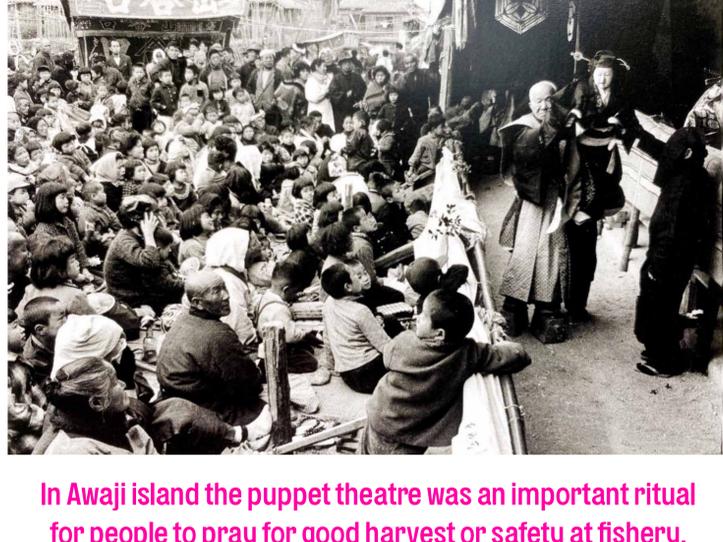
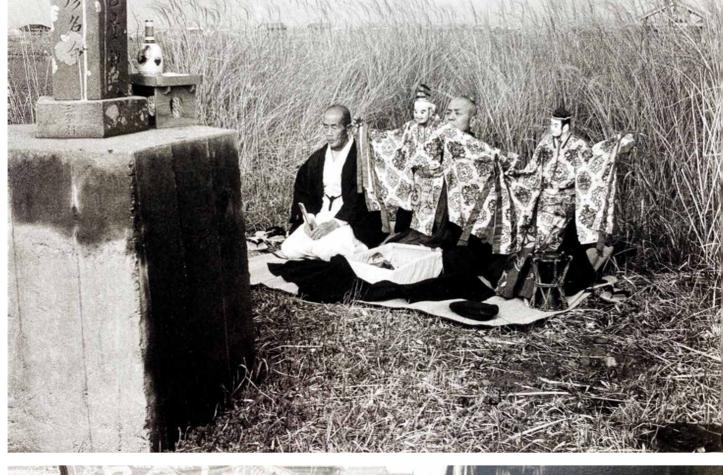


# SADO

## PROGRAMME NOTES

In the 18th century, the theatre of JORURI thrived as a popular form of entertainment in Japan, reflecting the social events of daily life. Today, it stands as a protected traditional art mainly for curious tourists and connoisseurs.

The concept of SADO emerged from my unusual encounters with Hachirobe Nishihashi, a JORURI puppeteer with 50 years of experience. He began his career at Bunraku, Osaka's 'temple of JORURI,' before establishing his own company on Sado Island. During the pandemic, I met Nishihashi on Sado Island, historically a place of exile for political dissidents in Japan.



In Awaji island the puppet theatre was an important ritual for people to pray for good harvest or safety at fishery.

[C] Masaaki Nomizu

Traditional JORURI combines Buddhist moral teachings with sensational stories, often reflecting the latest scandals, conveyed through handmade puppets accompanied by live music from TAYU's instruments and singing. This form was highly popular during the Edo period.

In the same year, I was introduced to Ryoko Kimura, an adept painter skilled in Japan's pictorial heritage, including Chinese-style landscapes and Zen Buddhist ink portraiture. Ryoko's work evokes the Edo-period Ukiyo-e pictorial tradition, characterized by its intense focus on youthful male bodies, revealing sexual fantasies through the female gaze.

Both artists expressed curiosity and agreed to collaborate with me in crafting a new JORURI performance. Together, we aim to tell the tale of love, power, and desire unfolding among a woman and a man, two men, a puppet and a human, as well as the intricate connection between nature and humanity across time.



[TOP] Jufuku in Reiwa [C] Ryoko Kimura

[BOTTOM] Yellowtail [C] Ryoko Kimura

## CREDIT

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Neda Gueorguieva

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**PRODUCTION:** Tomoko Mukaiyama Foundation

**CO-PRODUCTION:** Saruhachi-za, Multus (Japan)

**SUPPORTED BY FONDS PODIUMKUNSTEN**

## SADO TOUR

**20-24 AUGUST**

Noorderzon Festival, Groningen (NL)

**26-27 AUGUST**

De Sloot, Amsterdam (NL)

**3 SEPTEMBER**

Manggha Museum, Kraków (PL)

**8 SEPTEMBER**

KORZO, Den Haag (NL)

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