

# Nao Kobayashi

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Interdisciplinary puppetry artist, costume and puppet designer



## THEATRE DESIGN

### COSTUME and PUPPET DESIGN (selected)

- 2016 *Momo the Time Titan* dir. John McManus, Nathaniel Williams Free Columbia Puppet Troupe, NY  
Design and constructing 3-9ft large and 5-3ft medium human puppets, bird, fox, and large turtle puppets. Design and build 5 puppeteers' costume, performed as outside tour in PA, NY, MA, VT.
- 2016 *The Big Friendly Giant* dir. Margaret Larlham Don Powell Theater, San Diego  
6 9ft giant puppets, and costume for 11 casts.

### COSTUME DESIGN (selected)

- 2016 *Requiem for an Ocean* choreo. Jean Isaacs Saville Theatre, San Diego
- 2015 *Become Ocean, San Diego Trolley Dance* choreo. Jean Isaacs San Diego Trolley Dance, Balboa Park  
Design and build costume decorative pieces of 10 dancers for outside piece Become Ocean, for Trolley Dance with the founder of Trolley Dance in San Diego and artistic director of San Diego Dance Theatre, Jean Isaacs.  
<http://www.sandiegodancetheater.org/trolleydances.html>
- 2015 *Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights* dir. Peter Cirino Don Powell Theater, San Diego  
Costume design for interdisciplinary theatre, for casts over 30. Including a special dress with LED and mechanically moving structure on chest.
- 2014-15 *Fukuoka Horror House Project* dir. Nobuyuki Gomi Beppu Kon-yoku Art Triennale, Fukuoka  
2016 Kawaharada
- 2013 *Art collective event Fog* choreo. Daisuke Yamamoto Black out, Fukuoka

## ASSISTANT DESIGN

- 2016 Assistant Puppet Master, *Christmas Carol*, a tour service at Cygnet Theatre, San Diego CA
- 2015 Associate Costume Design, *Emma, Little Shop of Horror*, Santa Rosa Junior College Summer Rep Theater, CA
- 2014 Assistant Costume Design, *Water by Spoonful*, San Diego State University, CA

## Performance Art (selected)

Artistic director of Interdisciplinary Puppetry Performance project Shilo Kloko

- 2018 Shilo Kloko Hollywood Fringe Festival 2018 Scholarship winner
- 2018 Behind Shadows fully supported and co-produced by Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica
- 2018 Behind Shadows selected presenter at Pacific Southwest Puppet Festival, Santa Barbara
- 2017 Land of No Shadows invited performer at the Last Night of The Steve Allen Theatre, Hollywood
- 2017 Unexpected Mirror w/ animators Walter Santucci, Yoriko Murakami, Steve Allen Theatre LA, MHP Theatre SD
- 2017 The arrival of visitors performance art SDSU Downtown Gallery, San Diego
- 2017 Smoke Travels from Ground to Sky collab with painter Ashley Fenderson Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, SD
- 2017 Four Legged performance art Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theatre, SD

Performance in Japan

- 2013-2014 *Seeing through Eyelids* invited dance artist at Imaizumi Blackout, Unvelashu, Fukuoka
- 2013 Kousa main dancer and assistant choreographer of Daisuke Yamamoto Dancers, Fukuoka Youth Center
- 2009 *Sound of Cloud, Dancing Art Exhibition* dir. Tamasamhala Madokapia, Fukuoka
- 2010-2008 annual *Hojo-ya Performance Nights* dir. Tamasamhala Teatro Hakozaki, Hakozaki Plaza, Fukuoka
- 2009 *Melt in Spring Blossoms* dir. Tamasamhala Momo-an, Fukuoka
- 2008 *Weave the Wave* dir. Tamasamhala Teatro Hakozaki, Fukuoka
- 2008 *Talk in the Wind* dir. Tamasamhala Teatro Hakozaki, Fukuoka
- 2007 No-Title, Pleiades director PonPlaza Hall, Fukuoka

Interdisciplinary performance group Tamasamhala uses improvisation in butoh and dance with musicians. Often each performance carried theme inspired through researches of local folklore. From 2007 till 2013, over 30 performances were presented in theatres, galleries, cafes, cabaret and bar, public events and space.

## OTHER TECHNOLOGY commission for theatrical effect, fabric modification and craft

- 2018- Commissioned puppetry effect for a dress in a fashion show of MOSCHINO, based in LA and Italy
- 2017- Residential Artist for seasonal interior design using artworks for a Japanese restaurant Fukusuke, Larkspur CA

- 2017 Commissioned puppetry for a national cat show presented by the Martinos VivaTonk , San Diego
- 2017 Costume design & construction for 2 stilt walkers, Background Productions, San Diego  
2 large scale poodle and dressed lady for stile walkers, commissioned for corporation event
- 2014-2017 Graduate Assistant, *Costume Laboratory, San Diego State University*  
Machine/hand sew, craft, dye, drape
- 2014 Costume/craft artisan, Kimono upcycling project for Christmas markets, Berlin  
Create fabric gifts and clothing using vintage kimonos, vender at Christmas markets
- 2014 costume/ craft artisan, fabric project Open and Close the Garage, Art gallery Tetra, Fukuoka
- 2007-2014 freelance artist; creating fabric animal sculpture with recycled materials  
Create fabric animals by used clothing. Its fold&sew technique of creating 3 dimensional forms without flat pattern was invented through experimentation.

## EXHIBITION

- 2017 Yokai, Demons and Monsters in Japanese Folklore Exhibition selected 3D artist, Japanese Friendship Garden, SD
- 2014 Fabric Artist's Exhibition organizer and selected residential artist for exhibition and event, Art Space Tetra, Fukuoka  
Fabric upcycling project with 3 other female artists. A week of open studio, workshops, and market event

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE teaching, translation

- 2017-2018 Teaching Artist at 10wks Creative Movement with Puppet for students with special needs,  
Marindale School, San Rafael, Manor Elementary School, teaching artist of NPO Youth in Arts, San Rafael
- 2017 Teaching Assistant at 12wks Puppetry Residency Program for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes, Nye Elementary School, San Diego, through the San Diego the Guild of Puppetry  
Create warm-ups, storytelling, original simple puppet pattern from a sheet of paper, organize and create staging plan, organize emails and create stage blocking documents.
- 2017 Edo Marionette San Diego Tour translator at Balboa Park Japanese Friendship Garden  
Translate theatrical and artistic terms in both written and verbal forms.
- 2007-2012 Movement class facilitator  
Teach movement using contact improvisation, butoh and martial art as workshop to public.
- 2007-2014 English-Japanese Translator/interpreter  
Tokyo Contact Improvisation Festival, May 2007, interpretation of dance and martial art classes  
NPO Science Accessibility Net, 2009-2010, interpretation and translation for mathematical documents  
Alexander Technique private lessons/workshops at annual event, 2010-2014, interpretation of bodywork

## EDUCATION

- 2014-2017 MFA in Design and Technical Theater, specialized in Costume and Puppetry Design, San Diego State University
- 2001-2005 BA in Technical Theater, major in Technical Theatre, minor in studio art, *Sonoma State University*

## AWARDS

- 2018 Review and PLATINUM rated for Hollywood Fringe Festival work by TVolution
- 2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival 2018 Scholarship Winner
- 2018 Highways Performance Space co-producing project recipient
- 2017 Outstanding Graduating MFA Design of 2016-2017 San Diego State University
- 2016 Outstanding Design in Costume 2015-2016 San Diego State University
- 2014-17 Non-Resident Tuition Waiver recipient, San Diego State University

## SKILLS

Life drawing, quick gesture sketches with anatomical knowledge, sculpture, mixed media craft, machine/hand sewing, draping, fabric modification, word, excel, ppt, basic photoshop, 3DP bodywork study including; martial art Shintaido, acupressure and alexander technique, japanese dance theatre butoh