

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Opera/Stage Performance

New Opera "THE END" by Keiichiro Shibuya + Toshiki Okada

December 1 (Sat), 19:00 start; December 2 (Sun), 15:00 start

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] / Studio A

The most cutting-edge opera that is presently feasible Can vocaloids play opera?

Keiichiro Shibuya, who has been making waves with his activities as a musician and artist, and stage director/playwright/novelist Toshiki Okada, born like Shibuya in 1973, unveil the fruits of their first ever collaboration themed around "endings". "THE END" is an opera starring Hatsune Miku. While the basic traditional opera elements of tragic story, aria and recitativo have been adapted, no human singers or musicians perform in this first ever attempt at staging a vocaloid opera. This new YCAM production featuring multi-screen visuals laid over four sides of the stage, lighting and multi-channel sound, was created during the artists' residency at the Center, and aims to dissolve European style anthropocentrism that has come to be associated with the opera format, as well as such opposites as life/death, public/private, part/whole, line/stratum, to explore the meanings of such things as "end" and "death".

The opera tells the story of Miku, who, after presaging her own destiny, embarks on quest for the "end" by way of a deteriorated copy of herself, and through dialogues with the other characters. Tragic variations unfurl in a space that connects to an endless valley, as Miku is destined to die. Or is she not?



The key visuals of the exploding Hatsune Miku were designed and art-directed by Yuni Yoshida, based on original illustrations by YKBX.

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Performance credits

Concept: Keiichiro Shibuya, Toshiki Okada
 Music: Keiichiro Shibuya
 Script: Toshiki Okada
 Co-starring: Toshiki Okada, Keiichiro Shibuya, YKBX
 Starring: Keiichiro Shibuya, Hatsune Miku
 Stage art: Shohei Shigematsu
 Visuals: YKBX
 Sound programming: evala
 Vocaloid programming: Pinocchio P
 Technical support: Masato Tsutsui
 Producer: Atsunori Toshi (A4A)
 Technical supervisor: Takayuki Ito (YCAM InterLab)
 Stage supervisor: Satoshi Ozaki
 Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)
 Special support: Crypton Future Media, Inc.
 Cooperation: ATAK, precog
 Cooperation (production): A4A
 Co-development: YCAM InterLab
 Planning&Realization: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]
 Cooperation (motion capture production): Genda Lab. Faculty of Design, Kyushu University Yasuhiro Matsunaga
 Cooperation (motion capture model): Mari Ando

PR Media Production
 Art direction: Yuni Yoshida
 Photography: Shin Suzuki

Profiles

Keiichiro Shibuya

Musician. Born 1973. Graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. In 2002 he launched the music label ATAK, releasing CDs of domestic and overseas cutting-edge electronic music/sound. Works include "ATAK000+", "ATAK010 filmachine phonics", "ATAK015 for maria", etc. In 2010, he released "Our Music The Principle Of Relativity + Keiichiro Shibuya". Has created numerous movie soundtracks, and continues to introduce his work in multi-channel sound installations, concerts, and other activities. <http://atak.jp/>



photo: Kenshu Shintsubo

Related Event

Workshop on November 24 (Sat), 15:00-16:30
 Instructors: Keiichiro Shibuya, Toshiki Okada
 Location: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] / Foyer
 For high school students and above
 Number of participants: 50 (admission free)
 Reservation required, in order of arrival
 The artists give a presentation introducing working ideas and approaches in the production process, and discuss the general theme with the workshop participants.
 Reservations by FAX or e-mail with the following information:
 1. Name 2. Gender 3. Date of birth 4. Address w/ zip code 5. Phone/Fax or other contact information
 Reservations to: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]
 FAX: 083-901-2216 e-mail: workshop@ycam.jp

Related Exhibition "Making of 'THE END'"

Date: November 10 (Sat) – January 7 (Mon), open 10:00-19:00
 Location: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] / Foyer
 Admission free
 Video artist YKBX and architect Shohei Shigematsu exhibit various materials documenting the making of the opera "THE END". On display are drawings and storyboards of Hatsune Miku created by YKBX in the video production process for "THE END", as well as stage art plans designed by Shohei Shigematsu. Exhibition set-up/supervision: Shohei Shigematsu

Toshiki Okada

Playwright, novelist, Chelfitsch leader. Born 1973. Founded the theater company "Chelfitsch" in 1977 in Yokohama, and gained an international reputation for his endeavors overturning traditional concepts of theater. Received the prestigious Kunio Kishida Drama Award for "Five Days in March" in 2005. In 2008, his first collection of novels titled "The End of the Special Time We Were Allowed" was awarded the Kenzaburo Oe Prize. "Genzaichi" (Current Location), the latest piece by Chelfitsch, was unveiled in April 2012. <http://chelfitsch.net>



photo: Nobutaka Sato

Profiles

YKBOX a.k.a Masaki Yokobe

Video artist. In addition to directing and producing all kinds of video works, he is also active in the fields of illustration and graphic design. His numerous works pursuing total art direction have been highly praised at film festivals and other events in Japan and abroad. His music video for popular rock band amazarashi's song "Natsu wo Matte Imashita" was awarded an Excellence Prize at the 2010 Japan Media Arts Festival, Entertainment category. His freelance work – also outside Japan – includes visual direction at various large-scale events, and art direction for various big-name video games.

<http://yokoboxxx.com/>

evala

Sound artist, founder of the "port" label. Member of ATAK. Has released several works of cutting-edge electronic music, and continues to participate in performances and installations at art museums. His broad range of activities revolving around sound as a core element further include sound design for real spaces using 3-D sound systems and cutting-edge technology; music for stage performances; film soundtracks, and musical production for advertising in various media. Launched the laptop duo "ATAK Dance Hall" with Keiichiro Shibuya in 2011. Has exhibited multi-channel sound installations at Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] and NTT InterCommunication Center (ICC), and was in charge of sound design for a special display at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan).

<http://port-label.jp>

<http://evala.jp>

Shohei Shigematsu

Architect. Born 1973 in Fukuoka. Partner of OMA and in charge of the architecture firm's New York office. Main works include the CCTV Headquarters in Beijing, Shenzhen Stock Exchange Headquarters, the Prada exhibition "Waist Down", an extension to the College of Architecture, Art and Planning at Cornell University, and the new building of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. Next to collaborating with artists, designing Marina Abramovic's new performance space and Cai Guo-Qiang's NY studio/atelier among others, he presently works as a lecturer at The Harvard Graduate School of Design, and at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Pinocchio P

Composer. Made his debut with the contribution of "Hanauta" on February 23, 2009. Has been energetically posting original compositions since, while at once aggressively engaging also in collaborations and live broadcasts. In addition to his activities as a composer, he has been displaying his multifarious talent also as a creator of illustrations used in movies. His vocaloids are Hatsune Miku and Kagamine Rin. In July 2012, his first album on a major label, "Obscure Questions" was released on EXIT TUNES.

Masato Tsutsui

VJ, programmer. Has been pursuing universal qualities of video as a form of visual expression, by a pioneering approach that maximizes the benefits of technology. Has appeared as a VJ at such festivals as "METAMORPHOSE", "SonarSound Tokyo", "electraglide", "FUJI ROCK FESTIVAL", "BIG BEACH FESTIVAL" and others. Has been developing systems for real-time & interactive video in the realm of spatial choreography with a focus on advertising.

Further involved in the form of video production, character design and co-performance is YKBOX (a.k.a. Masaki Yokobe), a video artist who has been attracting attention with his original visual world as exhibited in music videos among others. Stage art is by architect Shohei Shigematsu from the architectural office OMA New York, known for his work with the likes of Kanye West and Marina Abramovic. Leading sound artist evala is in charge of sound programming to wrap the audience in a veil of sound, while Pinocchio P, a highly popular creator of unique melodies and lyrics, took charge of the Vocaloid programming. Another member of the programming team is Masato Tsutsui, an omnipresent figure in the VJ scene.

Just introduced to the general public were key visuals of the exploding Hatsune Miku, based on original illustrations by YKBOX, and photographed by Shin Suzuki.

Event Details

New Opera "THE END"

by Keiichiro Shibuya + Toshiki Okada

December 1 (Sat), 19:00 / December 2 (Sun), 15:00

(doors open 30 minutes prior to the start of each performance)

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] / Studio A

Admission (reserved seats only, no entry for children preschool age and younger):

Advanced general ¥3,000 / "any" members and special discount tickets ¥2,500 / under age 25 ¥2,300

At the door ¥3,500

Tickets on sale from 10/6 (from 9/29 for "any" members)

Information (phone):

Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion, Ticket Information (information desk at YCAM, open 10:00-19:00, closed Tuesdays or Wednesdays if Tuesday is a national holiday)

083-920-6111

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

(24-hour service, pre-registration required)

Seven-Eleven stores: Seven code 019-530

■ Babysitting service

Age: 6 months and older

Service times: 30 min. before – 30 after the show

Fees: ¥500 / first child; ¥300 for each additional child

Please apply to the Ticket Information desk by November 24 (Sat)

■ For wheelchair seats and hearing aids please inquire in advance

Host: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

Support: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education

Sponsors: Shiseido Co., Ltd.; Korg Inc.

Cooperation (equipment): Color Kinetics Japan Incorporated

Special support: Crypton Future Media, Inc.

Cooperation: ATAK, precog

Cooperation (production): A4A

Cooperation (motion capture production): Genda Lab. Faculty of Design, Kyushu University

Co-development: YCAM InterLab

Planning & Realization: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in Fiscal 2012

This performance was made possible by aids from the public lottery.

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