

SHINOHARA Wins Two ADC Young Guns Awards Stop Motion Animator in the Spotlight



Kenta Shinohara

Member of Dwarf Studios Kenta Shinohara, an animator with TYO, Inc. (Head Office: Shibuya-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Kazuyoshi Hayakawa; hereafter, "TYO") won the ADC Young Guns Awards as the only Japanese recipient out of 500 entries around the world. He also won the Creative Choice Award out of 28 nominees from a public vote. Shinohara was presented both awards at Sony Hall in New York on November 20.

The ADC Young Guns Awards are given out to professionals around the globe who are under 30 years of age and have a minimum of two years of professional experience. The awards were founded in 1996 by the advertising and fine arts organization, the Art Directors Club (ADC), who is the organizer of the ADC Awards, the world's oldest advertising awards. The Young Guns Awards are now hosted by The One Club for Creativity, a New York-based nonprofit organization that was established by a merger between The One Club and ADC.

Shinohara says, "Stop motion takes something 3D in real life into 2D, therefore making itself more energetic than computer graphics. Using 12 or 24 pictures per second, a 10 second advancement in a day is great. My job is to give the characters created by artists life. This is a great boost to my confi-

dence of course, but because I was awarded twice for the first time as a Japanese, I will be happy if this helps the Japanese stop motion industry."

Born in Ehime Prefecture, Japan in 1989, Shinohara dreamed of being an animator; he began drawing flip books in elementary school. His work, "Family's Story," which he created while enrolled in the Animation Course of the Character Creative Arts Department at the Osaka College of Art in association with Osaka University of Arts, won first prize for children's fables at the 9th Hida International Animation Festival of Folktales and Fables. Afterward, he began creating stop motion animation projects. He then joined Dwarf Studios, TYO's animation studio, as a part-time animator assistant in 2014. He then officially joined Dwarf Studios in 2016 as an animator. His skills as a stop motion animator, 2D animator and character designer are growing.

He explains, "I inspect the movements of humans and animals, but realism is not the only factor needed for entertainment. I always find ways to add 'fun' to my work." (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Kanta Hakamata)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



SPECIAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE BY @K4 DONATIONS TO 9/11 AND 3/11 CHARITIES THROUGH JMSA

Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York Kanji Yamanouchi, who is also a member of the rock band @K4, held a charity concert at JAZZ at KITANO on the evening of November 23. The proceeds of this concert went to the victims of 9/11 and 3/11 (the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami). Yamanouchi

was inspired by Robert T. Yanagisawa, President of The Japanese Medical Society of America, who has given long-time support through annual events for the victims of 9/11 and 3/11 since 2011. Yanagisawa invited his friends who love rock to this year's event, and so Yamanouchi wanted to do something for the victims, too.

The Kitano Hotel did not

charge for seats, nor did they require a minimum order that day, in order to support the charitable purpose of the event. The band members of @K4 are Kazu (vocals), Amy (vocals/chorus), Kyoko (piano/keyboard), Keina (bass),



Tom (drums) and Yamanouchi, who goes by Kan (guitar) when in the band. Kan said to the audience, "Thank you for the donations. I'm hoping they will serve as the bridge for Tohoku disaster relief that connects the victims of both of those disasters and supporters."

The musical performances by @K4 were held twice at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. They performed rock hits like "Hotel California" by The Eagles and "A Hard Day's Night" and "Day Tripper" by The Beatles. Violinist Sumiko Tajiri also appeared as a special guest alongside the band. Following the event, Yamanouchi passed a check worth \$4,505 in donations to Yanagisawa. (Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)

Delight in a World of Laughter A Noh Society Kyogen Performance



"The Heart of Kyogen 2019," the third annual event of Kyogen performances sponsored by the Noh Society (led by President Setsuko Bouteille), was held on the evening of November 8 at the Bruno Walter Auditorium in the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at the Lincoln Center. This year's performance featured the Okura School Kyogen actors Daijiro Zenchiku, Noriyoshi Okura and Shinkai Yoshida. The hall was filled with laughter and playfulness as the actors engaged the audience.

The event featured a lecture performance format which the Noh Society has become known for. It started with two of the actors improvising a skit about their arrival in New York City. The lecture explained that Noh and Kyogen are like siblings, that light and sound effects are expressed through the words and actions of the actors, that religion, philos-

ophy and literature are embedded in the plays and that the plays "celebrate humanity, making us think about how we can create a peaceful world." The audience participated in Kyogen-style laughter, and a volunteer shared the experience of trying on a mask. The program also included a performance of "Neongyoku," a piece with song and dance, followed by the popular story of "Busu," drawing the audience into a world of laughter through Japanese plays that date back hundreds of years.

Not only does the Noh Society provide young Japanese actors opportunities to perform overseas, but it also engages in educational activities. The three actors also visited the Keio Academy of New York and George Washington University, sharing the fascination of Japanese classical arts. (Article and Photo by Kaoru Komi/Translated by Jannet Abraham)



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