

About [Encounter of the Asian spirits ~All folks gather one~]

Minna-no-Shirushi LLC has started since 2012, based in Ofunato City in Iwate.

We have been working to reconstruct the disaster area by means of Culture and Arts.

"Encounter of the Asian spirits ~All folks gather one~" is a project based on theatrical performances: We have been working out since 2013 by cooperating with a lot of artists inside/outside Japan.

At last, this project was adopted as the Agency for Cultural Affairs commissioned business; the work of the Strategic Program in Creating and Promoting Arts and Culture in 2019.



アジア
神々の系譜

Encounter of the Asian spirits
~All folks gather one~

"*Raiho-shir*, ritual visits of deities in masks and costumes" was designated as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2018 such as *Namahage* (Oga City in Akita) or *Suneka* (Ofunato City in Iwate) though, prior to this, Sanriku area has been said as a treasure house of traditional performing arts and it's unlikely any other in the world. There are over 2,000 only along the coast of Sanriku area.

Traditional performing arts in Sanriku have been the element in the area to keep communities and people connect for a long time, with an aim of praying or reposing of souls.

In "Encounter of the Asian spirits ~All folks gather one~" project, we focus on the traditional performing arts which we recognize as important cultural heritage, and set up resonance by putting the essences into theatrical performances.

In this year, we create 3 theatrical performing works; 2 musicals originated from each regions (works based in Iwate and in Miyagi) and an international work cooperated with an artist who's been living in the disaster area oversea (a work based in Indonesia).

We will participate in "Beyond 2020", the Cultural Program of Olympics and Paralympics in 2020.

Moreover, after 2020, we will inherit the works for next generations as cultural asset in the area, provide the works continuously as contents to increase exchange population in Sanriku and settlers, and develop a new way of "reconstruct tourism" by using them.

Our aim is grow a symbiotic relationship between community and arts; we will try to beyond "arts for appreciating".

Work overviews

Program A : a work based in Iwate

A musical 【Inochi-tendenko】 ca. 60 minutes

This is a musical about people in Kesen region who's got to escape from the Great East Japan Earthquake. The premiere showing was in 2013, after that, it has told "messages about LIFE" to many children; a cumulative total of 20,000 junior high/high school students, mostly in Kanto area, has seen the musical in the school program of communing with Arts until now.

In this project, people in Sanriku are appointed as the cast, in order to make the story more realistic. With beautiful music, dancing and pictures, it will lead you to remember the disaster and to deeply think about the significant to hold traditional performing arts festivals in the community.

Program B : a work based in Miyagi

【Shishiodori Umi wo Wataru -Kokoro shizuka-ni asobe tomodachi-】 ca. 60 minutes

With laughter and tears! This is a success comedy based on a Local Lore in Minami-Sanriku, a place where *Shishi-Odori* : a Lion Dance, had first started.

Although there are so many traditional performing arts in Sanriku, *Shishi-Odori* has particularly unique features. Every dancer plays multiple roles; everyone puts on an animal-imitated mask called Kashira, dances and play drums. We approaches the origin of it in the story.

This is an extremely thrilling and delightful musical by describing people who survived in their own strength without being discouraged by adversity in Sanriku, where singing and dancing are still alive.

Program C : a work based in Indonesia

【 Asian Tiger 】 ca. 40 minutes

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Japan. We create a mask-dancing work cooperating with Indonesian National University of Fine Arts in Yogyakarta.

Working with Miroto Martinus, a professor of the University and also known as a choreographer and a director worldwide, we provide vivid spectacles in the work.

Event information

"Encounter of the Asian spirits ~All folks gather one~" 3 works all at once!

-March 10 (Sun.) Public performance/open12:30 start13:00/Fee ¥2,000

-March 9 (Sat.) Dress rehearsal/open17:45 start18:00/Fee ¥500

Place/Lias Hall:Citizens Cultural Center of Ofunato City

Address/ 18-1,Aza-shimotateshita, Sakari-Town, Ofunato-City, Iwate

Tel/0192-26-4478

【 Message from Minna-no-Shirushi LLC : executive director and producer/Jujiro MAEGAWA】

I was assigned as a governmental interview member to research about the disaster area in April, 2012. I got important messages there and started "Minna-no-shirushi" in October 2012 in Ofunato city in Iwate, because I came to think about the necessity to pass the messages for future generations.

Recklessly I asked to borrow the Funds to a credit union in the region to create theatrical arts about it, and hopefully and miraculously, with great help of them and a little capital of mine, this year is the 6th anniversary of the founding our company. Up to the present, we have been working spontaneously having an aim to restore the disaster area.

However, looking back the past few years, I began to feel strongly that the most important thing in rural/local area is to get "leaders" to connect culture and economy.

When the youth is active, the region becomes brighter. Developing human resources can change the future of the region. I consider that it is the most important to arrange the environment to develop them. I regard "Encounter of the Asian spirits ~All folks gather one~" project as permanently developable businesses to make up "Ba": an environment, a place, or atmosphere, to make everyone interested in their work positively and continuously.

Also, strong connections with people are still there on the coast of Sanriku, which many of Japanese has already forgotten. If we try to get a clue to the community regeneration, the present society is now seeking for, I believe that it would be the best way to visit Sanriku.

Although only major arts organizations had been selected in the past, our project was adopted as the Agency for Cultural Affairs commissioned business; the work of the Strategic Program in Creating and Promoting Arts and Culture in 2019. Considering the reason of it, it is simply that this project can be "messages for reconstruction", sending from Sanriku to the world.

As a trigger in Performing at the Olympiad in 2020, we will spread the charms of Sanriku and gather audiences all over the world.

We kindly asked for your continuous support. Thank you.

Minna-no-Shirushi LLC/executive director and producer
Jujiro MAEGAWA

Profile

Jujiro MAEGAWA

Born in Fukui in 1965.

A stage director, a record producer, a director of Sanriku International festival, a cooperation researcher in Tokyo University(2012-2014), a commissioned interviewer of National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience(2012)

Since 1987, he started his career as a musician belonging Four-Life Records and published a lot of music. In 2002, he set up a performance organization named "Mi-kuni".

Working on directing, creating music, and writing scripts, his unique works combined with body and voice were highly evaluated. In 2010, he moved to Germany as a stage director by getting support of Artist In Residence of Berlin Municipal Theater. During his career in Germany, he watched television pictures of the Great East Japan Earthquake and decided to go back to Japan.

He returned in Japan in April 2012, and worked as a cooperation researcher in Tokyo University and also as a commissioned interviewer of National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience and interviewed victims around the coast of Sanriku.

Being based on oral evidences of them, he created a musical named "Inochi-tendenko". A cumulative total of 20,000 high school student has seen the musical until now.

He established Minna-no-shirushi LLC for the aim to spread Sanriku Culture, and now he settles in Ofunato city and is arranging cultural programs crossing on the coast in Sanriku.