

About PUPPET THEATRE PUK

PUPPET THEATRE PUK (LA PUPA KLUBO in Esperanto) was founded by the late Toji Kawajiri, the elder brother of PUK's Artistic Director the late Taiji Kawajiri(1914-1994), in 1929, the same year as UNIMA foundation. PUK being an artistic group based on free-expression and anti-war ideals, its activities were mercilessly oppressed and perspected by the authorities of those days. PUK had to change its name several times and lost many of its members before and during the World War II.

PUPPET THEATRE PUK started, right after the War , its free artistic activities and then grew up to be a big groupe of more than eighty members and owing its Theatre House is actually the meeting place of puppeteers. PUPPET THEATRE PUK has three main sections – Puppet Troupe Section, Theatre House Section and TV Section. These sections are, sometimes independently, sometimes collaborating each other, organising various activities.

Several troupes, being and small, are permanently touring all over Japan. PUK goes abroad too. PUK already met people of Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czecho,Slovakia, Germany, Poland,Australia, Canada, USA, Mexico and so on.

PUPPET THEATRE PUK started its creative activities with marionette technique. However, PUK soon enlarged its technical range adapting hand puppet, rod puppet, shadow puppet, Japanese traditional puppets and many others so as to puesue a wider possibility of theatrical expression. As Japan has a long and various traditional and folk puppetry trends, PUK is very proud of making use of those cultural treasures in modern creation.

Recent awards and prizes

2000 (H12) "Heidi" : Japan Children's Theatre Association Individual Award, 2000 (Heidi=Hiromi Takimoto)

2001 (H13) "My Uncle" : Recommended by the Social Security Council of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare as a cultural asset for child welfare

2002 (H14) "Asataro the Negibozu" : Recommended by the Social Security Council, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, Cultural Asset for Child Welfare

"I'm not your mother!" : The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's Social Security Council Specially Recommended Child Welfare Cultural Property

2006 (H18) "The Three Robbers: Another story" : Recommended by the Social Security Council, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare as a cultural asset for child welfare

"Danbooru-kun" : Recommended by the Social Security Council of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare as a cultural asset for child welfare

"The Bear Woof" : 2007 (H19) Child Welfare Cultural Award; Specially Recommended Child Welfare Cultural Property, Social Security Council, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

2009 (H21) The 9th Seiichiro Kurabayashi Memorial Award

2012 (H24) Kurushima Takehiko Cultural Award ; The 21st Mrs. O Children's Theatre Award for Children and Youth [Sachiko Inoue] ; The 28th Japan Performing Artists' Union Award [Tsuguo Hase] 2019 (R1) The 28th Mrs. O Children's Theatre Award for Children and Youth [Tamiko Onagi]