



POPUK TEAROOM



# POPUP TEAROOM

BY YUMI UMIUMARE

## PopUp Tearoom Series

Tea ceremonies, installation and dance performance

The PopUp Tearoom Series is a 1-5 hour performance installation. Audiences are invited to come and go throughout the session. Pop up performances in Yumi's unique fusion of Butoh, physical theatre and spoken word alternate with serving tea to audience through the traditional and contemporary tea ceremonies.

PopUp Tearoom draws inspiration from two key aspects of traditional Japanese tearooms and tea ceremony, being 'Su' (bare) and 'Ma' (active pause).

The traditional Japanese tea-ceremony room has a small door under which people have to bow to enter and exit. This symbolises the fact that all people are born from, and return to, the same place, and inside the room, all were equal. Even samurai of the medieval period had to leave their sword behind to participate in the ceremony, stripping back the experience to the bare essence of being and soul.

As long ago as the 16th century, tearooms were created in war zones, with the tea ceremony functioning to relieve emotional stress and restore social order. The deep sense of presence and silence afforded by the Tearoom offers participants time to pause and reflect.

The PopUp Tearoom is adaptable in its setting and duration.

## 1. PopUp Tearoom: INDOOR space

(e.g. Gallery, Theatre, Foyer, Community hall)

PopUp Tearoom can be created in indoor space; gallery space, alternative performance space, accompanied by a site-specific installation which the audience can interact with (see video example). The installation will be created as fusion between traditional and contemporary tearoom space, with digital projection. The audiences are invited to come and go, or stay throughout the performance and tea ceremonies.

When the space is not activated with tea ceremony and performance, visitors can also sit in the PopUp Tearoom, viewing digital projection and visual installation as an exhibition.

There is the potential for indoor PopUp Tearoom to be created in any discrete room or space-within-a-space supported by lighting and installation.

## 2. PopUp Tearoom: OUTDOOR space

Contemporary PopUp Tearoom can be placed outdoors; gardens, street lanes, outdoor venues, even the middle of the city. Visitors to PopUp Tearoom are invited to harness the simple rituals of tea ceremony in silence and share conversations and interactions in the open air. The deep sense of presence and silence initially afforded by the space will facilitate time to pause and reflect, counterbalancing noise and distraction to create unique space through public interaction. Tea ceremonies are combined with intimate dance performances between 1min to 10min, which can be sacred to profane and absurd to surreal rituals.

## Tech Specifications

- > Space size minimum of 6m square room, with option of natural light or black box
- > Tearoom 2m x 2.3m x height 2.3m
- > Basic Lights with colours (min 6 channels)
- > PA with 4 Speakers
- > 3 video projectors (indoors only)
- > 1-2 days setting up with technical rehearsals
- > 1 x AV technician, 1 x operator, 1 x Stage manager
- > Dressing room
- > Hot water and washing basin for making tea

## TOURING PARTY

- > Max 2 Performers, 1 Media artist, 1 Producer
- > With extra lead time, local performers could be workshopped and involved in performance.

## Link to Video

[vimeo.com/161783738](https://vimeo.com/161783738)

## PopUp Tearoom Series

[www.yumi.com.au/in-development/popup-tearoom-series](http://www.yumi.com.au/in-development/popup-tearoom-series)

## PopUp Tearoom Series REVIEWS

*"..welcome retreat from the relative chaos of the evening, with a beautiful fortune - telling element that almost brought me to tears."* – Theatre People online magazine

*"Hiddenness was not an issue in Yumi Umiuare's PopUp Tearoom Series, which subverted the famous calm and precision of the tea ceremony... mixed in convulsive movement and muzak"* – The Age







## Yumi Umiutare

Born in Hyogo, Japan, Yumi is an established Butoh Dancer and choreographer from Australia. She has been creating her distinctive style of works over the last 25 years and her works are renowned for provoking visceral emotions and cultural identities. Yumi's works have been seen in numerous festivals in dance, theatre and film productions throughout Australia, Japan, Europe, New Zealand, South East Asia and South America, and have received critical acclaim and garnered several Australian Green Room awards. Her own major productions credits include DasSHOKU Butoh cabaret series (1999-2014), EnTrance (2009-2012) and recent PopUp Tearoom series.

As a choreographer, Yumi has worked with many socially engaged theatre projects in Australia with Aboriginal communities (BighArt and Marrugeku), refugee communities (Asylum Seekers Resource Centre), culturally diverse people (Brunswick Women's Theatre), and artists with and without disability (Weave Movement Theatre). Most recently, Yumi has choreographed a work for Japan Contemporary Dance Network for their national dance festival.

Yumi is a recipient of a Dance Fellowship from Australian Council for the Arts (2015-16) and the recent winner of the Geoffrey Milne Memorial Award for from Melbourne's Green Room Awards Association for her contribution to Contemporary and Experimental Performance.

## Touring history

**DasSHOKU SHAKE!** : A Butoh Cabaret show  
Mildura Festival (2015)  
Japan tour Tokyo and Osaka (2014)  
Darwin Festival (2013)

**ZeroZero:** A duo dance work with Tony Yap & Matthew Gingold  
Melbourne International Arts Festival (2014)  
Colombia at Teatro Mayor, Bogata (2013)  
Melaka Festival (2010)  
Indonesia Arts Island Festival (2010)

**EnTrance:** Multimedia solo dance work  
Australian tour 2009-12(Sydney, Canberra, Lismore, Adelaide  
OzAsia Festival)

**Sakasama:** Multimedia solo dance work  
Hong Kong 2009

## Reviews

*"...a mystical collision of butoh and theatre."*  
- The AGE, **EnTrance**

*"EnTrance opens heart, body and soul to the transformations that direct the human spirit."*  
- Canberra Times, **EnTrance**

*"Umiutare gives our city an extraordinary, hilarious and actually beautiful gift."*  
- The AGE, **DasSHOKU SHAKE!**

*"..[Umiutare] possesses the ability to make their extreme bodies disappear and transform into Butoh power. Or to make the earth disappear. "*  
- Information, Copenhagen, **INORI-in-visible**

## Contact

Kath Papas  
Creative Producer, Kath Papas Productions

T +61 422 570 837 | E kp@kathpapas.net  
I W kathpapas.net

