

# YASUFUMI ISHIDA

www.yasutheatre.com

## EDUCATION

### **Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA)**

2011-2014 University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), Honolulu, HI

### **Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts**

2007-2009 Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), Moorhead, MN

### **Associate of Arts**

2004-2006 Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka, Japan

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### 2007-Present **Touring Artist, National**

- Performed touring shows for family audiences at performing art centers, festivals, libraries and schools at Disney Summer Stage Kids, The National Cherry Blossom Festival, Touhill Performing Art Center, Honolulu Festival, Florida Storytelling Festival, Coastal Carolina University etc.
- Reaching 18,000 audiences a year through shows and residencies
- Performed more than 200 virtual shows in 32 states since the pandemic hits

### 2014-2016 **Associate Artistic & Education Director, Origami Air, Sarasota, FL**

- Developed Artist-in-residency programs at schools and libraries
- Designed marketing materials (brochures, flyers, business cards etc.)
- Created & managed the website, social media, and fundraising efforts
- Taught art-integrated classes
- Represented the studio at showcases, conferences and Arts and Cultural Alliance meetings
- Promoted, negotiated & managed bookings for company's artists

### 2007-Present **Founding Artistic Director, Bento Rakugo, Honolulu, HI**

- Managed vision, budget, bookings, marketing, and personnel
- Developed community relationships
- Performed in and/or directed touring shows

### 2007-Present **Teaching Artist, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida**

- Artist-in-residency programs for pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> students at performing art centers, schools and libraries
- Collaborated with United Arts Council of Wake County (NC), Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County (FL), South Carolina Arts Commission, Hawaii Public Library System, and others

### 2011-2014 **Teaching Assistant, University of Hawaii,**

- Theatre classes at University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
- 2009-2010 **Continuing Education Teacher, Kirara Art Center, Osaka Japan**
  - Taught performing arts classes
- 2007-2008 **Teaching Assistant, MSUM, Moorhead, MN**
  - Taught Japanese classes
- 2005-2006 **Study Abroad Advisor, Center for International Education at UWEC, Eau Claire, WI**
  - Promoted study abroad program (including ESL Program) to prospective Japanese exchange students
  - Created brochures, and other correspondence to explain the study abroad program and campus life in the United States
  - Planned events for ESL students to get together with American students planning to study abroad

### **GUEST LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS**

- 2021 ***“How to use Visual Arts in Performing Arts” (virtual)***  
Artists Standing Strong Together, Sep
- 2021 ***“Book More School Shows ~ Teaching Artist 101~” (virtual)***  
Kidabra Conference, the world largest family performer conference, Aug
- 2021 ***“Video Editing Program Workshop for Virtual Show” (virtual)***  
National Storytelling Network, April
- 2020 ***“Japanese Traditional Theatre and Culture” (virtual)***  
University of Texas at Arlington, Art and Art History Department, TX, Oct
- 2020 ***“Virtual Touring Performing Artist” (virtual)***  
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Theatre Department, HI, Oct
- 2020 ***“Connecting with Your Inner Soul” (podcast)***  
The Variety Arts Community, CA, Sep
- 2020 ***“The KIDTalks Panel: The Virtual Show” (virtual)***  
Kidabra International, Aug
- 2020 ***“Japanese Noh Theatre and Jo-ha-kyu”***  
Coastal Carolina University, Theatre department, SC, May
- 2019 ***“Storytelling in Performances”***  
KAX Conference, Aug
- 2018 ***“How to Incorporate Culture into Performance”***  
KIDabra Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN, Aug
- 2016 ***“Intercultural Communication: Defining Personal Space in the U.S. and Japan”***  
Coastal Carolina University, Communication Department, Conway, SC, Dec
- 2016 ***“Japanese Traditional ‘Sit-down’ Comedy”***  
University of Missouri Saint Louis, International Performing Art Series, April
- 2016 ***“Devising with Cultural Flavor”***

- Coastal Carolina University, Theatre Arts Department, Conway, SC, March  
2015 ***“Japanese Storytelling through Lion Dance”***  
Gustavus Adolphus College, International Club, Saint Peter, MN, April  
2014 ***“Adapting Asian Traditional Theatre for Theatre for Young Audiences in the U.S.”***  
American Alliance for Theatre & Education Conference, Milwaukee, WI, Aug  
2013 ***“Japanese Four Seasons”***  
MSUM, Japan Night, Moorhead, MN, Nov

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **Japanese Fall Festival**  
As a headliner, performed Japanese storytelling shows at three days festival.  
Springfield Sister Cities, MO, Sep
- 2021 **Virtual Summer Library Tour (virtual)**  
Performed virtual storytelling shows for 127 public libraries in 31 states. June-Aug
- 2021 **Myrtle Beach International Culture Festival**  
Performed a storytelling show for family audiences. SC. July
- 2021 **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month Shows (virtual)**  
Performed virtual storytelling shows for libraries in Texas, Washington, Illinois, South Carolina, and Delaware to celebrate AAPI heritage month. May
- 2021 **North Charleston Arts Festival (virtual)**  
As a featured performer, performed a Japanese storytelling show. May
- 2021 **Stone Soup Storytelling Festival (virtual)**  
As one of featured storytellers, performed a storytelling show for the festival. April
- 2021 **Finding Ourselves in America: Asian American Voices (virtual)**  
Collaboration with Stagebridge in California, performed a storytelling show with other Asian American storytellers. April
- 2021 **Fort Wayne Cherry Blossom Festival (virtual)**  
As a featured performer, performed a Japanese storytelling show. March
- 2020 **International Storyteller Series (virtual)**  
As a featured teller of the series, I perform a storytelling show. Nov
- 2020 **Virtual Summer Library Tour (virtual)**  
Performed virtual storytelling shows for 75 libraries in 15 states.
- 2020 **Tapestry of Asian Tales (virtual)**  
Performed storytelling with other ten professional Asian storytellers. April
- 2019 **Starburst Storyteller Festival**  
Performed storytelling show as one of featured tellers. SC, Nov
- 2019 **Wake County Storytelling Festival**  
Performed storytelling pieces for the festival. NC, Nov
- 2019 **Fuquay-Varina Community Library Grand Opening**

- Performed a storytelling show for the library grand opening. NC, Nov
- 2018 **Honolulu Festival ~The 150th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Hawaii~**  
As a headlining artist, performed a story of Japanese immigrants coming to Hawaii.
- 2016-Present **United Arts Council Registered Artists**  
Through their Artists In Schools program, taught residencies of Origami and performed storytelling shows for K-8<sup>th</sup> students in Raleigh and Wake County, NC.
- 2016 **Artists in Libraries**  
As a featured artist, performed *Wondrous Stories Through Magical Paper*, a storytelling show incorporating origami and magic tricks and taught *Makin' Magic!* classes at six Sarasota county libraries.  
Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, Sarasota, FL, July
- 2016- Present **Statewide Cultural Extension Program**  
As a featured artist through the Statewide Cultural Extension Program, performed *Wondrous Stories Through Magical Paper* and taught origami workshops at more than 20 libraries and preschools on two islands of Hawaii.  
UHM Outreach College, Honolulu, Hilo and Kona, HI, May-July
- 2018 **Cracker Storytelling Festival**  
As a featured storyteller, performed storytelling for two days festival. Dec
- 2016-2018 **Florida Storytelling Festival**  
Taught workshops and performed for the biggest storytelling festival in the state.  
Florida Storytelling Association, Mount Dora, FL, Mar-Apr
- 2016 **International Performing Art Series**  
Performed Bento Rakugo show and did a presentation about Japanese performing arts as pre-show lecture.  
Touhill Performing Art Center, MO, Apr
- 2016 **Ed Explore**  
Through Ed Explore, a teaching artist roster for Sarasota's Arts and Cultural Alliance, performed and taught magic tricks which have mathematical principles.  
Laurel Nokomis School, FL, Mar
- 2016 **Coastal Carolina University**  
A performance and presentation of devising work for the department of Theatre & Dance's faculty and students.  
Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC, Feb
- 2016 **East West Center**  
Artist in residency program for four weeks. Developed and performed a preschool storytelling show incorporating a Japanese art & storytelling form. Toured nine preschools all over Hawaii.  
Honolulu, HI, Jan
- 2015 **Honolulu Night Market**  
A performance of Japanese magic at Honolulu night market.

Honolulu, HI, Nov

2015

**The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Arts Presenters Network Showcase**

A performance of Japanese storytelling with magic and lion dance for one of the biggest regional showcases.

Kalahari Resort and Conference Center, Sandusky, OH, Oct

2015

**UTC Art Walk**

A performance of Japanese magic and lion dance.

The Mall at University Town Center, Sarasota, FL, Oct

2015

**The Hermitage Artist Retreat**

A guest residency at the Hermitage as part of Alliance for Florida Teaching Artist conference.

The Hermitage, Englewood, FL, Oct

2015

**Magic Camp**

Artist in the Residency programs for five weeks; performing magic and teaching magic classes for K-6 at their summer camp.

Midpacific Institute, Honolulu, HI, June-July

2015

**Gustavus Adolphus College Show**

A performance of storytelling with magic, Japanese theatre and music.

Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, MN, May

2015

**Coastal Carolina University Show**

A performance and presentation of Japanese traditional theatre for the department of Theatre & Dance's faculty and students.

Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC, Feb

2014

**Maui Festival**

Three storytelling & magic performances for the biggest festival on Maui island.

Maui, HI, May

2013-2014

**Honolulu Festival**

A performance of storytelling with magic, Japanese theatre and music at one of the biggest festivals in Oahu island.

Honolulu, HI, April

2012-14

**24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Talkstory Festival**

A storytelling performance for the biggest annual storytelling festival in Hawaii.

Alamoana McCoy Pavilion, Honolulu, HI, Oct

2011-2016

**Statewide Cultural Extension Program (SCEP)**

Twenty five storytelling & magic shows in libraries and festivals as a selected artist for the University of Hawaii Outreach College SCEP program.

2013

**A Night of Japanese Mythology Storytelling Show**

A storytelling performance at Hawaii Theatre, the one of the biggest theatres in Hawaii.

Hawaii Theatre, Honolulu, HI, Dec

- 2013 **The Big Barn Spectacular! Variety Show**  
Celebration Barn Theatre, South Paris, Maine, August
- 2013 **RAWARDS**  
A performance for nomination of RAW Honolulu Performing Artist of the Year.  
Hawaii O' Brian, Honolulu, HI, April
- 2012 **Disney Summer Stage Kids**  
Performing tour at New York parks.  
City Parks Foundation, New York, NY, Aug
- 2012 **Home**  
Circus performances and workshops with Zany Umbrella Circus.  
Father Ryan Art Center, McKees Rocks, PA. July
- 2011 **Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo**  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California  
Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA, Jan
- 2010 **Rafu-Rafu-Tei Rakugo Comedy Show**  
International Center, Kyoto, Japan, Feb
- 2009-2010 **National Chery Blossom Festival**  
A storytelling performance with origami and magic for the biggest Japan festival in the world, outside of Japan.  
Japan-America Society of Washington DC, Washington DC, April
- 2007-2009 **Improv Performance Tour**  
Magic performances with a professional improve group *Line Benders*.  
ND & MN
- 2009 **Central Kansas Japan Festival**  
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, Nov
- 2008 **African Association Celebration**  
North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, Nov
- 2007 **Concordia College Show**  
Moorhead, MN, Jan
- 2006 **Children's Museum of Eau Claire**  
Eau Claire, WI, April
- 2005 **New York English Rakugo Tour**  
Performed magic shows with a Japanese Rakugo touring company, from The People's Improv Theatre to the Consulate General of Japan, New York, NY, Aug

#### AWARDS, PRIZES & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015 **Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observership Class 2015-16**

- 2014 **Don and Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship**  
 One of the most prestigious TYA awards for graduate students. Each year the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) awards one graduate theatre student in the nation who demonstrates outstanding artistic ability.
- 2014 **International Performing for Youth (IPAY) Jim Rye Fellowship**  
 The fellowship was given to seven theatre graduate students from all around the world, awardees represented five countries and seven universities.
- 2013 **Celebration Barn Theatre Emerging Artist Scholarship**  
 Celebration Barn Theatre is a world renowned physical theatre school.
- 2013 **John Young Scholarship in the Arts**  
 The scholarship is one of the most prestigious scholarships given to graduate students in arts among 10 University of Hawaii campuses in the UH system.
- 2013 **RAW Honolulu Performing Artist of the Year Nominee**

#### **DIRECTING / DESIGNING / PRODUCING**

- 2020 **Asian American Storytopia**  
 As Co-Executive Director, currently producing bi-weekly online series of traditional Asian stories for family audiences to fight Asian hate. Also performed, emceed, video edited, and created animations for 11 episodes.  
 (<https://asianstorytellers.wixsite.com/home>)
- 2019 **Ballonacy**  
 Devised, performed and stage managed for Myrtle Beach Children Theatre company.
- 2016 **Bento Rakugo U.S. Mainland Tour**  
 Directed a touring group, Bento Rakugo's shows at Touhill Performing Art Center (Saint Louis, MO), and Stage Left (Myrtle Beach, SC) April
- 2014 **Rock'n Holidays with Rakugo!**  
 Wrote and directed for Honolulu Theatre for Youth, one of the oldest children's theatre companies in the nation. In the production, three Christmas stories are told in various Japanese traditional storytelling styles with origami and magic. Thirty-two shows were performed for more than 10,000 children and families in Hawaii.  
 Tenny Theatre, Honolulu, HI, Nov - Dec
- 2011-2014 **Bento Rakugo Tour**  
 Founding Artistic Director of Bento Rakugo, a storytelling troupe. Directed more than 60 Bento Rakugo shows within three years and toured all six Hawaiian islands.
- 2014 **Grinds**  
 Magic design for the production at Honolulu Theatre for Youth.  
 Tenny Theatre, Honolulu, HI, April

- 2013      **Suzette Sets to Sea**  
Tenny Theatre, Honolulu, HI, Dec
- 2013      **Experimental Storytelling**  
Directed and created experimental storytelling pieces in various Asian traditional theatre styles.  
Earle Ernst Lab Theatre, Honolulu, HI, April
- 2013      **La Strada**  
Magic consulting for English production world premier.  
Earle Ernst Lab Theatre, Honolulu, HI, March
- 2012      **Raku-come, Raku-Go! Show -Japanese "Sit-down" Comedy-**  
A part of 2012-2013 Kennedy Theatre Season.  
Directed a show with comedic stories in Japanese traditional Rakugo style.  
Earle Ernst Lab Theatre, Honolulu, HI, Nov
- 2008      **Rashomon**  
Gaede Stage, Minnesota State University Moorhead, MN, May

**MEDIA (Selected)**

- 2021      Ozark Live interview, MO
- 2019      High Points Enterprise News Interview, NC
- 2018      Florida Sun Magazine  
Sumter Item Today Interview, SC
- 2016      Honolulu Public Radio "Conversation", HI  
Nikkan Sun News, HI  
Parents News Magazine, SC
- 2014      Honolulu Star-Advertiser (Featured Front Page Interview)  
Hawaii Herald (Featured Front Page Interview)  
Hawaii Houchi (Featured Front Page Article)  
Radio Mojo, HI  
KZOO Radio, HI  
OREO TV, HI
- 2013      Nikkan Sun (Featured Interview), HI  
Lighthouse Magazine. HI  
KZOO Radio, HI  
OREO TV, HI
- 2012      NEWS 12, NY  
KALEO (Featured Article), HI  
Lanai Today, HI  
Molokai News, HI

## TRAINING

- Art Integration Training – Kennedy Center for Performing Arts
- Magic (Chavez Studio of Magic – The most prestigious magic school in the world)
- Physical Theatre (Celebration Barn Theatre with David Robinson & Karen Montanaro)
- Japanese Rakugo Theatre (Masahiro Yamamoto)
- Japanese Kyogen Theatre (Maruishi Yasushi)
- Japanese Traditional Dance (Nishikawa-ryu style)
- Japanese Lion Dance (Kenny Endo)
- Japanese Bamboo Flute / Dragon Flute (Tosha Jisho)
- Japanese Tamasudare Traditional Juggling (Nagisaya Rokumaru)
- Indonesian Randai Theatre (Musra Dahrizal)
- Wayang Kulit Shadow Puppet Theatre (Made Widana)

## SERVICE *(Selected)*

2019-Present	<b>National Storytelling Network, Youth, Educators and Storytellers (YES) Committee</b>
2015-Present	<b>Don &amp; Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship Committee</b> for AATE
2018	<b>Performance for Kids at Hurricane Relief</b> Charity Magic and storytelling performance for children who evacuated from Hurricane Florence, SC
2017	<b>Bright Water Retirement Community</b> Magic, Origami, and Balloon performances, Myrtle Beach, SC
2014-2016	<b>American Alliance for Theater and Education Committee Member</b> Sat on the Distinguished Play Selection Committee for three years as well as a committee selecting fellows, Washington DC
2016	<b>Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology</b> Guest judge for talent competition, Myrtle Beach, SC
2013	<b>Kahala Nui Nursing Home</b> Taught regular volunteer theatre Classes at Kahala Nui Nursing Home, Honolulu, HI
2012	<b>Farrington High School</b> Taught weekly volunteer classes in Asian Theatre, Honolulu, HI
2012	<b>Pediatric Hospital Performances</b> Volunteer performances in Shriner's Hospital and Queen's Hospital Pediatric Wings, Honolulu, HI
2008	<b>College for Kids</b> Volunteered as an assistant teacher for a magic class. Minnesota State University, Moorhead, Minnesota

2005

**Relay for Life**

Magic Performer for Relay for Life Au Claire, Wisconsin.

**REFERENCES**

**Mark Branner**, Associate Professor of Theatre, TYA Program Director, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1770 East-West Rd Honolulu HI 96822, 808-956-7677, [branner@hawaii.edu](mailto:branner@hawaii.edu)

**Eric Chang**, Arts Program Coordinator, East West Center, 1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96848, 808-944-7584, [ChangE@EastWestCenter.org](mailto:ChangE@EastWestCenter.org)

**Nancy Wang**, Co-Director, Eth-Noh-Tec, 977 S. Van Ness, SF CA 94110, 415-282-8705, [nancy@ethnohtec.org](mailto:nancy@ethnohtec.org)

**Kuniko Yamamoto**, Artistic Director, Origami Air, 1063 Patterson Dr, Sarasota, FL 34234, 941-468-4049, [origamiair2014@gmail.com](mailto:origamiair2014@gmail.com)

**Jeff Gere**, Former Drama Specialist, City of Honolulu Park & Recreation, 4103 Pakolu Place, Honolulu, HI 96816, 808-737-1774, [jeffgere1031@gmail.com](mailto:jeffgere1031@gmail.com)