Tomoya Kawamura

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Birthday: 27.06.1987 Tokyo Japan.

Tomoya Kawamura is a Tokyo-born actor, mask theatre performer, director, and production manager. His artistic practice is rooted in over 20 years of training and experience in traditional Japanese performing arts, including Kabuki, which he studied as an apprentice under master Kabuki actor Ichikawa Omezo VI, and Noh theatre of the Kanze School, under master Yoshiteru Takeda. He has integrated these traditions with Western theatrical practices, which he has explored extensively since relocating to Berlin, Germany.

Early in his career, he performed in *The Show Must Go On* by Jérôme Bel at the Sainokuni Saitama Arts Theater in Japan (2011). More recently, he has collaborated with acclaimed theatre and opera director Andrea Breth, performing in *Ich hab die Nacht geträumet* at the Berliner Ensemble (2022-2023), *Madama Butterfly* at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and Opéra national de Lyon in France (2024-2025), and *Turandot* at Oper Frankfurt in Germany (2026). In both *Madama Butterfly* and *Turandot*, he also served as a movement director and collaborator, developing a physical language that bridges traditional Japanese movement and Western theatrical performance.

His own solo mask theater work *Letters from Chiran*, based on the true story of his grandfather, a Kamikaze pilot, has been presented internationally in eight cities, including at the Grotowski Institute in Poland, as well as in Vienna, Croatia, Milan, and South Korea. The work combines Western mask traditions with Eastern performance styles. By approaching the theme of war through a deeply personal story, the work has resonated strongly with international audiences.

Kawamura is currently involved in a research and performance project with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, exploring the intersection of Noh theater and Bauhaus theater. In this project, he works as concept creator, choreographer, and director, collaborating with Noh performers. The project is scheduled to premiere in 2027 at Bauhaus Dessau or at the Festival der Moderne in Magdeburg.

Website: https://www.tomoyacker.com/

Portfolio: Google Drive

Profile (Oper Frankfurt):
https://oper-frankfurt.de/de/ensemble-gaeste-teams/ensemble/?detail=1828

Education

・2008 Duquesne University, Pennsylvania, United States of America.
Studied: Sociology and Music (Percussion and music composing)

・2009- 2018. Kabuki apprenticeship; studied under the master Kabuki actor Omezo Ichikawa the 6th.
https://meikandb.kabuki.ne.jp/actor/44/

・2013- 2018. Noh Theater Education at Kanze; studied under the master Yoshiteru Takeda
https://takedayoshiteru.jp/

・2011- 2013. Tokyo Kandenchi (劇団東京乾電池) Acting School. Studied acting and directing.
https://www.tokyo-kandenchi.com/index.php

・2018-2022. Studio Kokyu from Grotowski Institute, Poland. http://en.grotowski-institute.pl/

Teaching

・2025 - 2026. Anhalt Dessau University of Applied Sciences and Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. https://www.hs-anhalt.de/en/start-page.html

Selected Theatre Works from the Past Three Years

・2023. “Ich hab die Nacht geträumt” Performer *(Director. Andrea Breth)* 23–24 Season: Berliner Ensemble. Website

・2024. “Madama Butterfly” Performer and Movement Director. (*Director, Andrea Breth*)
5th - 22nd July 2024: Aix-en-Provence Festival. France Website

・2024-2025. “Letters from Chiran” (*Self-production)* Berlin Website
Touring history
8.9. May 2025: Grotowski Institute. Wroclaw. Poland Website
19, 20 July 2025: Kultursommer Wien. Vienna, Austria. Website
18,19,20 Sep 2025: English Theatre Berlin. Germany Website
23 Oct 2025: Tranzit Festival. Rijeka, Croatia Website
8. Nov 2025: Next Stop Festival. Lomazzom, Italy Website
21 March 2026: International Monodrama Festival. Seoul, Korea Website
05. June 2026: Nippon Connection. Frankfurt. Germany Website
11. June 2026: BTTF Human Made Festival (Milan, Italy) Website
13. June 2026: BABEL F.A.S.T. Festival (T.rgoviște, Romania) Website

・2025 “Madama Butterfly” (*Director Andrea Breth)* Performer and Movement Director.
22nd Jan- 3rd Feb 2025: Opéra national de Lyon. France. Website

・2025. “Ordinary” *(Self-production) 3, 4, 5 Dec 2025:* Uferstudios Berlin Website

・2026 “Turandot” *(Director Andrea Breth)* Performer: 25/26 and 26/27 Season: Oper Frankfurt Website

・2026 “Madama Butterfly” (*Director Andrea Breth)* Performer and Movement Director 21st Nov 2026- 15th Jan 2026: Komische Oper Berlin Website

Theater works (Others)

・2019. “Hamlet” : “Hamlet, and the King” *(Dir: Sete Pablo, Italy)* Berlin, Tatwerk

・2019. “Opium” : Dancer/ Performar *(Dir: Firenza Guidi, from ELAN frantoio*) Berlin,

・2019. “EMPTY HOUR” : Dancer *(Concept & Choreografie: Ania Catherine & Judith Sánchez Ruíz)* Berlin, Trauma bar und Kino

・2019. “Reading Bodies” : Dancer (*HKW & UDK Projekt für die Berlin Art Week 2019)* Berlin, Haus der Kulturen der Welt

・2019. “Shanghai” : *(Dir: Firenza Guidi, fm ELAN frantoio)* Teatro Garibaldi Di Palermo. Italy

・2020. “Nattou Makes Revolution” : Direction,*(Self Production)* Berlin, Theater Haus Mitte

・2020. “OVERMORROW” -Immersive Theater- : Performer *(Prod, Venus Boys)* Berlin, Salon de Renate

・2021. “Game Over”: Worrier *(Prod, Gayane Hakobyan)* Berlin, Kulture Fabrik Moabit

・2021. “Lucid Dream” : Performer *(Dir, Concept: Dingting Yang)* Berlin, TU Bühnenbild Szenischer Raum.

・2021. “The Beautiful Body”: Dancer *(Prod, Concept: Grace Euna Kim)* Haus der Statistik

・2022. “Unspeakable Community”: Dancer *(Prod, Concept: Grace Euna Kim)* ZK/U - Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik

・2022. “I Love EU?”: Actor (Prod, Dir.: Daniel Brunet) English Theater Berlin

・2022. “Streaming above your head”: Actor (*Prod. Grandroue)* KW8 Berlin

・2023. “Temple of the Cosmic Beyond” Performer *(Prod. Phantazonia)* GlogauAir Berlin

・2023. “Becasue I Love You” Performer (*Self-production*) SALON AM MORITZPLATZ, Berlin

・2024, “Please Cry” (*Collaboration with Megumi Eda; and Self Creation*) Dock 11. Berlin

Tomoya Kawamura
Works



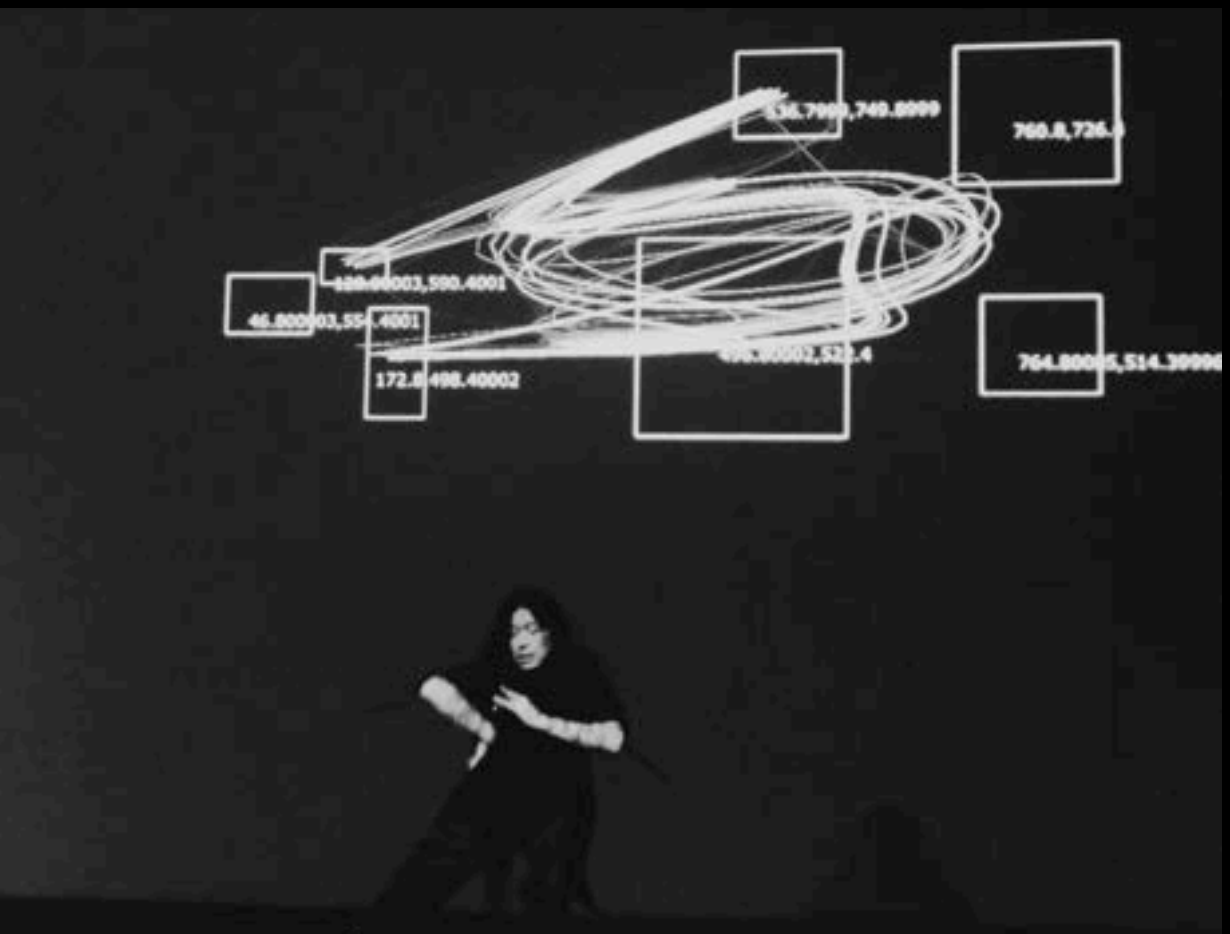
Ordinary

Dance Theater

Premiere: 06. December 2025

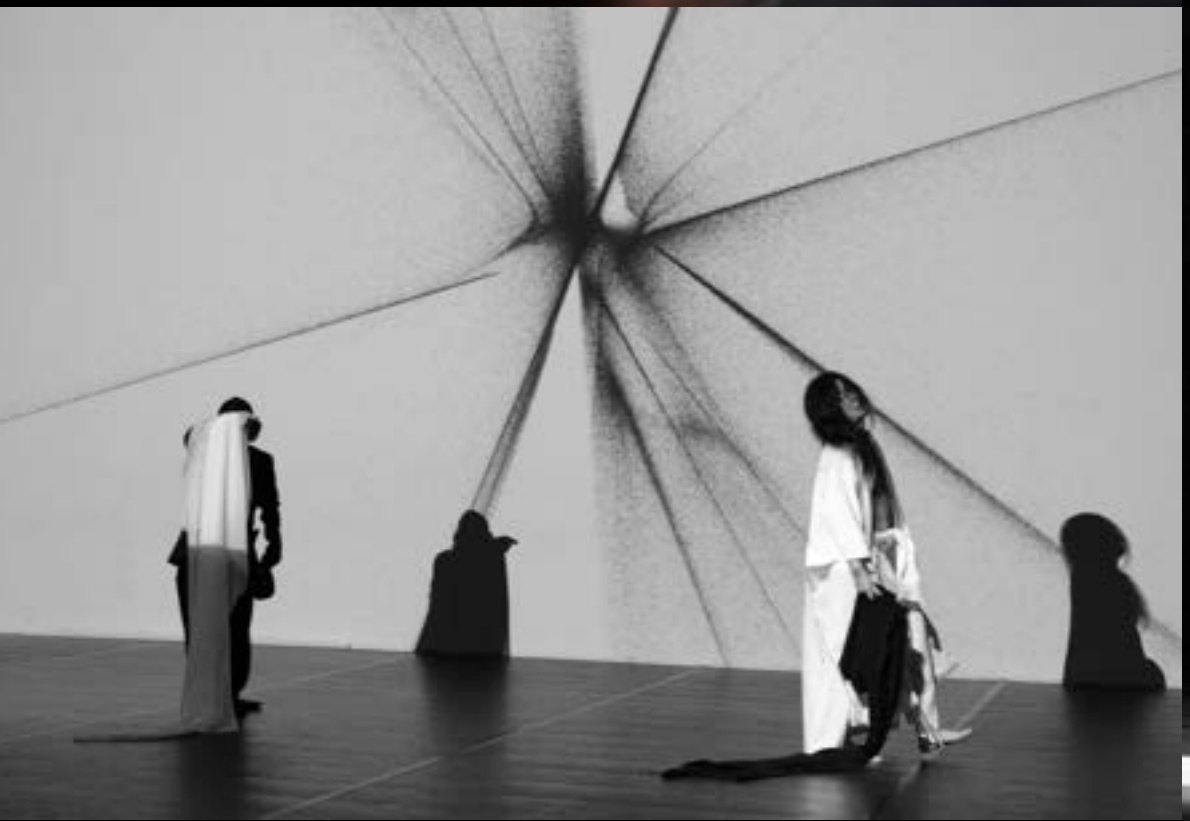
Uferstudios Berlin

& Nippon Connection 26 Frankfurt







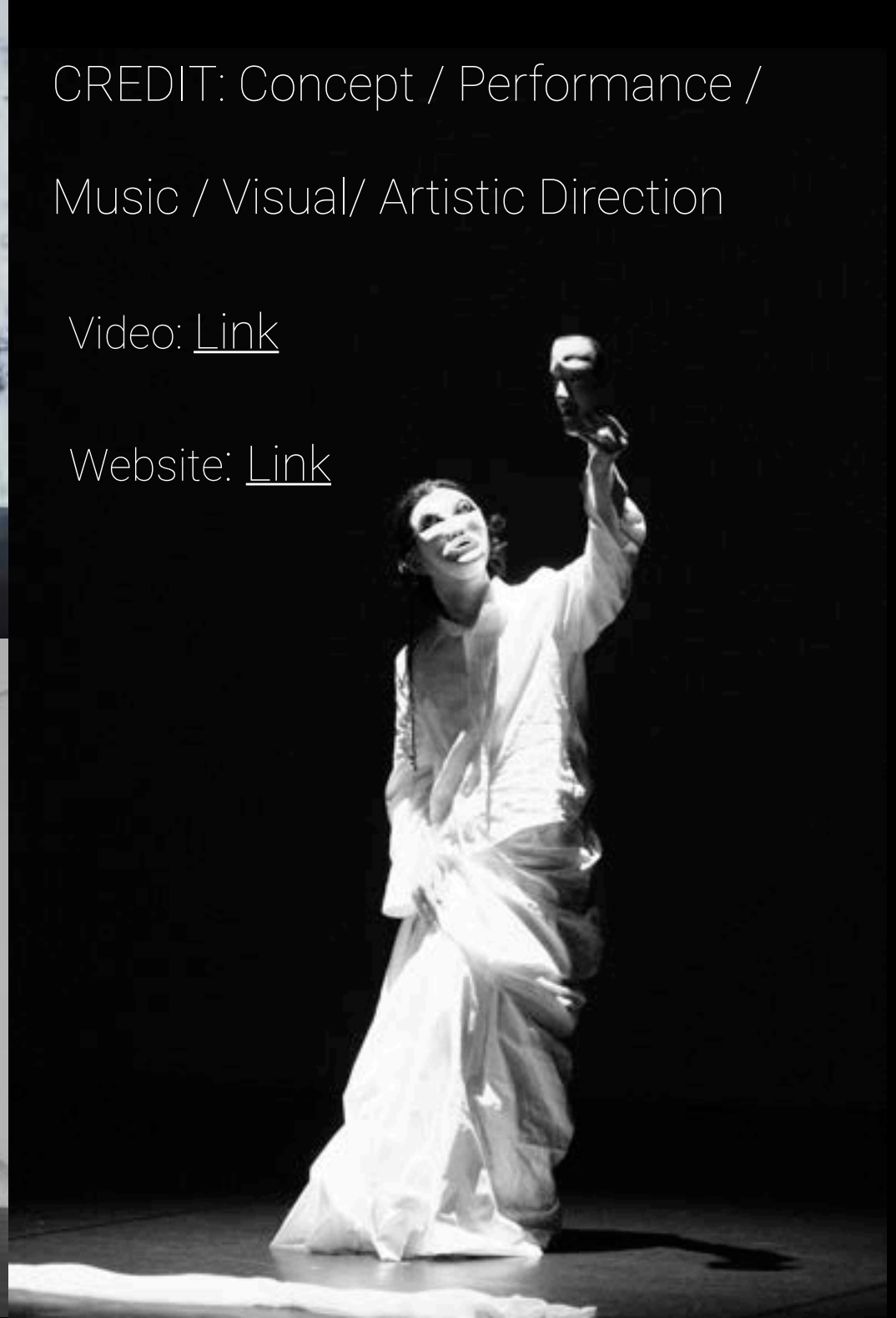


CREDIT: Concept / Performance /

Music / Visual/ Artistic Direction

Video: Link

Website: Link

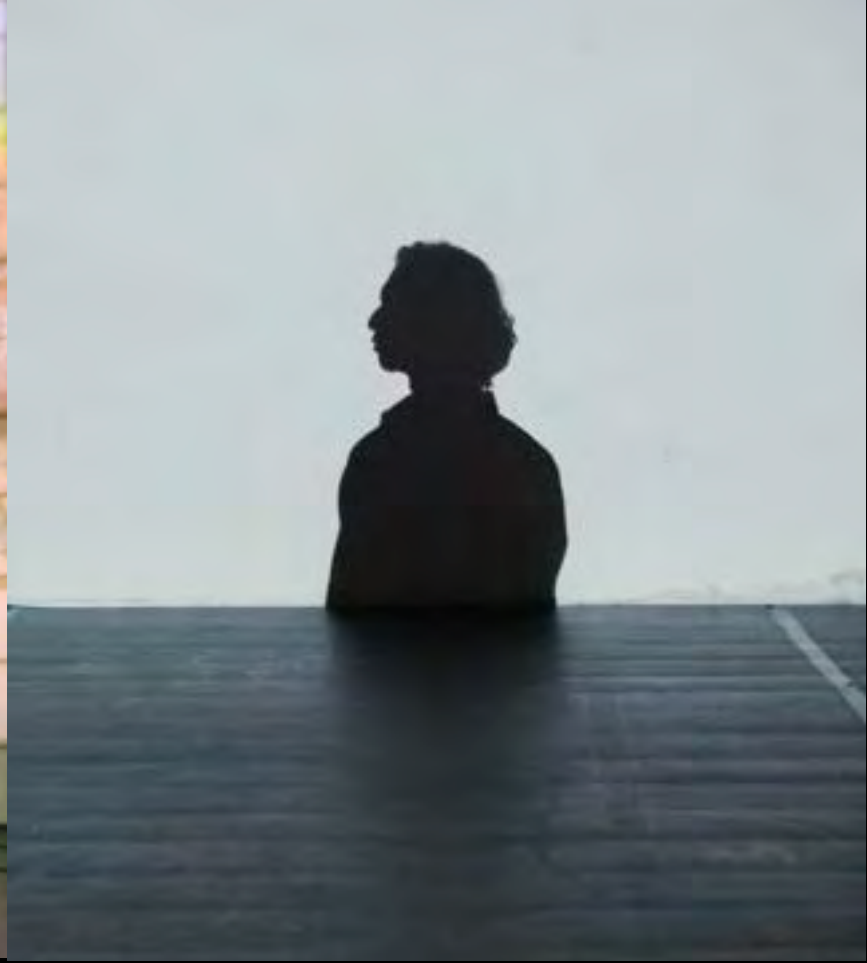




In this work, Kawamura takes on multiple roles, including performer, concept creator, artistic director, composer, video concept designer, and mask creator. Together with collaborator and dancer Atsushi Takahashi, he explores a unique artistic approach that integrates elements of traditional Japanese theatrical aesthetics and stagecraft into the context of contemporary dance theatre.







"He operates with Noh’s contained precision. Stillness as intensity, minimalism as abundance.”

—Review in Tanznet, by Xueliu Chen, Original Article: Link

Letters from Chiran

Solo Mask Theater Story telling





CREDIT:

Performance, Concept, Writing, and Dramaturgy

Premiere

2024 19. December. Berlin

Performance History

2025. May - Grotowski Institute (Wrocław, Poland)
2025. May – Kulturelle Landpartie (Wendland, Germany)
2025. July – Kultursommer Wien (Vienna, Austria)
2025 Sep – English Theatre Berlin (Berlin, Germany)
2025. Oct – TranziT Festival #6 (Rijeka, Croatia)
2025. Nov – Next Stop Festival / Dimore Creative (Lomazzo, Italy)
2026. Mar – Seoul International Monodrama Festival (Seoul, Korea)
2026. Jun – Nippon Connection (Frankfurt, Germany)
2026. Jun – BTTF Human Made Festival (Milan, Italy)
2026. Jun – BABEL F.A.S.T. Festival (Targoviște, Romania)

This is a one-man mask storytelling theatre piece of his own creation, inspired by the historical realities of Kamikaze pilots. Set in Chiran, a town known as a departure point for Kamikaze missions, the play contrasts the lives of ordinary civilians enduring the devastation of war Through a mix of historical facts, dark comedy, and deeply personal narratives that are performed with Masks, it explores themes of resilience, the weight of individual choices, and the enduring impact of the past on the present and future.



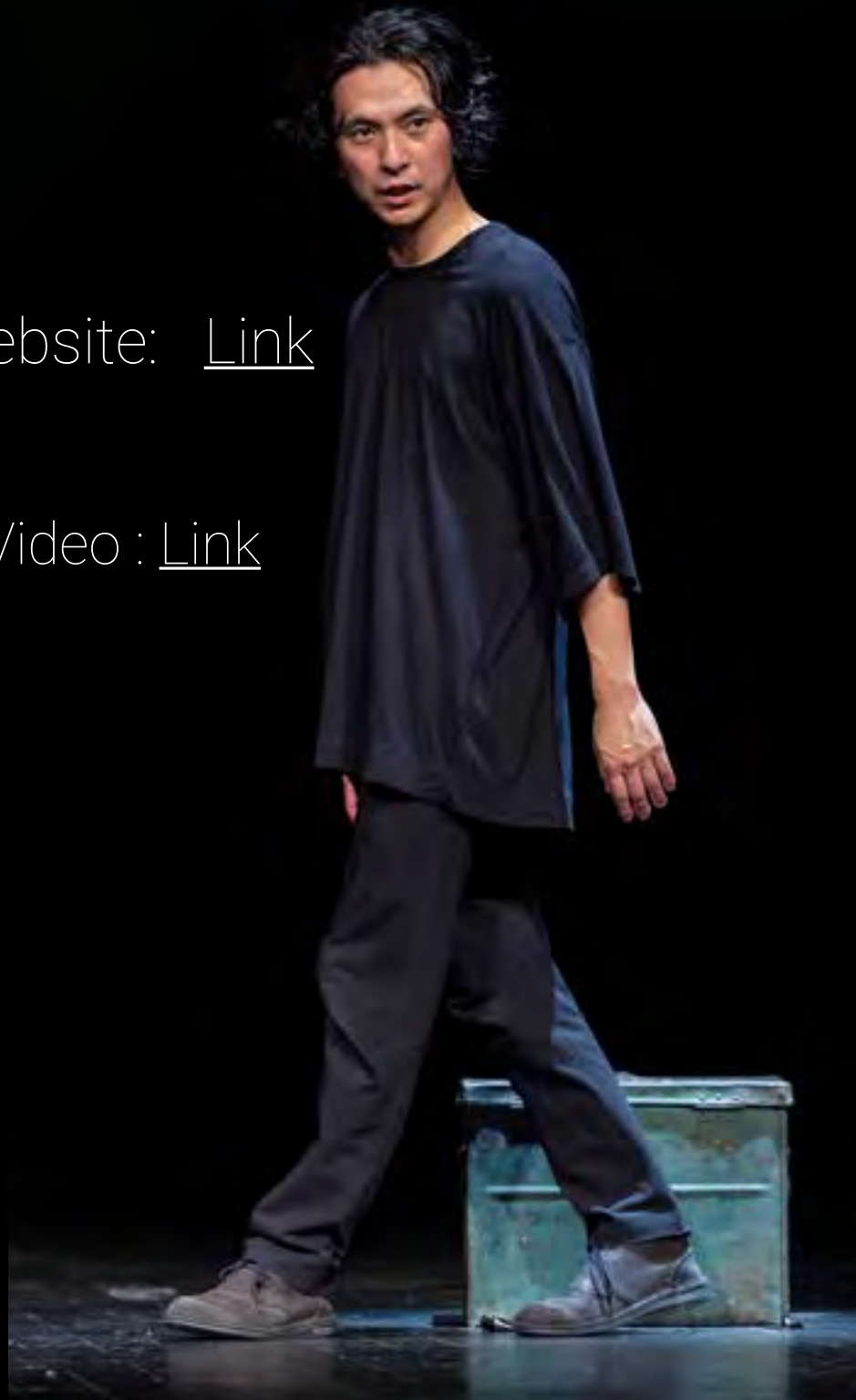




Website: Link

Video : Link





Selected Reviews

"Tomoya skillfully portrayed these stories through a solo performance, with masks serving as a significant expressive tool."

— Review in ArtKvart (Croatia). Original Article Link

"Yes, there are still young Japanese artists in this era who insist on speaking the
truth, and there are still theater artists who retain a high degree of personal awareness"

— Review by Xueliu Chen (China). Original Article Link

"Letters from Chiran does not seek heroism nor glorify sacrifice."

— Maria Lazar / Review in FOAIE.R(Romania) Original Article Link





Sight specific solo performance

Lucid Dreams





CREDIT:

Performance

Movement Choreograph

Sound design

COLLABRATOR: Shal Yan

Juli 2021. TD Berlin

Jun 2023. Neukölln 48.







Lucid Dreams is a solo theatre work created in collaboration with Chinese director and stage designer Shal Yan.

The performance explores the darker aspects of contemporary East Asian society, including childhood trauma and depression, through both Japanese and Chinese perspectives. Throughout the piece, Kawamura employs multiple masks, transforming between different characters and identities to navigate a landscape of personal and collective memories.







Website: Link

Video: Link



Movement Directing
Choreography

Opera Madama Butterfly











Festival d´ Aix-en-Provance 2024 /
Lyon Opera 2025 /
Komisch Oper Berlin 2026

DIRECTOR: Andrea Breth,

CREDIT: Movement Collaboration /

Choreography /Noh-Mask Performance

Participated as a movement collaborator and director under the direction of Andrea Breth. The production was featured as a main performance at the Aix-en-Provence Festival and performed in the National Opera of Lyon in 2025.

Kawamura´s contributions included choreography and movement inspired by Noh theatre, coaching Western opera singers on physical expression, and choreographing the dancers' movement sequences in collaboration with Andrea Breth.







Festival d´ Aix-en-Provance 2024 Link / Opra de Lyon 2025 Link

Komisch Oper Berlin 2026
Link

Opera Data Base
Link

Video: Link

Performance Credits



Opera Turandot

Premier: 12 April 2026

Oper Frankfurt





DIRECTOR:

Andrea Breth

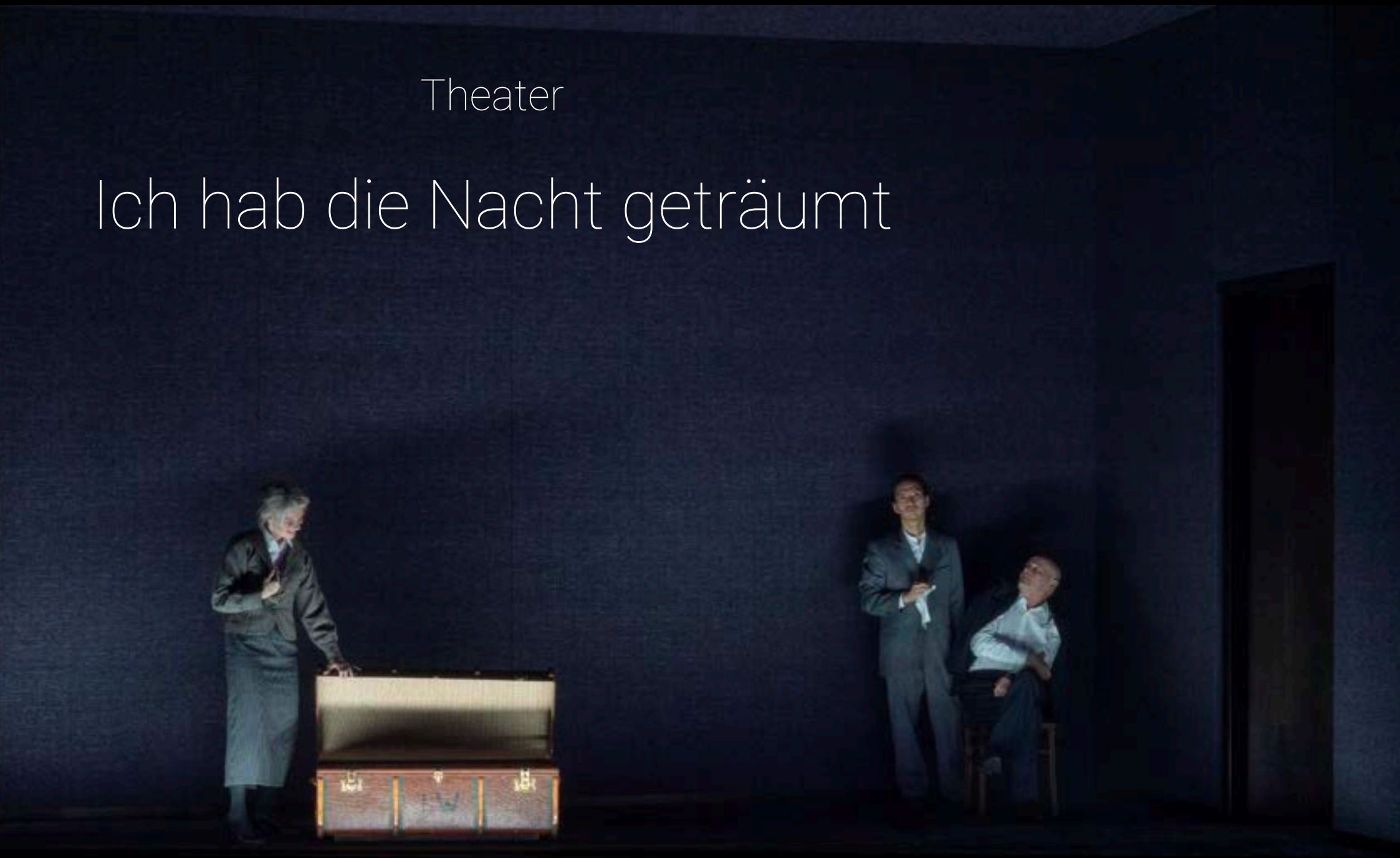


Website: Link



Theater

Ich hab die Nacht geträumt



Premier: 23. March 2023

Berliner Ensemble

DIRECTOR: Andrea Breth

Video: Link

Website: Link





In “Ich hab die Nacht geträumet” by Andrea Breth took place at the Berliner Ensemble. Here, Kawamura had the opportunity to integrate traditional Japanese dance into a Western theatrical context. This experience demonstrated that the traditions of Japanese dance hold more than just dusty customs and strict rules. With further exploration, they can significantly enrich the theatre of the Western world.





Documentary Theater

I Love EU ?

VENUE: English Theater Berlin
DIRECTOR : Daniel Burnt

Premiere : 02. December 2022

Video: Link

Website: Link





The creation involves actors who are not from the EU conducting interviews with ordinary people about their experiences within the EU, focusing on persona opinions to highlight critiques and contradictions related to the EU, and creating a work based on these perspectives.



Immersive Exhibition Performance

Temple of Cosmic Beyond





13. April - 21. May 2023

VENUE: GlogauAIR

Concept by Phantazonia.

CREDIT: Performance

Presented as part of an immersive exhibition by the artist collective PHANTAZONIA, this interactive performance invited audiences to encounter characters from another world throughout the exhibition space.

Kawamura's performance focused on breath, physicality, and non-verbal communication, creating intimate exchanges with visitors and transforming the audience into active participants within the work.

Website: Link





Site specific Performance

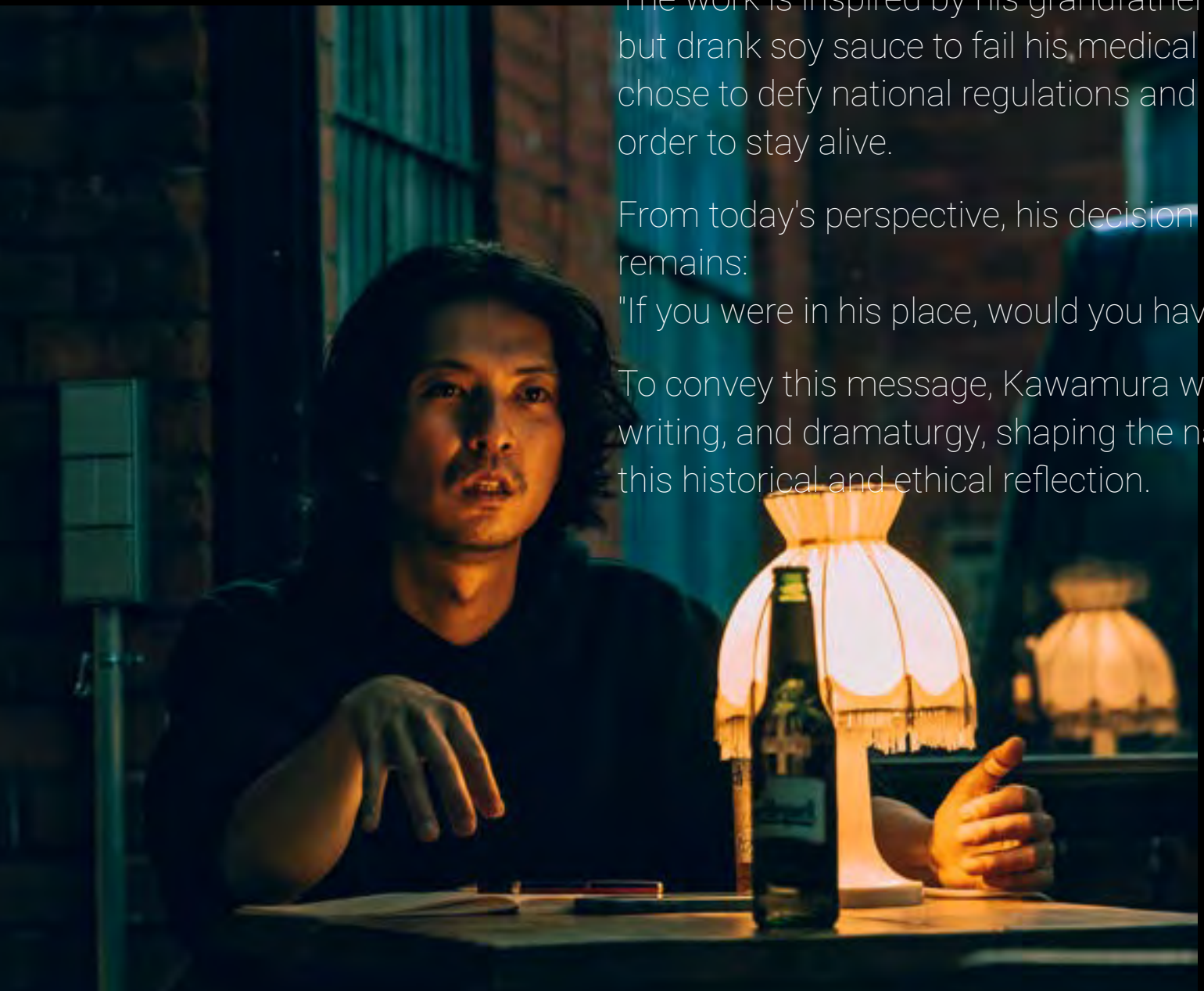
Please Cry

24. and 25. October 2024

VENUE: Dock 11 Berlin

CONCEPT: Megumi Eda





This project is a collaborative creation with dancer Megumi Eda at Dock11 site specific dance theater performance, based on personal wartime experiences from Japan.

The work is inspired by his grandfather’s story—he was a Kamikaze pilot but drank soy sauce to fail his medical exam and survive the war. He chose to defy national regulations and social pressure, risking his life in order to stay alive.

From today's perspective, his decision might seem "right," but the question remains:
"If you were in his place, would you have made the same choice?"

To convey this message, Kawamura was responsible for the concept, writing, and dramaturgy, shaping the narrative to engage the audience in this historical and ethical reflection.

Video: Link

Website: Link





Immersive Exhibition Performance

OVERMORROW

July- 2020

VENUE: Wilde Renate Berlin

Website: Link





Presented during the COVID-19 lockdown, OVERMORROW was an immersive art experience that became one of Kawamura's first artistic projects in Germany.

Within a series of immersive environments, performers guided audiences through encounters that blurred the boundaries between reality, memory, and fiction. Kawamura appeared as a spectral figure carrying the memories of war, engaging visitors in dialogue and storytelling. Through these intimate interactions, the work reflected on the persistence of historical memory and the ways in which the past continues to inhabit the present.





Non-Verbal Theatre Performance

Because I Love You





Premier: 14. Juli 2023

Video: & Link

Website: Link

