

PLAY READING SERIES
CONTEMPORARY PLAYS IN
ENGLISH TRANSLATION

the far side of the moon

By Izumi Kasagi
Translated by Amanda Waddell
Directed by Skye E. Kowaleski

March 10, 2025



Performing Arts
2024 – 2025 Season

Japan Society presents

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Monday, March 10 at 7:30 pm
Followed by a post-performance Q&A with the director and playwright

2024-25 Performing Arts Season Support

The season is made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



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Woman 1

Davi Cohen

Woman 2

Marcella Renee Murray

Man

Kazue Peck

Stage Directions

Kiará Lauren

Sound Consultant

Tei Blow

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Izumi Kasagi is a playwright, director, actor and leader of the theater company Snuunuu, born in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture. While she was still a student at the Department of Culture, Faculty of Integrated Arts and Social Sciences at Japan Women's University, as an actor, she joined the theater company *U-enchi Saisei Jigyodan*, led by Akio Miyazawa. Since then, she has performed with many theater companies, including Penguin Pull Pale Piles, Geikidan Motoya Yukiko, Geikidan Haegiwa, Mikuni Yanaihara Project and Nibroll, among others. Outside her acting work in live theater, she has appeared in the TV drama *Ama Chan* and multiple films including *Pandora's Box*, *The Inerasable* and *Golden Slumber*. She also featured in the animated film *Pyu to Fuku! Jaguar The Movie* and the international mega-hit anime *FLCL* as a voice actor. She has become increasingly active as a playwright and director and in 2018 founded her own theater unit, Snuunuu, as an outlet for writing and directing her own plays. In 2016, her play *The Key to the House* was nominated for the final selection of the Sendai Short Play Award. In 2021, *the far side of the moon* was nominated as a finalist for the 66th Kishida Prize for Drama. Kasagi recently directed Geikidan Galba's *Distant Voices from the Sand Country* (written by Akio Miyazawa/Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre WEST). Her most recent play, *Umi made Hyaku-nen*, is currently a finalist for the 69th Kishida Drama Award.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Skye E. Kowaleski (they/them) is a director, writer and facilitator working towards collective healing, transformation and liberation. They have spent the last decade creating new theatrical work and advocating for artists and change-makers in NYC. Favorite directorial work includes: Heather Christian's *Animal Wisdom* (The Bushwick, Woolly Mammoth and A.C.T - Co-Director), Tariq Hammi's *Smail* (Theater Row), Olivia Clement's *Heart and Soul Yoga Studio Beirut* (Corkscrew Theater Festival), Brett Solomon Evan's *Delicious Filth* (The Brick), and Daaimah Mubashir's *Everyday Afroplay* (JACK – Co-Director). Their work as a writer/director has been seen at JACK, Ars Nova, University Settlement, The Bowery Poetry Club, Dixon Place, HB Studios and more. They have held previous positions at The League of Independent Theater, The Public, The Times Center, Collaborate Consulting (a trans-led DEI firm) and as Associate Director of Young Jean Lee's Theater Company and Town Stages. Most recently they served as Co-Director of Clinton-Hill performance meets civic space, JACK, and currently serve on the board of the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Alliance. When not in an art space, they consult and educate on gender inclusivity for clients such as Mount Sinai Hospital, teach breathwork and work with local community organizers. Kowaleski holds B.F.A in Drama and Psychology from NYU (Experimental Theater Wing) and a master's degree in Women's and Gender History from Sarah Lawrence College. www.skyekowaleski.com

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Davi Cohen (Woman 1) practices liberative embodiment in community and across disciplines. Credits include Allied Productions' *Pestilence* at LaMaMa ETC, Taylor Mac's *The Lily's Revenge* at American Repertory Theater, *La Damnation de Faust* at the San Francisco Opera, David Greenspan's *The Frogs* with Target Margin Theater and touring new work to Finland and Bolivia. Cohen was a member of foolsFURY Theater Company, mentored by the SITI Company, and danced in Deborah Hay's Solo Performer Commissioning Project. Treasured ongoing artistic partnerships include dances and films with Rebecca Lloyd-Jones, sound and movement installations with Audra Wolowiec and music with Pete Sturman. Cohen is a mentor for the Insight Mediation Society's Teen Retreat, founder of Big Oak Barbell, QueerTransStrengthNYC and the NY Abortion Access Fund.

Marcella Murray (Woman 2) is a New York-based theater artist from Augusta, Georgia. Her work is heavily inspired by the observed ways in which people tend to segregate and reconnect and has been seen at Performance Space New York, Abrons Arts Center, Mabou Mines, St. Ann's Warehouse, The Brick, French Institute Alliance Française Crossing the Line Festival, Under the Radar Festival, HERE Arts and at La MaMa. Murray co-created *Distances Smaller Than This Are Not Confirmed* which opened at Abrons Arts Center in January of 2020 and *Primer for an Impossible Conversation*, a digital theater piece which premiered in 2021 at MCA Chicago. *Rich With History and other stuff you say at a haunted house* premiered at UNC's CPA this February. Murray is a co-curator of the Object Movement Puppetry Residency and is a guest professor of Theatre at Sarah Lawrence College.

Kazue Peck (Man) is a New York-based actor, translator and voiceover artist originally from Yokohama. Favorite theatre credits include *After the Rain* and *Sundown* at La MaMa, *Phantasmic Physical Theatre* at HERE Arts, *Kutsukake Tokijiro* at The Flea, *Do You Feel Anger?* at Court Square Theater, *Danger Man* at Collective: Unconscious, *Jewtopia* at Broward Stage Door and *Katachi no Katachi* at Shinjuku i-Land Hall. Peck is a proud graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre. She is passionate about telling untold stories and amplifying unheard voices.

Kiará Lauren (Stage Directions) is a NYC based actor with an artistic practice that centers empathic driven storytelling as a means of curating radical vulnerability, humanity and truth for black & brown femmes. Select acting credits include *Vámonos* (INTAR Theater), *bb Brecht* (The Public Theater), *Cadillac Crew* (WAM), *Black Mexican* (Wayward Voices), and *The Every 28 Hours Plays* (Long Wharf Theatre). Lauren is a graduate of Spelman College. www.kiaralauren.com

Yoko Shioya 20/20: Celebrating 20 Years of Artistic Vision

For over seventy years, Japan Society's Performing Arts Program has enriched the arts in New York City, the U.S. and beyond through the presentation of artists whose works are formed or inspired by the arts and culture of Japan. Taking the mantle as head of Japan Society's Performing Arts Program in 2004, Yoko Shioya has carried this mission through the 21st century, programming over 200 events of the finest Japanese theater, dance and music from the very traditional to the most cutting edge. Join us in celebrating Japan Society's Artistic Director Yoko Shioya's 20th anniversary and support the future of the Performing Arts Program! Your donation today will make tomorrow's unparalleled cultural experience possible.

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