

Kamishibai: Paper Theatre Performance

UK/Ireland Tour 19 to 23 September 2008

Dublin/Liverpool/Manchester/London

These are the first ever Kamishibai performances and workshops in the UK and Ireland. Yushi Yasuno, nick-named "Yasun", who has been dedicated to Kamishibai for 40 years, and his young assistant Yumi Yasuno nicknamed "Chaka-maru" will perform various Kamishibai works including "Golden Bat" and an episode by the most celebrated Manga writer Osamu Tezuka whose works include "Astro Boy". Yasuno will also demonstrate how to make Kamishibai, and encourage audiences to try out their own.

Kamishibai or paper theatre performance, considered a prototype of Japanese animation, was very popular as a form of street entertainment in Japan, and was seen everywhere on the streets in Japan until late 1960's. Children rushed outside to view Kamishibai shows on hearing the sounds of clappers or drums beaten by Kamishibai performers, who brought a wooden frame and picture cards on an old bicycle. Kamishibai performers also sold sweets to kids. Around 1950, when Kamishibai began to decline due to the growing popularity of TV, many characters and certain forms of expression found in Kamishibai have been transformed into Manga.

Even though Kamishibai performers have disappeared from the streets, it continues to entertain at schools and day-care centres. Today, Kamishibai, a cultural asset invented in Japan, is being introduced throughout Southeast Asia, Europe and North America.

- **Friday 19 September:** Chester Beatty Library, Dublin 6 pm (free) <www.cbl.ie>
- **Saturday 20 September:** Urbis, Manchester Performance 2 pm – 2.30 pm (free); workshop 2.45pm - 3.45pm (£3) <www.urbis.org.uk>
- **Sunday 21 September:** Liverpool Biennial 08 'Rockscape' by Atelier Bow Wow 12pm/2:15pm (Free), 95-99 Renshaw Street, Liverpool, L1 2SP <www.biennial.com>
- **Monday 22 September:** Japan Foundation Language Centre, London
Workshop for Japanese language teachers <www.jpf.org.uk/language/index.php>
- **Tuesday 23 September:** Barbican Centre, London 5:30pm Garden Room, as part of "Osamu Tezuka Movie into Manga" Season (18–24 Sept) Tickets: £8.50 full price/£6 members & concessions <www.babican.org.uk/film>

Introduction and interview by Helen McCarthy and Paul Gravett

Kamishibai Production Team

Kyoto International Manga Museum <www.kyotomm.jp>

Paul Gravett: Journalist/comic historian <www.paulgravett.com/>

Helen McCarthy: Animation critics <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_McCarthy>

Akiko Yanagisawa: Producer

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