



Creatives

Biographies.

Michinari Ozawa

WRITER, DIRECTOR & SET DESIGNER

Michinari is an award winning playwright, director and actor. He's acclaimed for playing a wide range of roles in his own distinctive and energetic style. He leads his own theatre company, EPOCH MAN, for which he writes, directs and designs.

The Japanese premier of *Our Cosmic Dust*, which Michinari wrote, directed, performed in and designed the set for, won three awards at Japan's most prestigious Yomiuri Theatre Awards 2024 for Outstanding Theatrical Production, Outstanding Director and Best Actress.

His 2021 production of *The Aurelian Siblings* was selected as a finalist for the 66th Kuno Kishida Drama Awards.

Other writing credits include: *Blue Egoist* (Theatre Milano-Za, Tokyo) and *Slip Skid* (Kinkero Theatre, Tokyo).

Acting credits include: *Patalliro!* (Teh Galaxy Theatre, Tokyo) and *Metal Macbeth* (IHI Stage Around Tokyo, Tokyo).

Susan Momoko Hingley

ADAPTOR & TRANSLATOR

Susan is a British-Japanese actress and writer, who translates Japanese and German plays into English. She co-wrote and performed in *The Garden of Words* at the Park Theatre in 2023 and has also written *Petal* (Omnibus Theatre) and *Baaba's Footsteps* (Vault Festival).

She has recently translated *Love in Action* (Noda Map / Sadlers Wells, surtitles); *Onigoro Valley* (Royal Court / New National Theatre Tokyo); *The Good Person of Szechwan* (English Touring Theatre); *Threepenny Opera* (National Theatre); *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Donmar Warehouse) and *Puntilla and His Man Matti* (Royal Lyceum).

As an actress, Susan's theatre highlights include: *My Neighbour Totoro*, *Wendy & Peter Pan*, *A Life of Galileo*, *Boris Godunov* and *The Orphan of Zhao* (all Royal Shakespeare Company); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Missing People* (Leeds Playhouse / New National Theatre Tokyo); *One Small Step* (Umeda Arts Theatre / Charing Cross Theatre) and she is associate artist of Tangled Feet ensemble.

Film and TV includes: *Years And Years* (BBC/HBO); *Doctors* (BBC); *Shino's Show* and *The Gloaming*.

She trained at East 15 Acting School and Ecole Philippe Gaulier in Paris after studying Law at the University of Warwick.



Alex Rutter

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & DRAMATURG

Alex is a British theatre director, writer & creative development producer based in Tokyo with a decade of experience specialising in Anglo- Japanese collaboration and adaptations of Anime and video games. Working with leading artists and producers in Japan since 2015, Alex has directed at many large-scale Tokyo venues including Bunkamura Theatre Cocoon, Milano-Za and TBS Akasaka Act Theatre. She was Resident Director for 6 years with Nelke Planning, pioneers of Anime, Manga and Video Game stage productions and is co-founder & director of award-winning UK company *Whole Hog Theatre*. Most recently, she has worked as a puppet and movement director on Michinari Ozawa's *Blue Egoist*.

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Highlights include: Director, Adaptor & Producer of Studio Ghibli's *Princess Mononoke* (AiiA Theatre, Tokyo); Director, Co-Writer & Creative Producer of *The Garden of Words* (Park Theatre); Director of *Devil Butler With Black Cat* (IMM Theatre); Puppet Director of *Prince Of Tennis* (The Third Stage); Director & Performance script *Romeo & Juliet* (Tokyo Bunkamura Theatre Cocoon) and Creative Director for *Magia Record* (Akasaka Act Theatre).

Eika Shimbo

VIDEO DESIGNER

Eika graduated from Musashino Art University, studying scenography. She went on to work as an apprentice of Daiki Ueda, joining &FICTION!, a video planning, art direction and video production company.

Her most recent theatre credits include: *Pluto*; *The Nuns* and the Broadway musical *Dreamgirls* (Japanese edition).

For EPOCH MAN, she has previously collaborated on *Maybe a Crane Tsuru* (Kamoshirenai / Yokohama version).

Tomohiro Kaburagi (ORENOTE)

SOUND DESIGNER

Tomohiro is a sound designer and mixing/mastering engineer. He is also a member of the Japan Society of Stage Sound Engineers. He has worked on various productions with Michinari Ozawa.

Recent productions include: *The changeover period* (directed by Daisuke Miura); *Wash out one's stones* (directed by Marie Gonohe); *Fox of Usyu* (directed by Ryo Hirano) and *The man who killed Nobunaga 2024* (directed by Takaya Okamoto).

He is also a member of the musical band group ORENOTE, which he formed with the actor and musician ORENOGRAFITTI.



ORENOGRAFFITI (ORENOTE)

COMPOSER

While working as an actor, he began composing and arranging incidental music on his own in 2005. Since then, he has worked on a wide range of works, from straight plays to musicals, skit plays, tent performances and translated plays. He has also worked on many of Michinari Ozawa's productions, including the one-man show *Maybe a Crane*; *Slip Skid* and the DMMTV production *Tale of the Raccoon*.

Recent works include: *Shin Ru Hima*; Musical *Touken Ranbu* Utagou Ranbu Kyoran 2019 (Song Contribution); *Zenkinsen, Kasanare* (played by Yohei Isshik x Michinari Ozawa); Korean musical *TRACE U* (Music Director) and more.

Momoko Handa

PRODUCER

Momoko graduated from Keio University's faculty of economics. After working for a major talent agency, she founded momocan Inc, of which she is CEO, with the aim of creating an open and free environment for artists to practise their craft and to present a wide genre of productions to the world.

EPOCH MAN

SUPPORTER

Founded by Michinari Ozawa and led by his distinguished style, renowned for its delicacy, tenacity and emotional weight, EPOCH MAN theatre company uses humour and physical storytelling to delve into deeply human stories. EPOCH MAN's shows explore the lives of ordinary yet troubled people at times of great strife, and their journeys towards solace. Michinari builds a team for each production and is acclaimed for designing his unique sets from scratch – creating visually stunning productions that continue to astonish audiences.

Company highlights include: *Our Cosmic Dust* (Shinjuku Theatre Tops, Tokyo); *Maybe a Crane* (Honda Theatre, Tokyo); *The Aurelian Siblings* (Ekimae Theatre, Tokyo) and *Yume Zorozoro* (Theatre711, Tokyo).

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PRODUCER

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