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(Left) TOKYO MON AMOUR 2002/ 20min (Right) Yuka Toshima/ She started a short video series in the "HELENA" project, started independently in 2001. Along with her activities as a short film auteur, she also acts as a performing musician in the Noh plays. Currently resides in Paris.

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Noh play in Paris, the world of Yuka Toyoshima

Stories of Noh transformed into contemporary visual works

Yuka Toshima is an image creator living in Paris, who has revived the typical classic Noh plays such as "Matsukaze" and "Sumidagawa" in the world of images, with an independent aesthetic feeling. She started with the project "HELENA" in 2001 with this doubt in mind, and has spun a new story from there onwards. Her aim was not merely the adaptation of the original, but rather, to convert the elements of the original play to fit the present age, and to invent a new story from it through abstraction. In the project that continued till 2004, "TOKYO MON AMOUR" (2002) derived from "Matsukaze" was produced and this film shot by her in Tokyo before her second visit to France, is her maiden video venture.

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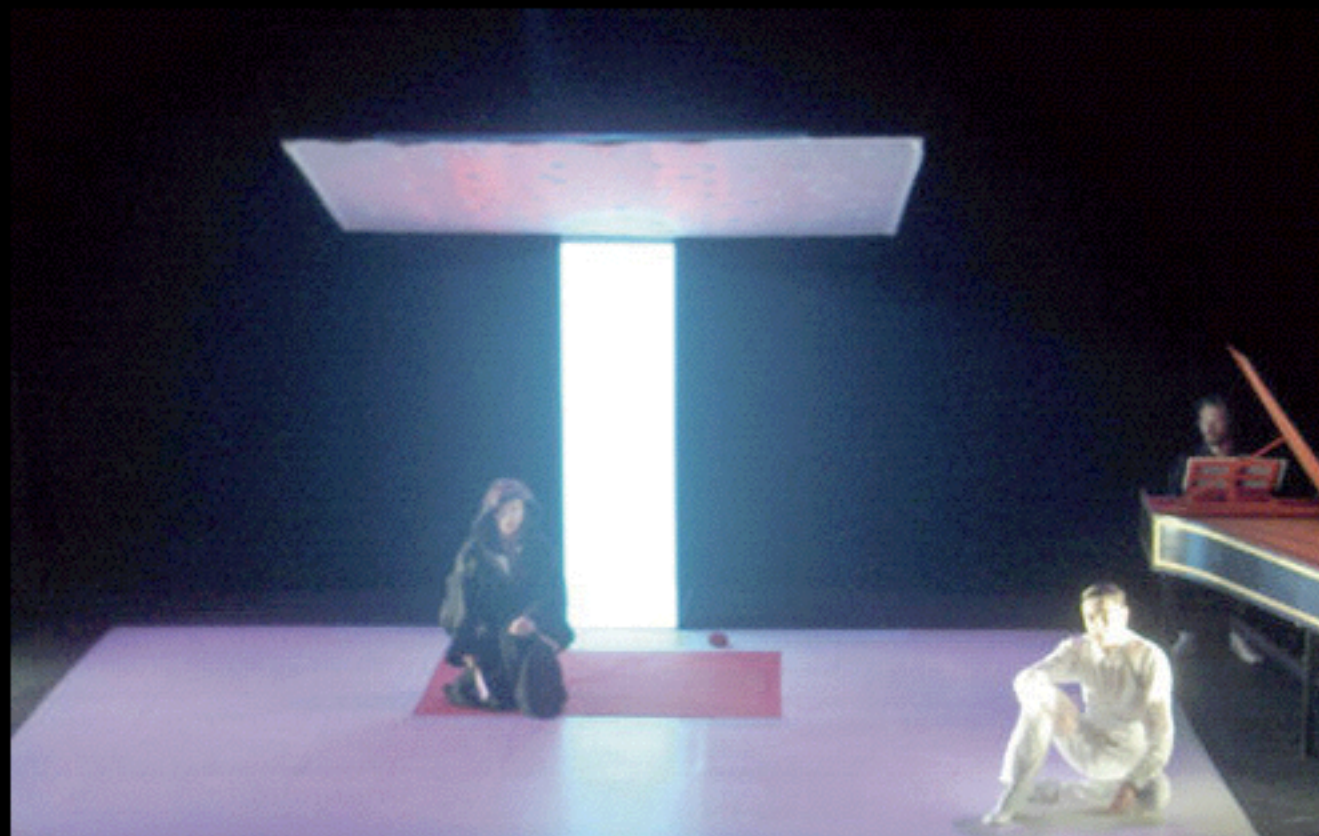
She created 2 Japanese masterpieces, "Vita Nova" ('03) and "Interfuit" ('04). The former is based on <<Yang-gui fe>>, the classic Noh while the latter was derived from a Japanese tragedy "Sumida River". Both these masterpieces portray human beauty, grief, evanescence and strength of through dancer's vivacious movements and fine camera work. Captivated with Noh from an early stage she learned from Isso You Nisshi (Head of 14th century Isso style school) since 8 yrs of age and Kou Isumi (Shite:chief character - Kanze style) from 16 yrs of age. She says "From an early stage I wanted to transform the mystic involved in stories, God, Nature into concrete" In 2004, she performed "S", based on <<Shofu>>in the Paris-Japan cultural center.



(above)Vita Nova2003/20min

(below)Interfuit2004/20min

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Camelia2005-2006/Compagnie des Lucioles

She reconstructed "Dream Noh" in the contemporary style where she carried out a fusion of stage scenes and videos. In 2005-2006 with collaboration with Compagnie des Lucioles she gave a well-known theatrical production <<Camelia>>. The Compagnie des Lucioles, is a drama group inspired by the Noh and is not only actively involved in creating such masterpieces, but also participates in French performance tours and conducts Noh dramas. After creating a trilogy of HELENA in 2006 she started a new project "Portrait". She says "through HELENA, where we call upon the characters from Noh into the present world, I want the next part of this trilogy be the exact opposite, and depict a small history of every single contemporary man."

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A story of its own

"One can catch a whole life of an individual in a flash through camera." The people she has already photographed include the artist Didier Serplet and corporate executive Jean-Pierre Kerjouan. In a 20 min short-film, she has portrayed her unique insight. She is presently engaged on working with a renowned French actor Lou Castel. "The first shooting was 5 years ago when I hardly knew what photographing was all about, nor did I know who Lou was. But his overwhelming presence was obvious through the lens. I wish to devote myself and continue shooting his daily life and work continuously. I may finish this up with very few comments." A story originating from Noh, and an image cultivating modern views. The Yuka Toyoshima story has only just begun.

(Up) PINPIN LE LAPIN Dit "Gris * Gris" Didier Serplet 2006/23 min,

(centre) AREAO-hag-ARZAM! Debout et tenons! Jean-Pierre Kerjouan 2007/23 min,

(Down) Lou Castel during a photo shoot.