

RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENTS

LITTLE BOZU AND KON KON

OMUSUBI PRODUCTIONS AND
MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY





Photo by Penny Cook and Roger Pulvers, December 1975, Tokyo

A NOTE FROM CREATOR

My love for theatre was introduced by my mother. She is an incredible puppeteer who is able to turn anything she touches come alive, even salt and pepper shakers. I used to travel with her as she visited local schools to perform folk tales from all over the world to children with disabilities. I always love watching the transformation of children who can't sit still for more than 5 minutes, become absolutely captivated by the story and emotionally invested in the characters. Theatre introduced me to magical creatures and cultures from all over the world such as Jamaican mischievous spiders, clever Norwegian goats and long hair princesses in the tall towers. It was so easy to traverse and imagine these worlds through the stories. The world was a lot closer and connected listening to them when I was child.

I want to bring a handcrafted feeling back to children in a world dominated by animation. Using puppetry as a medium to tell our story, I believe we can bypass the language barrier through the physicality and clarity of images, making our show accessible to people from all cultural backgrounds.

Little Bozu and Kon Kon were first created through the inaugural Penny Cook Creative Associate program at Monkey Baa Theatre Company under the mentorship of Artistic Director Eva Di Cesare. I hope to honour Penny Cook's amazing legacy and bring diverse stories to children around Australia.

Mayu Iwasaki

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MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY

Creative team

Story and Design

Mayu Iwasaki

Lighting Designer

Matt Cox

Music composed by

Me-Lee Hay

Stage Manager

Gaby Whalland

Puppet Designer and Maker

Katrina Gaskell

Performers

Mayu Iwasaki, Freya Pragt, Shingo Usamir

Set Construction

Thomas Creative, Steve Howarth, Ross Feller

Monkey Baa Artistic Director

Eva Di Cesare

Producers

Omusubi Productions, Monkey Baa Theatre Company



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Traditional Owners of this land, the Dharug people, and recognise it as Aboriginal land on which we work and live. We acknowledge Aboriginal culture, heritage, connection to land, water and community, and pay our respect to elders past and present.

JAPANESE GLOSSARY

Good morning!

O-HA-YO

See you soon!

MA-TA-NE

Good Night!

O-YA-SU-MI

Rock Paper Scissors

Jan-Ken-Pon!

(If you have a tie, have to go again)

AI-KO-DE-SHO!



PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE SAHOW!

- What is your favourite moment?
- What would you want to be if you were a shapeshifting raccoon?

Please send us an email [omusubi.productions@gmail.com](mailto:omusubi productions@gmail.com) or Tag #littlebozuandkonkon on your social media.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

CAST



Mayu Iwasaki

Little Bozu

Hailing from Tokyo, Japan, Mayu Iwasaki is an award-winning actor, puppeteer, and theatre creator, fluent in both Japanese and English, and currently based in Sydney. In 2019, she made her Sydney Theatre Company debut in Anchuli Felicia King's *White Pearl* and toured nationally with the production in 2021. A graduate of David Mamet's Atlantic Theatre Conservatory, she has also trained extensively with the SITI Company in New York. She founded Omusubi Productions, with its inaugural production *The Face of Jizo* earning four nominations at the Sydney Theatre Awards, including Best Production. "Omusubi" refers to a Japanese soul food symbolising unity, a theme she aims to weave through her artistic works.



Freya Pragt

Kon Kon

Freya is an actor, puppeteer, theatre maker and horticulturalist.

A graduate of the Victorian College of Arts, she is a passionate collaborative artist whose career highlights include touring extensively throughout Australia, USA, Iceland and Japan. Her love of nature and eastern and western culture culminates in a deep appreciation of Japanese folktales and untold stories with universal themes. She advocates enthusiastically for authentic portrayals, joy and inclusivity in theatre for young audiences and adults alike.



Shingo Usami

Headmaster

Originally from Japan, Shingo Usami has been working as actor on TV, film, theatre in Australia past 25 years. His TV and film credits include Apple TV's "Invasion", AMC's "The Terror: Infamy", and Australian films like "Red Dog" and "Paper Planes". His theatre credits include "The Face of Jizo" (Omusubi Production), *Measure for Measure* "The Servant of Two Masters" (Sport for Jove), "The Floating World" (Griffin Theatre Company), Australian tour of "Miss Saigon" and "Sadako and The Thousand Paper Cranes".

CREATIVE



Lighting Designer

Since 2003, Matt has designed numerous theatre productions including; Bangarra Dance Theatre: Waru Journey of the small Turtle, Dubboo, One's Country, OUR Land People Stories, Blak, Belong. for Carriageworks: Lake Disappointment. for Ensemble: A Christmas Carol, Boxing Day BBQ, A View From the Bridge, A Broadcast Coup, The Caretaker, Nearer the Gods, Diplomacy, Murder on the Wireless. for Marrugeku: Burrbgaja Yalirra, Burrbgaja Yalirra 2. for Monkey Baa: Edward the Emu, Possum Magic, The Unknown Soldier, Diary of a Wombat. for Soft Tread: Wharf Revue 2023 Pride in Prejudice, Wharf Revue 2022 Looking for Albanese, Wharf Revue 2021 Can of Worms. for Sydney Theatre Company: Wharf Revue 2020, Wharf Revue 2019, Wharf Revue 2018, Ruby Moon. for William Zappa: The Iliad Out Loud. for Tinderbox Productions: David Suchet, Poirot and More. for Louise Withers and Associates: The Mousetrap, and A Murder is Announced. for Company B: The Seed for Sport for Jove: The Libertine, Othello, Antigone, The River at the end of the Road, The Tempest. for Red Line Productions: This Much is True, A View From the Bridge.



Me-Lee Hay

Music Composer

Me-Lee Hay composes for film, TV, dance and theatre. A Chinese-Malaysian-Australian, she has had works shown across many platforms including Netflix, commercial TV channels, mainstream cinemas and planetariums.

Me-Lee has been commissioned by Australia's leading arts companies such as Sydney Dance Company's PPY & Sydney Theatre Company for White Pearl as well as Guards at the Taj (4 ½ stars in Sydney Morning Herald) produced by National Theatre of Parramatta. She recently returned from performing and composing for the 5 star Guardian reviewed theatre show Things Hidden Since the Foundation of World season at Edinburgh Fringe Festival co-produced by Javaad Alipoor Company and National Theatre of Parramatta. Pertinent screen credits include co-composer for feature film A Second Chance Rivals! (Netflix top ten children's category in June 2021 release) and the SBSOne cooking show series Luke Nguyen. She recently scored the USA produced documentary Finding Her Beat which opened California's prestigious Mill Valley Film Festival and screened at DOC NY in New York among 30 or so other screenings. Classically trained in piano and cello, Me-Lee is a graduate of the Australian Film Television & Radio School (AFTRS), is an Associate Composer Representative of the Australian Music Centre and is the Vice President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers. She is published by Gaga music

PRODUCTION TEAM

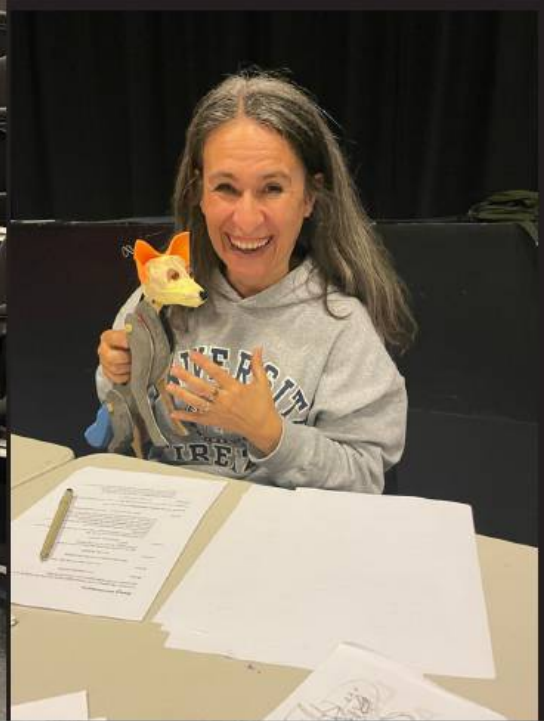
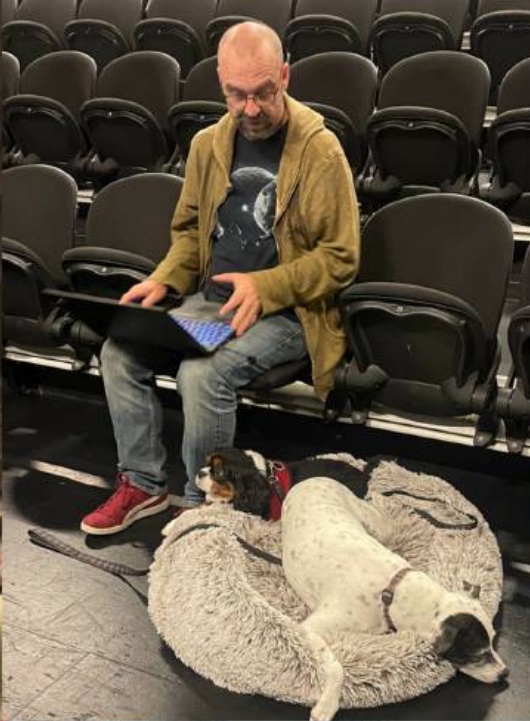


Mia Kanzaki

Stage Manager

Gaby is a Media and Arts student at UNSW, majoring in Theatre and Performance Studies. She has a diverse background as a director, dance teacher, and theatre technician, contributing to various schools and performance spaces. This year has been busy for Gaby, as she had stage managed 'Prickly Love' with NUTS, technically directed and Assistant directed/Choreographed "Legally Blonde" with UTS Backstage, Directed "Drunk Shakespeare: Macbeth" with NUTS as well as having acted in NUTS' "Whose Play is it anyway". She's so excited to be working on such a fun show and taking her first big leap into the world outside student theatre!







*OMUSUBI IS A JAPANESE SOUL FOOD THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH GOOD FORTUNE.
OMUSUBI PRODUCTIONS CONNECTS PEOPLE THROUGH CULTURALLY RICH STORIES THAT BYPASS LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND ENRICH THE WORLD'S SPIRIT.*

GET IN TOUCH



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