

# **IKENOSHITA THEATRICAL COMPANY**

“The Educating Mad Persons”

**press release**

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## **Theatrical company: 'Ikenosita'**

### **Program to present all of Shuji Terayama's works**

Director Nagano Kazufumi established a new theatrical company called Ikenoshita Theatrical Company in January 1996 in order to search for new horizons where drama and butoh intertwine. Ikenoshita began staging a series of the early works by Terayama Shūji in August 1996. Unique approaches distinguish these events from previous productions of works of Terayama. The company staged Terayama's works rarely performed in the past, such as 'The Count's Daughter', 'Kikuko Kotakagari and her Seven Deadly Sins', 'Blue beard', 'Adam and Eve and my Criminology', and thus provided new insights into the unknown world of Terayama.

Ikenoshita regards plays as festivals of poems, bodies and sounds and has created a unique, concentrated space in small theatres such as Tiny Alice and Nakano the Pocket. The company performed 'The Hunchback of Aomori', at an event called 'Body as Heteromorphy' in Aichi Art Theatre, in January 1999, and participated in the spring festival of Tokyo Globe Theatre where it staged 'The Castle of Blue Beard' in March 1999. These performances were the first steps of a project named 'Program to present all of Shuji Terayama's works' which will continue into the posterity.

The themes of the project are how the world of the writer Terayama Shūji is linked to the present time, and to search how the dynamism of words in Terayama's work stimulates actor's bodies, and how the world of the writer is given life on the stage. By performing all of Terayama's plays, Ikenoshita reveals the whole phenomenon called Terayama Shūji. Experimental features of Terayama's works give various assignments to the actors physically. As explained above, Ikenoshita is working on discovering new veins from the inherited texts. The company searches for new plays produced using different concepts with the best prose. The works of Mishima Yukio and Izumi Kyōka, etc., have been performed at our workshop and are scheduled to be included in our performances.

### **'Education for Madmen' Production Plan (Kazufumi Nagano)**

The characters in 'Education for Madmen' are puppets – in other words, entities that are always being manipulated from behind. Gordon Craig modelled the actors after puppets, but in modern times, actors are not the only ones being manipulated like puppets. In modern society, everyone is being manipulated without their

knowledge. They are manipulated by the mass media, by the Internet and by the monster known as 'information'. Who, then, is in control of this 'information'? Who stands at the ends of the puppet strings?

The setting fabricated from the text of 'Education for Madmen' is a world where the existence all throughout an enclosed space of afterimages from continually disappearing bodies creates the madness (weapons) of the modern world, in which the act of 'manipulation' contaminates everything. And it visually presents that fact that, in the end, we are the ones manipulating ourselves as this city, our information-based society and everything are created from our own delusions and are ultimately nothing more than a fantasy that we store in our brains. The story is set in a 'puppet theatre', in which it seems that a family of former aristocrats lived. A young girl Ran, who suffered from polio, lives on the premises with her family – her squinty-eyed grandfather who is a ship designer, her grandmother who is a maniac for cats, her talkative father who is an enthusiastic fan of Berlioz, her debauched older sister Mayu and her older brother Takaji who is a nihilistic poet. The family lived under the thumb of the despotic grandfather. On one day a forensic scientist tells the family that one of the members is a madman. In order to protect the family's honour, the grandfather decides to find and secretly get rid of the parasite...

### **Profile of producer, Kazufumi Nagano**

Nagano was born in Asakusa, Tokyo in 1962. He saw many popular plays and performances of the Shochiku Opera Company when he was young. He majored in drama at Toho Gakuen School of Music and later worked in the production department of a theatrical company called 'En'. Nagano devoted himself to dancing since his university days and went to Kazuo Ono Dance Studio. After working for small theaters, Nagano taught acting, such as graduate performances at Toho Gakuen, Educational Foundation. Nagano established a theatrical company called Ikenosita to search for new horizons where drama and dance merge. Nagano is working hard as the representative and producer of Ikenosita with target of performing plays overseas in the year 2001.

Nagano is a member of the International Theater Institute (ITI)

## Profile of Ikenoshita (Director of all works: Kazufumi Nagano)

Jan. 1996: Formed Theatre Troup Ikenoshita
Mar 21-24, 1996: <b>The first performance “Vampire” (Author: Rio Kishida)</b> Theatre: Shinjuku Panplemousse
Aug 1-4, 1996: <i>A series of performances of Shuji Terayama’s early works started</i> <b>The second performance “Hakushaku-reijo Kotakagari Kikuko no Nanatsu no Taizai” (Author: Shuji Terayama)</b> Theatre: Shinjuku Panplemousse
Mar 19-23, 1997: <b>The third performance “Hanafuda Denki” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Tsutomu Uchiyama)</b>

Jul 30 to Aug 3, 1997: <b>The forth performance “Aohige” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Kunihiko Maruyama)</b> Theatre: Tiny Alice
Mar 18-22, 1998: <b>The fifth performance “Aomori-ken no Semushi Otoko” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Satoru Tsukamoto)</b>

Jul 29 to Aug 2, 1998: <b>The sixth performance “Adam and Eve, My Criminology” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Tsutomu Uchiyama)</b> Theatre: Tiny Alice
Dec 9-13, 1998: <b>The seventh performance “Kegawa no Marie” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Satoru Tsukamoto)</b> Theatre: Nakano The Pocket
Jan 22, 1999: <b>Invited performance “Aomori-ken no Semushi Otoko” in the event “Ikei toshiteno Karada” in Aichi Arts Center</b> Theatre: Small hall of Aich Prefectural Art Theater
Mar 11-14, 1999: <i>A plan to perform all the works of Shuji Terayama started</i> <b>Presented at the sprint festival of The Globe Tokyo</b> <b>The eighth performance “Aohige-ko no Shiro” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Satoru Tsukamoto)</b> Theatre: The Globe Tokyo

Jul 28 to Aug 1, 1999:

**The ninth performance “Inugami” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura)**

Theatre: Nakano The Pocket



Nov 3-7, 1999:

**Presented at Japan Arts Festival**

**The tenth performance “Hanafuda Denki” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Tsutomu Uchiyama)** Theatre: Tiny Alice

Mar 15-19, 2000:

**The eleventh performance “The Little Prince” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Ikuo Murofushi)** Theatre: Nakano The Pocket

Jul 12-16, 2000:

**Ikenoshita Proto★Stage Vol.1 “Wasureta Ryobun” (Author: Shuji Terayama)**

Theatre: planB

Oct 12-15, 2000:

**Presented at Japan Arts Festival**

**The twelfth performance “Shintokumar 2000” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Ikuo Murofushi)**

Theatre: Small hall 1 of Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space



Mar 14-18, 2001:

**The thirteenth performance “Hakushaku-reijo Kotakagari Kikuko no Nanatsu no Taizai”**

**(Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Ikuo Murofushi)**

Theatre: Nakano The Pocket

Aug 1-5, 2001:

**Ikenoshita Proto★Stage Vol.2 “Picnic on the Battlefield” (Author: Fernando Arrabal)**

Theatre: Tiny Alice

Mar 18-21, 2004:

**The fourteenth performance “The Crime of Debuko Ooyama” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Ikuo Murofushi)**

Theatre: Tiny Alice

Mar 16-20, 2005:

**The fifteenth performance “Jashumon” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura / Lighting: Ikuo Murofushi)**

Theatre: SPACE107

Nov 2-6, 2005:  
**Ikenoshita Proto★Stage Vol.3 “Byoki” (Author: Minoru Betsuyaku / Art: Tsutomu Uchiyama)**  
Theatre: Azabu die pratzte

Mar 15-19, 2006:  
**The sixteenth performance “The Educating Mad Persons” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**  
Theatre: Tiny Alice

Mar 17-21, 2007:  
**The seventeenth performance “Chugoku no Fushigi na Yakunin” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura)**  
Theatre: Azabu die pratzte

Jul 27-28, 2007:  
**“Education for Madmen” presented in Miryang Theatre Festival (Korea) (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**



Jul 31 to Aug 1, 2007:  
**“Education for Madmen” presented in Seoul (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**

Aug 24, 2007:  
**“Inugami” presented in Toga Festival 2007 (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**

Sep 11-12, 2007:  
**“Education for Madmen” presented in Osaka (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**  
Theatre: IST zero house

Sep 15-16, 2007:  
**“Education for Madmen” presented in Nagoya (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**  
Theatre: Nanatsudera Kyodo Studio



Oct 15-20, 2007:

**“Education for Madmen” presented in Shanghai (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**

Mar 21-23, 2008:

Art and creation endeavor supporting project of the Agency for Cultural Affairs

**Ikenoshita MISHIMA project “Aoinoue” and “Hanjo” (Author: Yukio Mishima / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**

Theatre: Tiny Alice



Mar 17-21, 2007:

**The nineteenth performance “Ekibyō Ryūkōki” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura)**

Theatre: Theatre1010

Jun 8-11, 2009:

**Asian Pacific Expo of Theatre “Hanjo” (Author: Yukio Mishima / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**

Theatre: Shanghai Theatre Academy

Mar 17-21, 2010:

**The twentieth performance “Moujinshōkan” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura)**

Theatre: d-soko Theatre



Aug 27, 2010:

**SCOT Summer Season 2010 “Aoinoue” (Author: Yukio Mishima / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)**

Theatre: Toga-sanbo

Mar 16-20, 2011:

**The twenty-first performance “Ahoubune” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Setsu Asakura)**

Theatre: d-soko Theater



<p>Dec 21-23, 2012:  <b>The twenty-second performance “La Clé de l’ascenseur” (Author: Agota Kristof / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: pit kita/kuiki</p>
<p>Dec 25-28, 2013:  <b>The twenty-third performance “Saraba Eigayo” (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: Tiny Alice</p>
<p>Dec 17-20, 2015  <b>The twenty-fourth performance “Agatha” (Author: Marguerite Duras / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: pit kita/kuiki</p>
<p>Dec 14-17, 2017:  <b>Ikenoshita MISHIMA project “Aoinoue” and “Hanjo” (Author: Yukio Mishima / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: Esorabako</p> 
<p>Dec 14-16, 2018  <b>The twenty-Sixth performance “” (Ashes to Ashes: Harold Pinter / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: Atelier Dainanahimitsukichi</p>
<p>Oct 7-10, 2019:  <b>“Education for Madmen” presented in Poland (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: The Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre  Theatre: Grotowski Institute in Wrocław</p>
<p>Dec 13-15, 2019  <b>“Education for Madmen” presented in Poland (Author: Shuji Terayama / Art: Kazufumi Nagano)</b>  Theatre: d-soko Theater</p>

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