater Performance/Work-in-residence (new piece)



Marebito-no-Kai "PARK CITY"

Written and directed by Masataka Matsuda, Photography by Keiko Sasaoka

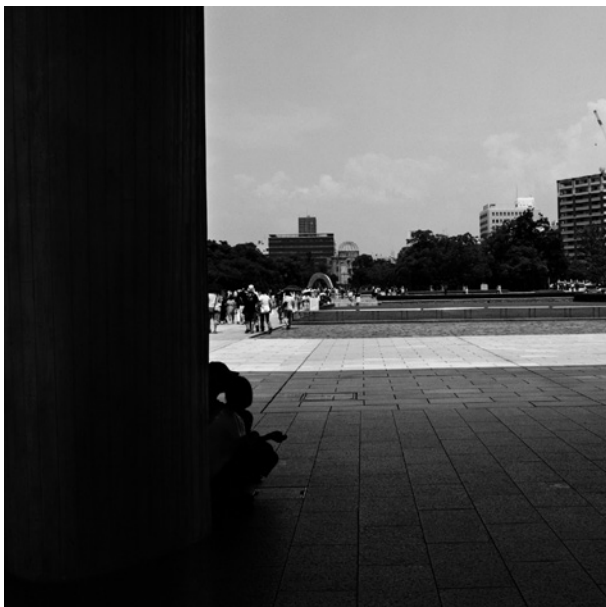
August 28 (Fri) 19:00 / 29 (Sat) 14:00* · 19:00 / 30 (Sun) 14:00* Start Venue opens 30 minutes prior to the start

*Artists talk after the performance

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Venue: Studio A



"Voiceprints City - Letter to FATHER" (FESTIVAL/TOKYO 2009) photo: Tsukasa Aoki



Keiko Sasaoka "PARK CITY" (2007)

The first full-fledged theatre production realized at YCAM

A new experience that defies the conventional idea of "theatre"

Masataka Matsuda (playwright/director, Marebito-no-Kai) and photographer Keiko Sasaoka (photographers' gallery) unveil their new theatre piece "PARK CITY" at the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media. This YCAM original production is a result of Matsuda's stay in Yamaguchi as part of the "Work-in-residence" program exploring the possibilities of artistic expression together with the Center's expert staff -YCAM InterLab-. "PARK CITY" experiments with temporal, spatial and physical sensation by combining stage art with photography and media technology.

"PARK CITY" Hiroshima portrayed in words and photographs

Remote seats equipped with individual video screens

Masataka Matsuda, a leading Japanese playwright/director since the 1990s, has received numerous awards for his experimental work exploring the possibilities of stage arts with the theatre company Marebito-no-Kai. In his newest creation, he captures scenes of the city with the help of Keiko Sasaoka, a young photographer regarded for her original approach. The two artists illustrate through texts and photographs the latent memories of the city of Hiroshima as it was re-erected around a "monument" in the form of a park after the war. Seats in the theatre are deliberately placed at a distance from the stage, and equipped with individual video screens. This alternative viewing style enables the audience to enjoy a new form of theatre with text, photography, sound and imagery transcending the boundaries of time and space. Look forward to a radically new type of stage production that incorporates Masataka Matsuda's script and direction, Sasaoka's photographs, and YCAM's own cutting-edge media technology.

Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Biwako Hall, Marebito-no-Kai, photographers' gallery

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion, Biwako Hall Foundation, Marebito-no-Kai, photographers' gallery

Supported by: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education, The Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal 2009, Japan Foundation for Regional Art-Activities (JAFRA), The Asahi Beer Arts Foundation, The SAISON Foundation,

Sponsored by: AVOX

Kyoto Art Center support project

Website: <http://parkcity.ycam.jp/>

Press Preview Jul 26, 2009 14:00-16:00

* There will be a short preview performance of approx. 20 minutes, after which the artists will be available for interviews.

INQUIRY

Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM]

Public Relations: Fumi Hirota, Aya Tatsumura

tel: +81-83-901-2222 fax: 81-83-901-2216 e-mail: information@ycam.jp

7-7 Nakazono-cho Yamaguchi-city 7530075 JAPAN <http://www.ycam.jp>



Marebito-no-Kai "PARK CITY"

Written and directed by Masataka Matsuda, Photography by Keiko Sasaoka

Welcome to a new type of experimental theatre that explores the creative possibilities of media technology in performing arts, creating a space and time shared by actors and audience to highlight the boundaries between fiction and nonfiction, memory and oblivion, live and recorded action, body and media.



Visualizing the hidden voices and memories of a city on the example of Hiroshima and the monument that forms the redeveloped town's centerpiece

This piece's title "PARK CITY" is at once the title of a collection of photos of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park that Sasaoka has continuously taken since leaving the town where she was born and raised. 31-year-old Sasaoka approaches "Hiroshima" with a different mindset than those artists who have been focusing on the city's history as a bombsite. Based on her photographs as a point of departure, this piece illustrates the latent memories of the city of Hiroshima as it was re-erected around a "monument" in the form of a park after the war.



Masataka Matsuda, who is responsible for the script, established an original method of "unearthing" through research and writing the voices that have been buried in history, and "reporting" through the bodies of actors. After defining a certain terminus ad quem with the Marebito-no-Kai's pieces "Auto-da-fe" (2006) and "cryptograph" (2007), for his latest production "Voiceprints City - Letter to FATHER" (2009) Matsuda conducted research in his hometown Nagasaki, and interviewed his own father, in order to further explore his original method with additional documentary style elements.

This time he picked up the voices of the city and the people of Hiroshima, and constructed a script that "bears testimony" to these memories in an overwhelming flood of abstract, fragmentary texts, rather than a story with actors that each play a character. With her photographs' easy messages and unique feeling of distance that defies empathy, Sasaoka expands her audience's senses of language and vision.



A playwright and a photographer exchange ideas to build an originally multilayered plot of words and images

For this new piece themed around "Hiroshima", Masataka Matsuda and Keiko Sasaoka applied a completely new production method by exchanging texts and photographs with each other. Sasaoka took photographs based on Matsuda's texts, which in return inspired the playwright's direction. The script and story line that emerged out of this collaboration build up an intricately tangled timeline while accentuating the notion of "acting (live) in the present" in performing arts, and the function of photography as a medium for recording/reproduction. Spectators will be able to sense the memory of the city - the central theme of this play - and an open view of the urban space from a multilayered time axis beyond the boundaries of past and present.



Remote seats and individual video screens

Appreciation dominated by the peculiar distance between actors and audience, body and voice, stage and imagery

Only the theatre's third floor seats are available for viewing this piece, as it was conceived to be experienced in a unique style looking down upon the stage. Different from plays that attempt to pull the scenery on stage from the extraordinary into the realm of everyday life, here the audience is made perfectly aware of the distance from the stage.

In addition, all seats are equipped with individual video screens, which suddenly shower the viewer with prerecorded footage and real-time images recorded by cameras directed toward the stage. This setup involving numerous monitors and speakers is designed to juxtapose the physical distance between the stage and the audience, the indirect sense of distance brought about by media technology, and the distance between the past and the present as represented by photography and stage art respectively. By intervening in the performing arts audiences' viewing habits with media technology, the piece introduces an entirely new kind of theatre experience.



Top to bottom: "Voiceprints City - Letter to FATHER" (AI·HALL 2009) photo: Yujiro Sagami / "Bodas de sangre" (atelier GEKKEN 2008) photo: Yujiro Sagami / "cryptograph" (Miami Theater, Cairo/Egypt 2007) photo: Yusuke Hashimoto / Keiko Sasaoka "PARK CITY" (2007) / Keiko Sasaoka "PARK CITY" (2007) / Keiko Sasaoka "PARK CITY" (2007)

About the "Work-in-residence" program

What is "work-in-residence" at the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media all about?

In this program organized and produced by the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM), artist create works of fine or performing art during a stay at YCAM for a period between three weeks and one month. About 40 original "works-in-residence" have been made and presented at YCAM so far. Along with the combination of performance/exhibition spaces and a production team of specialized technicians (YCAM InterLab), such programs introducing existing outstanding works, as well as promoting new works made at YCAM in Japan and abroad, can be considered as one prominent characteristic of YCAM's activities. The countless works of art that were created this way have been highly evaluated around the world.

PROFILE



Marebito-no-Kai

Founded in 2003 under the mission of exploring possibility of theater and realized the first piece "Shima Shiki Shindokan (Island Style Vibrating Organ)" written by Masataka Matsuda in May, 2004. Their most important works are "cryptograph" (2007, performed in Egypt, Kyoto, China, and India), "Voiceprints City - Letter for FATHER" (2009, performed in Itami and Tokyo), and more. The company searches the reality of today by laying the world of unordinary.

<http://www.marebito.org/>



photo: Yujiro Sagami

Masataka Matsuda

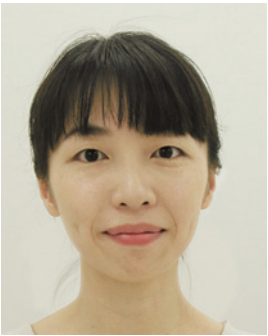
Born 1962 in Nagasaki Prefecture. Matsuda is a leading Japanese playwright/director since the 1990s.

He started his career in drama while a student at Ritsumeikan University. He formed Jiku Gekijo company in Kyoto in 1990, and wrote and directed all the works for the company until it was disbanded in 1997. He worked as a freelance after that and wrote for and co-produced with Seinendan and Bungakuzo.

He founded Marebito-no-Kai in May, 2003 and started to direct again as well as continuing to write for the company. He is outstanding for his ability to apply everyday setting and unflinching language to depict the unconscious fetters hidden in the human unconscious.

He has received numerous awards, including OMS Drama Award 1994 for "Saka no Uenoie (The house on the hill)", OMS Drama Award and KISHIDA Kunio Drama Award in 1996 for "Umi to Higasa (Sea and Parasol)", Yomiuri Drama Award for "Tsuki no Misaki (Moon Cape)", Yomiuri Literature Award in 1998 for "Natsu no Sunanoue (On the sand of the Summer)" and Kyoto Cultural Encouragement Prize in 2000. He is a guest professor at Kyoto University of Art and Design.

<http://www.marebito.org/>



Keiko Sasaoka

Born 1978 in Hiroshima Prefecture. Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University in 2002. Founding member of photographers' gallery, a group of photographers that runs a gallery, organizes exhibitions and photography courses, publishes in-house magazines and photo collections, and engages in various other activities that involve the medium of photography. Was the editor in charge of volumes 2 to 7 of the "photographers' gallery press" journal. Was awarded an encouragement prize at "The Vision of Contemporary Art 2008," The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo. Has been exhibiting her creations in solo and group shows in Japan and abroad since 2001, when she presented her first work in public. Has been focusing on the "interior" and "exterior" of the historical city of Hiroshima since leaving the town where she grew up. This experience is reflected in many of her works, which keep fascinating viewers through the unique mixture of power and coolness they represent. Is reputed among fans and critics as a promising artist from the next generation of photographers.

photographers' gallery <http://www.pg-web.net/>

INFORMATION

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]: Theater Performance/Work-in-residence (new piece)

Marebito-no-Kai "PARK CITY"

August 28 (Fri), 19:00 / 29 (Sat) 14:00*• 19:00 / 30 (Sun) 14:00* Start Venue opens 30 minutes prior to the start

* Artists talk after the performance

Ticket information

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】¥3,000

"any" members & special discounts ¥2,500 / Under 25 ¥2,000

【Tickets at the door】 ¥3,300

Tickets available on July 11

YCAM ticket information desk

+81-83-920-6111

(10:00-19:00 closed on Tuesdays or the next days if it falls on holiday)

<http://www.ycfcp.or.jp/>

(open 24 hours, user registration required. Japanese only)

Special discount

A special discount is available for seniors over 65, as well as for handicapped persons and one accompanying care person each.

Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted.

Childcare service

This service is available for children aged six months or older.

- Fees: ¥500 for one child; ¥300 per child for two or more children

Applications must be made until August 21 (Fri), 2009

Wheelchairs

Please contact the venue for information in advance.

Written and directed by: Masataka Matsuda

Photography by: Keiko Sasaoka (photographers' gallery)

Cast: Chise Ushio, F. Japan, Chiaki Kirisawa, Goma-no-hae, Takashi Shima, Aki Takeda,

Maki Nishiyama, Yuichiro Masuya, Norifumi Miyamoto, Harumi Yamaguchi

Stage manager: Takuro Iwata (YCAM InterLab), Masaya Natsume

Stage Technicians: Mitsuo Uno (YCAM InterLab), Takuro Iwata (YCAM InterLab),

Clarence Ng (Esplanade)

Sound: Takayuki Ito (YCAM InterLab)

Recording: Masamitsu Araki

Lighting: Fumie Takahara (YCAM InterLab)

Video: Richi Owaki (YCAM InterLab)

Costume Design: Kyoko Domoto

Monitor system: Takayuki Ito (YCAM InterLab)

Programming: Satoshi Hama (YCAM InterLab)

Dramaturg: Tsuyoshi Tanabe

Assistant director: Yuriko Maiya

Technical support: YCAM InterLab

Produced by: Akiko Tkeshita (YCAM), Naoko Shiomi (YCAM),

Mariko Mori (Marebito-no-Kai), Mao Nishimura (Marebito-no-Kai)

Advertising design: Isao Tanaka (photographers' gallery)

Cooperated by: Gyoto, Eisei, Knit Cap Theater

RELATED EVENT

YCAM hosts a variety of supplementary events in order to help visitors understand and enjoy experimental stage productions to the maximum extent. In addition to Masataka Matsuda's lecture at a local university in May 2009, and a lecture at YCAM in June, a "YCAM Backstage Tour" will be conducted to introduce the state of the current work-in-residence, and a film related to the work will be shown. Also planned is a talk session with special guests, to be held after the main show. Make sure to catch these events, as they will certainly enhance your enjoyment of the performance.

Lecture

May 7

Special lecture as part of Yamaguchi University's curriculum

Lecturer: Masataka Matsuda (Marebito-no-Kai)

This special lecture for students of Yamaguchi University is realized in cooperation with the university. It will be an opportunity to explore the frontline of theatre, while learning about currents and pieces of contemporary drama and other forms of physical expression.

Jun 6 14:00-16:00

"A playwright/director shares his thoughts: Where do the voices come from?"

Lecturer: Masataka Matsuda (Marebito-no-Kai)

Venue: StudioA Target group: High School Student and older Capacity: 50persons Admission: Free

Playwright/director Masataka Matsuda (Marebito-no-Kai) holds a lecture prior to his residency at YCAM. While shedding light on Marebito-no-Kai's unique theatrical approach by discussing "whom the voices and vocabularies of actors belong to," and "how they are expressed on stage," Matsuda will talk about the background and appeal of his newest creation, which will be officially unveiled at YCAM.

Exhibition

Aug 1 - 31 10:00-20:00

Keiko Sasaoka "PARK CITY" Photo Exhibition

Keiko Sasaoka presents a selection of photographs used in "PARK CITY" in a photo exhibition of the same title. Enjoy the photographer's original prints up close, and in a different setting and atmosphere from the stage performance.

Backstage Tour

Aug 16, 23 14:00-15:00

YCAM Backstage Tour 2009

"YCAM Work-in-residence" is a program in which internationally operating artists stay at YCAM, and realize original works together with the "InterLab" expert production team. Held again this year is the very popular "backstage tour" event that allows visitors to observe the creation process. This time it's the making of a new piece by theatre company Marebito-no-Kai that participants can witness, while at once learning about the mechanisms of sound and lighting as parts of a theatrical production.

* To book your place, please e-mail to backstage09@ycam.jp

Cinema

Aug 7 - 9

Venue: StudioC

Admission: ¥800 / "any" members & special discounts ¥500 ("CAMOCEЛ" Admission: Free)

This program features on the films related to the theme of "PARK CITY."

"Utsukushii natsu kirishima"

2002 / 118min / Japan

Directed by Kazuo Kuroki

Writer: Masataka Matsuda, Kazuo Kuroki Cast: Tasuku Emoto

"CAMOCEЛ"

2006 / 45min / Japan / TNC

Directed by Akiko Baba

Cast: Masataka Matsuda

"HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR"

1959 / 91min / France · Japan

Directed by Alain Resnais

Writer: Marguerite Duras Cast: Emmanuelle Riva, Eiji Okada

"H story"

2001 / 111min / Japan

Directed by Nobuhiro Suwa

Cast: Béatrice Dalle, Kou Machida

Movies scheduled to be screened:

Aug 7 (Fri) 13:30"Utsukushii natsu kirishima"
15:50"CAMOCEЛ"
19:00"HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR"
Aug 8 (Sat) 12:15"CAMOCEЛ"
13:30"HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR"
15:30"H story"
Aug 9 (Sun) 13:30"H story"
16:00"Utsukushii natsu kirishima"

"PARK CITY" at Biwako Hall, Center for the Performing Arts, Shiga (Japan)

October 24 (Sat) 14:00/18:30, 25 (Sun) 14:00/18:30, 2009

Venue: Special seats on the stage of Main Theatre

Ticket: Adults ¥3,000 / Youth under 25 ¥2,000

Ticket Inquiry:

Biwako Hall Ticket Center

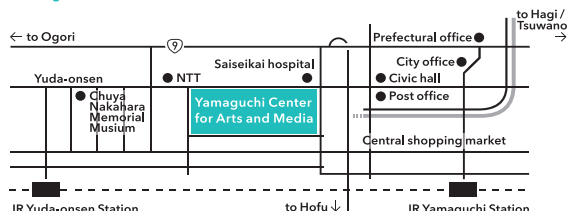
TEL: 077-523-7136 <http://www.biwako-hall.or.jp/>

15-1, Uchidehama, Otsu-city, Shiga, 520-0806, JAPAN

Closed: Tuesday (If Tuesday is a National holiday, then Wednesday)



山口情報芸術センター
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media



Hours: 10:00-20:00

Closed: Tuesday (If Tuesday is a holiday, then Wednesday),

Winter holiday season (December 29 - January 3)

7-7 Nakazono-cho, Yamaguchi, 7530075 JAPAN

Tel: +81-83-901-2222 Fax: +81-83-901-2216

<http://www.ycam.jp/> information@ycam.jp

by airplane:

· 1 hour 30 minutes from Haneda Airport (Tokyo) to Yamaguchi Ube Airport
· 30 minutes from Yamaguchi Ube Airport to Shin-Yamaguchi station by shuttle bus

by Shinkansen Line (train):

· from Tokyo to Shin-Yamaguchi; 4 hours 28 minutes
· from Shin-Osaka to Shin-Yamaguchi; 1 hour 57 minutes
· from Hiroshima to Shin-Yamaguchi; 33 minutes

from Shin-Yamaguchi station to YCAM:

· by Taxi; about 30 minutes (about ¥3,000)
· by JR Yamaguchi line;
- 18 minutes to Yuda Onsen station and 20 minutes walk
- 20 minutes to Yamaguchi station and 20 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi
· by JR Yamaguchi line (Yamaguchi liner);
- 10 minutes to Yuda Onsen station and 20 minutes walk
- 13 minutes to Yamaguchi station and 20 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi