

Biography

Motoi MIURA

Born in 1973, Miura graduated from the Toho Gakuen College of Drama and Music. In 1996 he joined Seinendan Theater Company, where he worked as an assistant director to Oriza Hirata and as full-time staff at Komaba Agora Theatre. From 1999 he studied in Paris for two years on a government scholarship, learning directing, arts management and artistic directorship under Jacques Blanc. He returned to Japan in 2001 and started his work with his company CHITEN, directing Japan premières of plays by Jon Fosse and David Harrower. In 2005 he left Seinendan and moved to Kyoto, and won the Outstanding Performance Award at the Toga Director Contest. He has been re-creating the four masterpieces of Chekhov since 2007 and in the same year he received the Agency of Cultural Affairs New Director Award for his production of "The Cherry Orchard". In 2010 he received the Kyoto Prefecture Culture Award and his first book on production theory "Is just being interesting OK?" was published. He has won many other awards. Among his productions are Philip Glass's opera *In the Penal Colony* (2008), Elfriede Jelinek's *Kein Licht*. (2012), and Bertolt Brecht's *Fatzer* (2013).



CHITEN

Chiten, meaning "locus" or "point", is a theatre company led by director Motoi Miura. It specializes in performances created out of collages using fragments of existing texts. It employs an original linguistic style, deliberately delaying the cadence and rhythm of language to expose the raw sound of the words liberated from their meanings. This technique has frequently been recognized for its musical qualities. Rather than maintaining a single systematic methodology, Chiten explores a wide variety of approaches for the texts it adapts. Its major work includes a series of stagings of Chekhov plays, Brecht's *Fatzer*, and Jelinek's *Kein Licht*.

Originally based in Tokyo, Chiten moved to Kyoto in 2005. In 2013 it renovated a derelict former music venue to open an atelier space: UNDER-THROW. The name is derived from a Japanese-English word literally meaning "under pitching" and which usually refers to a submarine pitch in baseball. At the space Chiten performs a repertoire of previous productions and new works. In 2011, it performed *The Cherry Orchard* and *Uncle Vanya* at the Meyerhold Centre in Moscow. It was invited to perform *Coriolanus* at Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London as part of the World Shakespeare Festival in 2012. Alongside its acclaimed overseas tours, it regularly receives commissions for co-productions with public theatres and festivals in Japan, including the Kanagawa Arts Theatre (KAAT) in Yokohama, Kyoto Experiment, and Festival/Tokyo.

The company currently has six permanent performers. All the members of the company appear in every production, whether that is acting over thirty roles in Shakespeare plays or performing texts that are fundamentally non-dramatic, such as the Constitution of Japan. The company aspires to arrive at new frontiers in technique and directing. Departing fully from realism, Chiten rehearsals are improvisational in nature in order to create complex and difficult theatre through its unique critical interpretations. <http://www.chiten.org/>

Productions 2014-2015

2014

The Possessed

Text: Fyodor Dostoevsky

Translation: Taku Egawa

Direction: Motoi Miura

KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre (Yokohama)

photo: 1, by Hisaki Matsumoto



1

2015

Three Sisters

Text: Anton Chekhov

Translation: Kiyoshi Jinzai

Direction: Motoi Miura

KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre (Yokohama)

photo: 2&3, by Hisaki Matsumoto



2

IBARAHIME

Text: Sariho Mito

Direction: Motoi Miura

Aichi Prefectural Art Theater (Nagoya)

photo: 4, by Naoshi Hatori



3

Mystery-Bouffe

Text: Vladimir Mayakovsky

Translation: Toyoki Ogasawara

Direction: Motoi Miura

Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory (Tokyo)

photo: 5, by Takafumi Yamanishi



4



5

Productions 2012-2013

2013

Fatzer

Text: Bertolt Brecht

Translation: Masayuki Tsuzaki

Direction: Motoi Miura

UNDER-THROW (Kyoto)

photo: 1, by Hisaki Matsumoto



1

Kakekomi-Uttae (An Urgent Appeal)

Text: Osamu Dazai

Direction: Motoi Miura

KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre (Yokohama)

photo: 2, by Takehiko Hashimoto



2

2012

Kein Licht.

Text: Elfriede Jelinek

Translation: Tatsuki Hayashi

Direction: Motoi Miura

Music Direction: Masahiro Miwa

Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre Playhouse (Tokyo)

photo: 3, by Hisaki Matsumoto



3

The Emperor's New Clothes

Original text: Hans Christian Andersen

Script: Akito Inui

Direction: Motoi Miura

Kyoto Art Centre Auditorium (Kyoto)

photo: 4, by Ayako Abe



4

Tokatontonto (The Sound of Hammering And)

Text: Osamu Dazai

Direction: Motoi Miura

KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre (Yokohama)

photo: 5, by Tsukasa Aoki



5

Productions 2007-2011

2011

Kappa/A Novel

Text: Ryunosuke Akutagawa

Adaptation: Tomoyuki Nagayama

Direction: Motoi Miura

KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre (Yokohama), Biwako Hall (Shiga)

photo: 1, by Takebiko Hashimoto



1

2010

— And Then Mr. Artaud,

Text: Antonin Artaud

Translation and Composition: Kuniichi Uno

Direction: Motoi Miura

Kyoto Art Center (Kyoto), Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space (Tokyo)

photo: 2, by Tsukasa Aoki



2

Hey Cutesy Little Me, Tell Me Where We Are Going

— From the full text of Shogo Ota

Composition and Direction: Motoi Miura

Kichijoji Theatre (Tokyo)

photo: 3, by Tsukasa Aoki



3

2008

Three Sisters & The Cherry Orchard

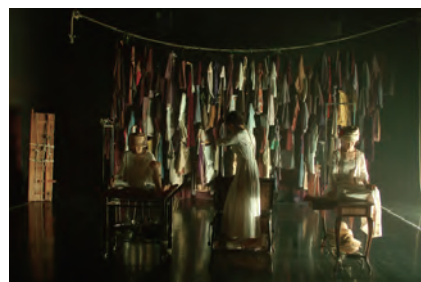
Text: Anton Chekhov

Translation: Kiyoshi Jinzai

Direction: Motoi Miura

Kichijoji Theatre (Tokyo)

photo: 4, by Tsukasa Aoki



4

2007

The Seagull

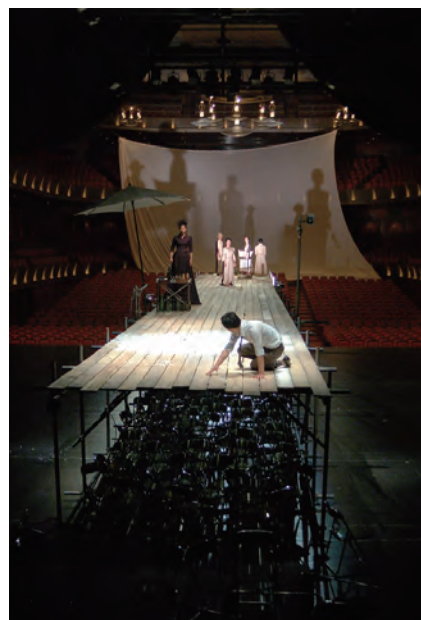
Text: Anton Chekhov

Translation: Kiyoshi Jinzai

Direction: Motoi Miura

Biwako Hall (Shiga)

photo: 5, ©Biwako Hall



5

International Productions 2005-2013

2012-2013

Coriolanus

Text: William Shakespeare

Direction: Motoi Miura

The Globe Theatre (London,UK), Gogol Centre (Moscow),
Youth Theatre named after A. A. Brayntsev (St. Petersburg),
Mali Theatre (Novgorod, Russia)

photo: 1, 2 by Simon Annand



1

2011

Uncle Vanya & The Cherry Orchard

Text: Anton Chekhov

Direction: Motoi Miura

Mayerhold Centre (Moscow, Russia)

photo: 3



2

2007

Uncle Vanya

Text: Anton Chekhov

Direction: Motoi Miura

Casa Sindicatelor sala de Sport (Sibiu, Romania)
Sibiu International Theater Festival

2006

The Crucible Winner of The Best Scenography Award

Text: Arthur Miller

Direction: Motoi Miura

Al-Gomhoureyya Theatre (Cairo, Egypt)
Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre

photo: 4



3

2005

Jericho

Text: Masataka Matsuda

Direction: Motoi Miura

Maison de la culture du Japon a Paris (Paris, France),
Theatre Dijon Bourgogne Parvis St. Jean (Dijon, France)
Festival Frictions

photo: 5, by Ai Hirano



4



5

International Productions 2014-2015

2014-2015

The Seagull

Text: Anton Chekhov

Direction: Motoi Miura

Môtier (Romainmôtier, Switzerland),

Volkov Theatre (Yaroslavl)

photo: 1, 2 & 3



1

2014-2015

Fatzer

Text: Bertolt Brecht

Direction: Motoi Miura

Gogol Centre (Moscow, Russia)

Penghao Theatre (Beijing, China)

photo: 4 & 5



2



3



4



5