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-Shingo Ota

Portfolio

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Profile



**Shingo Ota (Film Director, Actor, TV Director)**

Born in 1985. He majored philosophy and narratology at Waseda University. After that he had interested camera as the machine for memorizing and recording alternative story which is sometimes fell from the huge historiography by nation or community. Consistently trying to listen the voice of oppressed person, he made some video installations and documentary films until now. Thorough this residence, he will make 2 installations and 1 feature documentary. First installation "Listening The Sound of Nature " using video and sound may have function as asking about garbage problem for people all over the world. Using rubbish, he will make sound machine and using that, he will achieve visualization and sonification of hidden voice of nature. Second one is named, "The End of the Special Time We Were Allowed". He will make experiential installation. Using the suicide note of his friend who killed himselfs 27 years old, Ota will write the text. Using this text, he will make the machine in which the audience experience the afterlife of the suicide. It aims to make the place where we can rethink about problem of suicide. Finally he will complete and exhibit the feature documentary film "Rockin' 'n' Rollin' on Welfare". This film is also supported by Agency for Cultural Affairs of Korea. He started shooting this documentary from 2014 dealing with the theme social welfare. He then directed his first fiction feature film, Fragile (2014), in which he also plays the lead part. The film was screened at Tokyo International Film Festival and then released nationally in Japan in 2019. His latest works include short film SUNRISE VIBRATION (2021), documentary IMAGINATION (2021), TV series FOOD-TRUCKER MINEGISHI MINAMI (8 episodes broadcasted on TV channel WOWOW during summer 2021) and short film AT KINOSAKI (2022), that won the Excellence Award at 2022 Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival. Also an actor, he appeared in stage works like FIVE DAYS IN MARCH by CHELFITSCH (2010), CRAZY HONEY produced by PARCO (2011) and UNFULFILLED GHOST AND MONSTER produced by KAAT (2021), and in TV series TO GIVE A DREAM (WOWOW, 2015) and TOKYO KAIKI SAKE (TV Tokyo, 2021).

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## “Graduation”

Graduation  
(2009/58min/Stereo/4:3/SD) **Documentary**

Director: Shingo Ota

### <Synopsis>

After staying indoors for two years, young man decide to live his own life not be dependent on his family. But he can't get a job easily by the depression. In addition to that, he was overprotected by his parents so he can't understand what he want to do. These scene left a strong impression of the painful (and painful to watch) struggling of today's young Japanese people who must move forward in life even if they are not mature enough to do so.

### <Film Festival>

- the International Festival for Arts and Media in Yokohama(2009/JAPAN)
- 24th IMAGE FORUM FESTIVAL (2010/JAPAN) ※Excellent prize



## Kids and Grownups

(2010/70min/Stereo/4:3/SD) **Documentary**

Director: Shingo Ota

### <Synopsis>

Eriko, who stars in movie becomes friends with Masahide and other boys living in the neighborhood of the location. Mr. Kobayashi is watching the filming from an alley, and teaches the film crew how to operate a printing machine with a gentle smile. The camera recording the making of “hospitalité” captures the irreplaceable summer of the girl, the local boys, Mr. Kobayashi, the neighbors and crew. Shingo Ota who was awarded an accolade at the Image Forum Festival 2010 for his work “Graduation” directed this inspiring portrayal of one summer’s friendship, wavering emotion and interaction of people involved in the filmmaking.

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## The End of the Special Time We Were Allowed”

### **Documentary**

2013/121min/Stereo/16:9/HD

Director : Shingo Ota

#### <Synopsis>

The film's protagonist, director's friend took his own life with a suicide note pleading that this film be completed. Moving in and out of documentary and fiction, the story becomes chaotic and soon drifts toward destruction.

#### <Film Festival>

- \*Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival2013(Japan)
  - \*Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival 2014(Taiwan)
  - \*Hong Kong Independent Documentary Film Festival(Hong Kong)
  - \*Kinotayo International Film Festival(France)
  - \*Nippon Connection(Germany)
  - \*Seoul Independent Documentary and Video Festival(Korea)
  - \*Festival Film Documenter(Indonesia)
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## “Fragile”

### **Fiction**

(2014/111min/Japanese/Color/HD)

Director : Shingo Ota

#### <Synopsis>

Film director and actor Shingo Ota, known for his highly acclaimed documentary facing his friend's suicide, *The End of The Special Time We Were Allowed*, now tackles social problems by depicting youths in the worst slum in Japan. It was filmed with local support in some of Osaka's roughest areas, using a semi-documentary approach to capture the lifestyles of their inhabitants. With *Fragile*, Ota is determined to show that poverty, illness, and crime are problems of our own, not someone else's.

#### <Film Festival>

\*Tokyo International Film Festival2014

\*Gwanju International Film Festival2015



## “BUG’S MUSIC BAR”

### Installation&Performance

Material: beer server(modified),Speaker(stereo),

Audio Interface,PC,LED Monitor

Size: 2m(W)×1.5(H)

Year: 2017

Venue: Seoul City Museum

Supported by : BankART1929, SOMEONE'S GARDEN

Director : Shingo Ota

Technical&engineering : Kenshiro Mori

Production manager : Kiyoshi Sakai

Design support : Kanako Kubo

## “Riverside Park”

### Installation&Performance

Material: Found objects, Refrigerator, A CRT television, Projector, Speaker, Pipe,Water,Iron

Size: Variable

Year: 2017

Venue: Seoul City Museum

Director : Shingo Ota

Support by : Seoul Independent Documentary Film Festival, BankART1929



## “Rockin’ ‘n’ Rollin’ on Welfare”

### **Documentary**

Japan/2017/99min/DCP/Color

Director : Shingo Ota

Co-production: DMZ International Documentary Film Festival (Korea)

#### <Synopsis>

40 years ago, a set of brothers formed an anti-war rock band called 'Darega KaBa yanen Rock'n Roll SHOW'. However the band broke up due to the lead singer, 'Dancing Yoshitaka', who got arrested for drug possession.

40 years later, Yoshitaka is in his 60s, living on welfare, and borrowing money to make ends meet. One day, after visiting to his mother, realizing that she might not have much time left. He decides to seek forgiveness from his brothers and get the band back together.

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## “At Kinosaki”

### **Fiction**

2021 /Japan, France /4K / Stereo /Color /30min

Director : Shingo Ota

Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival 2022 (Japan) **Artistic Excellence Award**

ACROSS ASIA FILM FESTIVAL 2022 (Italy)

### <Synopsis>

As coronavirus infections continue to spread in Europe, Nui, a French actress loses her male co-star to COVID-19. Just a few days earlier, she was kissing him on stage. Why did Nui survive? Unable to find an answer to these recurring questions, Nui one day loses her voice and decides to return to Japan for the first time in five years and goes to the Kinosaki Onsen for treatment. Her friends died by chance, and she survived by chance. Unable to affirm her own life, she meets Takogawa, the Insect Energy Research Institute's director.

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## “THE LAST GEISHA”

### Performance

Japan/2022/60min

Written and directed by Shingo Ota

Performed by Kyoko Takenaka, Terunobu Osaki, Shingo Ota

Music composed and performed by Kazuhisa Uchihashi

A performance work inspired by geisha culture. Geishas entertain guests with their polished dance and singing. Unfortunately, they are disappearing from many parts of Japan as a profession, but at the same time, they are seen as conveying Japanese hospitality and aesthetic sensibilities. This work is an attempt to observe this seemingly obvious form of "hospitality" through the actors' movements. Since last fall, we have been interviewing active geishas and practicing the art. We have been creating this work while challenging issues such as cultural heritage, entertainment system hierarchy, biological gender and gender identity.

In Cooperation with Kinosaki International Art Center, plan-B

Supported by: The Saison Foundation, Japan Arts Fund, Regional Culture Award Tax Accountant's Fund, [Tokyo Performance], Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Presented by: Hydroblast [Hyogo Performance] Hydroblast/ Toyooka Theater Festival Executive Committee

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## “Numakage Public Swimming Pool”

### Documentary

Japan/2024/100min/4k/Stereo/Color

Director : Shingo Ota

Co-production: DMZ International Documentary Film Festival (Korea)

#### <Synopsis>

The Numakage Public Swimming Pool, which has been loved for 52 years as “the « ocean » within a landlocked city ” is about to be demolished at the end of the 2023 summer season to make space for a brand new school. However, the visitors of the pool, people of all ages including the LGBTQ community, cannot easily accept the loss of the pool. With reference to psychologist Kübler-Ross’ book “On Death and Dying,” the film depicts the death of an architecture and the daily lives of a diverse group of people.



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太田 信吾 Shingo Ota

1985- Born in Nagano, JAPAN

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#### BIOGRAPHY

2010 Waseda University, B.A. Philosophy

Film Director/Performer/Artist dealing with sound and sculpture, media.

#### SOLO EXHIBITION

2009 International Festival for Arts and Media in Yokohama, JAPAN

2010 24th IMAGE FORUM FESTIVAL

2013 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival 2013, JAPAN

2014 Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival, TAIWAN

2014 Hong Kong Independent Documentary Film Festival, HONG KONG

2014 Kinotayo International Film Festival, FRANCE

2014 Nippon Connection, GERMANY

2014 Tokyo International Film Festival, JAPAN

2015 Gwanju International Film Festival, KOREA

2015 Seoul Independent Documentary and Video Festival, KOREA

2015 Festival Film Documenter, INDONESIA

2016 THE SAD & BEAUTIFUL WOLRD, VIET NUM

2017 SALAYA DOCS, THAILAND

#### GROUP EXHIBITION

2017

“NANJI 11<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ARTIST’ GROUP EXHIBITION”

at SeMA NANJI RESIDENCY, KOREA, Japan

“INTERNATIONAL ARTIST’ GROUP EXHIBITION”

at BankART Studio NYK, Kanagawa

#### COLLABORATION WORK

2009-

“FIVE DAYS IN MARCH ”

Performance for Chelfitsch Theater Company /

\* Arts Centre Melbourne (Melbourne/Australia ) 2011

\* PETA THEATER (Manila/Philippines ) 2011

\* Patravadi Theater (Bangkok/Thailand ) 2011

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- \*QuebecLa Bordée (Quebec/Canada )2011
  - \*HAYAKAWA WAREHOUSE (Kumamoto/Kumamoto )2012
  - \*KAAT Kanagawa Arts Teatre (Kanagawa/Japan )2012

2014 -

“Super Premium Soft Double Vanilla Rich”  
Performance for Chelfitsch Theater Company /

- \*KAAT Kanagawa Arts Teatre (Yokohama/Japan)2014
- \*Nationaltheater Mannheim (Mannheim/Germany)2014
- \*Hebbel Am Ufer (Berlin/Germany)2014
- \*Teatro Maria Matos (Lisboa/Portugal)2014
- \*artsdepot (London/UK )2014
- \*Teatro Astra (Torino/Italy )2014
- \*Ballet National de Marseille (Marseille/France)2014
- \*Luna Theatre (Moscow/Russia)2014
- \*Cervantes Theater (Guanajuato/Mexico)2014
- \*Teatro delle Passioni (Modena/Italy)2014
- \*FFT Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf/Germany)2014
- \*Mousonturm (Frankfurt/Germany)2014
- \*Kaserne Basel (Basel/Swiss)2014
- \*Gessnerallee Zurich (Zurich/Swiss)2014
- \*MiyazakiTheater Chur (Chur/Swiss)2014
- \*MiyazakiTenjinyama Cultural Plaza of Okayama Prefecture (Okayama/Japan)2015
- \*Media Center Lume (Helsinki/Finland)2015
- \*Sunflower Theater (Beirut/Lebanon)2015
- \*Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris (Paris/France)2015
- \*Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok/Thailand)2015

## AWARDS

2010 Excellent Prize& Audience Prize by 24th IMAGE FORUM FESTIVAL(JAPAN)  
2017 Best Director Award at "Iwatsuki Film Festival2017 "(JAPAN)  
2022 Excellence Award at Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival (JAPAN)

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