



FAIFAI:
ANTON, NEKO, KURI

NOVEMBER 21-23, 2013 8:30 PM
NOVEMBER 24, 2013 7:00 PM

presented by
REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater
California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

FAIFAI: ANTON, NEKO, KURI

Director: Chiharu Shinoda

Cast: Koji Yamazaki, Kinuyo Nogami, Rino Daidoji, Pijin Neji

Dramaturg and Translator of Subtitles: Sebastian Breu

Stage Design: Ayami Sasaki

Video Programmer: Takuma Miyamoto

Video Operation: Shiro Amano

Music Director: Taro Yasuno

Lighting: Nami Nakayama

Sound: Daisuke Hoshino

Costume Designer: Kyoko Fujitani

Technical manager: Megumi Sato

Tour manager: Olga Irimias

Running Time: 60 minutes with no intermission. The evening also includes a post-performance session with the company, in which the performers respond to audience suggestions or questions, and “re-perform” scenes from the performance.

Presented as part of The Sharon Lund Dance Series. Funded in part with generous support from the Japan Foundation Performing Arts JAPAN program and the U.S./Japan Connection, a partnership between the National Performance Network (NPN) and the Japan Contemporary Dance Network (JCDN). For more information, visit npnweb.org.

Additional support from the Tokyo Arts Council.

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PROGRAM NOTES

FAIFAI is a theater company formed as a collective of specialists from many different artistic approaches. This synergetic mix is the groundwork for our constant search to create something new. With *Anton, Neko, Kuri* we present our latest landmark on this road. This time, it led us beyond the boundaries of genre, language and representation: in daily life we discovered a “realm of signs,” in everyday language we discovered music. The playful anatomy of our current project reflects these discoveries in many different ways. How can you tell a story within an empty, abstract space called “the stage?” How

do we, and how do others perceive reality? How do our bodies express what is going on inside us? These are only a few questions we're trying to answer.

Three names, one cat: *Anton, Neko, Kuri*

Anton, Neko, Kuri was originally created by faifai's director Chiharu Shinoda in April 2009, during a performance series at Komaba Agora Theater, Tokyo. The story is based on autobiographical experiences and follows Anton, a stray cat suffering from leukemia, while documenting events and conversations in its neighborhood. A simple and ordinary story at first sight, this work quickly gained popularity for its aesthetic sensitivity towards common things, as well as for its charismatic depiction of daily life in Japan.

Faifai's first Polyphonic Theater

In 2010, *Anton, Neko, Kuri* was re-mixed in collaboration with composer Yasuno Taro, to create a synthesis between faifai's signature – pop visuals joined with graffiti-like body movements – and Yasuno's unique approach to polyphonic soundscapes. In this work, words and sentences spoken by the performers are cut up, sampled and turned into music, unleashing an audiovisual spectacle that makes new realities gain shape before our eyes. In 2012, this collaboration was taken one step further by implementing English subtitles through a new device provided by game designer Ito Gabin. As the play experiments with language in various ways, its subtitles are not mere "additional information," but deeply integrated into the visual concept, and also sometimes step outside the paradigm of word-to-word translation. This playful approach, together with Yasuno's composition, turned *Anton, Neko, Kuri* into a unique work of its own kind.

Tokyo, March 2012

Sebastian Breu (Dramaturge)

ABOUT FAIFAI

A Tokyo-based theater company, established in 2004. Previously called "koyubichi," the group changed its name to "faifai" in 2008. Since then, they have been active in the vibrant theater scene of Japan's capital, contributing their own unique vision to the field of contemporary performing arts. Faifai's performances are known for their pop aesthetics, their energetic groove, and their experimental style that tries to reach beyond the narrative boundaries of dramatic theater. They depict human relationships in today's complex society with sarcasm and sensitivity, but never without humor. Though being a very young company, their activities have been followed by increasing awareness and

popularity in Tokyo and other cities around the globe. From 2009 onwards, Faifai started its international debut, touring throughout Asia and Europe, where their multilingual piece *My Name is I LOVE YOU* was also awarded the ZKB Patronage Prize at Zürcher Theater Spektakel, Switzerland. As a major representative of Japan's "Trash & Fresh" subculture, the group has been collaborating with international artists from various fields, including architecture, dance, device-art and contemporary music.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES AT REDCAT

December 3

The Orchestra of Futurist Noise Intoners

December 7-8

Studio: Fall 2013

December 10

Charlie Haden's CalArts Liberation Music Orchestra

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