

NAO KOBAYASHI Puppet, Costume, Interdisciplinary Art naopuppet@gmail.com

EDUCATION

2014-2017 MFA in Costume Design & Technology for Theatre, TV & Film San Diego State University
2001-2005 BA in Technical Theatre, minor in studio art Sonoma State University

PERFORMANCE ART, INTERDISCIPLINARY PUPPETRY (artistic director /performer)

2018 *Shilo Kloko* Hollywood Fringe Festival
2018 *Behind Shadows* supported and co-produced by Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica
2017 *Land of No Shadows* invited work at the Last Night of the Steve Allen Theatre, LA
2017 *Unexpected Mirror* w/ animators Walter Santucci, Yoriko Murakami, Steve Allen Theatre LA, MHP Theatre, SD

PUPPET CONSTRUCTION and Related TECHNOLOGY (selected)

2025- short film project international philanthropic organization
2019-24 puppet fabricator for productions for TV, film, education Images in Motion, Sonoma CA
2023 sea creature educational model design/fabrication Monterey Bay Aquarium, CA
2022 large puppet head design/fabrication for a corporation event TaylorMade Golf, CA
2021 puppet fabrication, design of Toony the Tuna MeTV, Chicago
2020 miniature figure design and construction for a Historic Circus project David L Hammerstorm, CA
2019 sea creature educational model creation for Monterey Bay Aquarium Images in Motion, CA
2018 special effect technical design for a dress in a fashion show Moschino, CA/ Milan, Italy
2017 customized puppet design/fabrication for a national cat show the Martinos VivaTonk, CA
2017 costume design/fabrication for stilt walk for corporate events Background Productions, CA
2014 costume/craft artisan, kimono upcycling project for holiday market Izumi Ose, Berlin Germany

THEATRE COSTUME and PUPPET DESIGN

2021 film, *Little Journey* concept, designer, puppeteer, prod.Images in Motion
2019 *The Fasting Girls* dir. Alexis Macnab Z Space, San Francisco
2016 *Momo the Time Titan* dir. John McManus, Nathaniel Williams FreeColumbia Puppet Program, NY
2016 *The Big Friendly Giant* dir. Margaret Larlham Don Powell Theater, San Diego
2015-16 costume, *Requiem for Ocean* choreo. Jean Isaacs Saville Theatre, San Diego TrolleyDance
2015 costume, *Fukuoka Horror House* dir. Nobuyuki Gomi BeppuKonyokuArt Triennale, Japan

EXHIBITION

2024 "Glimpse" juried show selected art Art Guild of Sonoma
2019- selected artist Mill Valley Fall Art Festival, Mill Valley
2017 "Yokai, Demons and Monsters" Exhibition commissioned works. Japanese Friendship Garden, SanDiego
2014 Fabric Artists' Exhibition organizer and residential artist Art Space Tetra, Fukuoka Japan

PERFORMANCE

2024 butoh solo performance Northern California Puppet Festival PuppetSlam, Sonoma
2009-2012 butoh session performances Nanami Kohshou Danse Sauvage Okinawa Fukuoka tour, Japan
2007-2013 butoh performance art Performance group Tamasamhala, Fukuoka, Japan
2007-2009 ensemble improv Noriko Kato Dancetec tour, Aomori, Okinawa, Tokyo

TEACHING

2025 guest speaker at Technical Theatre class UC Berkeley
2024 giant puppet parade building workshop Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma
2023- sewing workshop for all age Sonoma CommunityCenter, popup events
2019 puppet workshop instructor for a children's summer program, 2727 California Art Center, Berkeley
2018 program coordinator/teaching artist for sewing, craft, puppet making The Planet Kids Center, Sausalito
2017-18 teaching artist 10ths creative movement for students with special needs Youth in Arts, San Rafael
2017 teaching assistant at 12wks puppetry residency program for 2nd grades Nye Elementary School, SanDiego

ACHIEVEMENT

2024 Telly Award for a short film Little Journey
2024 Most Creative Award for Giant Puppet Parade creation, Sonoma 4th of July Parade
2024 Most Theatrical Award for Sonoma Trashion Fashion Runway Show
2021 selected screening of a short film at Calgary Animated Objects Festival, Venice Shorts Film Festival
2021 Artist Award of the year, Mill Valley Fall Art Festival
2019- US O-visa Individuals with Extraordinary Ability or Achievement as a Puppet Maker
2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival Scholarship winner
2018 Review, the Essence of Fringe Award and Platinum rated for Hollywood Fringe Festival by TVolution
2018 Highways Performance Space co-producing project recipient
2017 Outstanding Graduating MFA Design 2016-2017 San Diego State University