

## Biographies of Artists

### GOTANNDADAN

Formed in 1997 by Shiro Maeda, GOTANNDADAN is the leading figure in the contemporary Japanese performing arts scene, especially amongst the younger generation. The company has produced about 40 productions mostly for small theatres in Tokyo. GOTANNDADAN's *Going on the Way to Get Lost* was staged at the Fringe in 2013 and received both popular and critical acclaim. The company aims to produce theatre with minimal staging requirements, paired with witty, funny and somewhat philosophical texts, and its work has been extremely well received in both Tokyo and internationally.

### Shiro Maeda

#### Director / Actor

Shiro Maeda is a leading figure in the Japanese contemporary performing art scene, and has also established himself through his work on novels, TV and movies. Born in the 1970s, he could be said to represent the voices of the 'Lost Decade' in Japan, which refers to those who have lived through times of social and economic uncertainty. He is most recognized – and indeed, highly praised – for the way he deals with heavy and universal issues through levity, subtle humour and even absurdism, rather pushing them explicitly. This creates a surreal and sometimes chilling world, where he crosses the lines of time and space freely. Being both a director and actor has allowed Shiro to develop a sense of respect for the intimate relationship he shares with the audience by offering them 'something to share'.

As a Playwright, Shiro's piece *Isn't Anyone Alive?* won the 52nd Kishida Drama Award (2007). One of his highly accepted theatre works *Suteru Tabi* has been presented in Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels (2009), Festival d'Automne in Paris (2012), SÜDPOL MUSIK TANZ THEATER in Luzern (2012), National Theatre in Budapest (2012), Centre Pompidou Metz in France (2012), and now at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival (2014). His TV script *Getting Lost* achieved the 46th Galaxy Award (2008) while his novel *Mermen in Summer Water* was awarded the 22nd Mishima Yukio Prize (2009). He wrote a novel and script of the movie *The Extreme SUKIYAKI*, which also became his directorial debut and the film will premiere on 23 Nov 2013 throughout Japan.

### Takenori Kaneko

#### Actor

Takenori was part of Ninagawa Studio, led by Yukio Ninagawa and then later in Hi-Bye, directed by Hideto Iwai (director/playwright/actor in Tokyo, who has achieved the rare feat of obtaining both the Kuniko Mukouda Award and Kishida Kunio award). He is a highly qualified theatre actor who has also done work for TV and movies.

<http://ducksoup.jp/prof/man/ka/kaneko.htm>

## **Daisuke Kuroda**

### **Actor**

Daisuke is part of a theatre company known as The Shampoo Hat and has also been acting with GOTANNDADAN since 2003. He was involved in many performances including *Suteri Tabi* in Belgium in 2009, and later in Hungary, France and Switzerland in 2012. He also acts in TV drama, TV commercials and movies directed by Takeshi Kitano, Syuichi Okita and Shiro Maeda.

<http://ducksoup.jp/prof/man/ka/kuroda.htm>

## **Asuka Goto**

### **Actor**

Asuko Goto graduated from the same university as Shiro Maeda. She performed in many of Maeda's works including *Nights in Gotanda*, *Going on the Way to Get Lost*, *MY SPACESHIP*, *Suteru Tabi*, *Farewell to My Little Fame*, *So, Forget Me*, *A Scenery of Two* and *Animal Affair*. She has performed not only in Maeda's plays but also in his TV drama *Shopping*. Asuko was part of the cast in *Suteru Tabi* when it was staged at KUNSTENFESTIVALDESARTS in Belgium in 2009 and has also performed in France, Hungary and Switzerland in 2012. She will also be acting in a manga reading performance directed by Shiro Maeda in 2013.

## **Yuko Kibiki**

### **Actor**

Yuko is part of the theatre company SEINENDAN led by Oriza Hirata, and has been acting in many performances for GOTANNDADAN including *Suteru Tabi* in Belgium in 2009, and later in Hungary, France and Switzerland in 2012. In 2013, she acted for the French director Philippe Quesne for the co-production with SEINENDAN entitled *Anamorphosis*, traveling Japan, France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy.