

NINJA BALLET

2019-2020
Press Kit

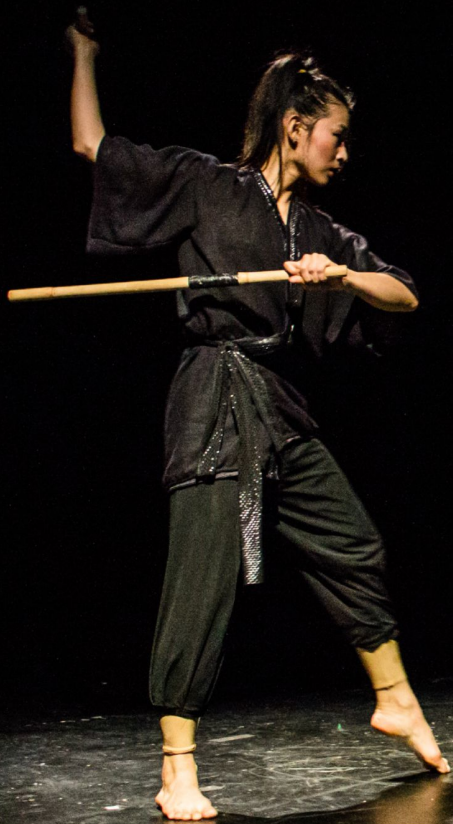


NINJABALLET

Shoko Tamai, Artistic Director

www.ninjaballet.com

@ninjaballet



SHOKO TAMAI

Artistic Director/Choreographer

Shoko Tamai has performed in leading venues and dance companies around the world, including the Royal Opera House in London, Lincoln Center, and Jacob's Pillow. She received the Solo Seal award from the Royal Academy of Dance in London and was a finalist in the World Ballet Competition. She began her studies in martial arts with Jamie HJ Guan, from the Beijing Opera, and she has performed with Dance Theatre of Harlem, with Cirque du Soleil at its inception, and with her own company, Ninja Ballet. Shoko Tamai has been endorsed by world leading artists, including the late Arthur Mitchell, Founder of Dance Theatre of Harlem, Keith Saunders (Artistic Director, Dance Theatre of Harlem Touring Company), Guy Laliberté, founder of Cirque du Soleil and Abdel Salaam, choreographer at Forces of Nature Dance Theatre.

In addition to teaching ballet and other styles of dance from ages 2-86, Shoko teaches her own unique practice called "Cosmic Dance Healing," which involves exchanging negative energy to positive energy via movement and mind-body awareness. Her regular classes at the Montauk Salt Cave, Cosmic Arts in Brooklyn, The Chapel of Sacred Mirrors (CoSM) and the Brooklyn Academy of Music satisfy her "sincerest intention to use dance to help heal the world."

"Shoko's performances have been awe-inspiring things of beauty that promote harmony and a richness, not only to the dance community, but also to the immediate world around her."

- Dino Stamatopoulos, Starburns Industries

"She brings life and a strong sense of self.. Her choreography is innovative and harmoniously her own."

- Larry Ellis, Acting Coach

"A dedicated dance artist who has devoted her talent to the idea and practice of inspiring positivity in the world. - Keith Saunders, Dance Theatre of Harlem



Ninja Ballet Dance Company's mission is to create a performing arts collective that can show the world how dance sustains the self while enriching the quality of life; To create and experiment with new movement in Ballet, Martial Arts, and Circus; To join East with West, combining energy without losing identity; and To establish The School of Ninja Ballet, and pass on knowledge of Ninja Ballet Arts!

Shoko Tamai and Ninja Ballet have performed at Jazz Lincoln Center, Alvin Ailey Citigroup, Mark Morris Dance Group, the Tenri Cultural Institute, Kings Theatre in Brooklyn, Unorthodox, The Tank NYC, Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, Queens Theatre, Plaxall Gallery, City Tech Theater, Arts on Site, Absurd Conclave, and The Secret Theatre, as well as internationally in Koh Phangan, Thailand; St. Petersburg, Russia; Barbados; Oaxaca, Mexico; and Edinburgh, Scotland.

Ninja Ballet will present work at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe as part of the 77th International Choreographer's Showcase and has previously participated in the APAP Booking Dance Festival, "Collective Thread" with ModArts Dance Collective, the Chinese-American Singing Contest with Hanbo Liu, KoDaFe in NYC with iKADA Contemporary Dance, the New York Chinese Dance Festival, "Borrowed Light" at Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, Salon Series #63 with Sachiyo Ito Dance Company, Dance Brooklyn with Purelements Dance Company, Open Studios with Bushwick Arts Collective, WEPAfest in Williamsburg, "Miracles" by Marla Mesa at White Eagle Hall, AMATERASU at Theater for the New City, and the annual Chashama Gala event.

Shoko Tamai has been nominated for a New York Innovative Theater Award in 2019 for Outstanding Choreography for her work in "The Tempest" at The Plaxall Gallery. She has choreographed and performed for Surati Indian Dance Company, Belly Queen, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, multiple worldwide productions with Sahr Ngaujah, World Jazz Dance Company, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. In 2011, she produced the solo benefit fundraiser "Unlimited" for victims of the deadly typhoon in Japan.

DANCING SHIVA

Concept, Direction, & Choreography - Shoko Tamai
Martial Arts Choreography - Jamie Guan, Tony Ortiz
Music - Dancing Shiva by DIANA
Costume - Christina Giannini
Prop Design - Shoko Tamai/Tony Ortiz
Premiered in Koh Phangan, Thailand 2016

Shiva Nataraja, Lord of Dance, creator, preserver, and destroyer
of the universe. Martial arts staff with classical ballet.





SHAKTI

Choreography - Shoko Tamai

Martial Arts Choreography - Tony Ortiz

Lighting - Ayumu Poe Saegusa

Costume - Christina Giannini

Dancers - Darby Fulcher, Sydney Ruf-Wong, Kirsten Rene Reynolds, Kelly Vaghenas, Desiree Vignon-Vega, Sammy Goold, Jee Heng-Liao, Ari Mayzick

Premiered May 25 2019 at The Secret Theatre

Eight empty people undergo a kundalini awakening, enabling them to clear their third eye and experience Shakti, Divine Energy, giving them a renewed sense of purpose. Contemporary dance with martial arts.



CUBICLE

Choreography - Shoko Tamai

Composer - Will Catanzaro

Lighting - Ayumu Poe Saegusa

Costume - Christina Giannini

Dancers - Kelly Vaghenas, Darby Fulcher, Sydney Ruf-Wong

Premiered May 25 2019 at The Secret Theatre

Empty people do work in an office, stuck in a karmic cycle that traps them in their everyday lives. Ballet and Contemporary.



UNITY

Choreography - Shoko Tamai

Lighting - Aren Carpenter

Set Design - Pedro Cuni/Eddie Vega

Costume - Christina Giannini

Musicians - Will Catanzaro, Michael Joseph Burdi, Alfonso Alexander, Edwin Rodriguez, Kento Iwasaki Watanabe, Vladimir Deman

Dancers - Rezy Pardito, Kirsten Rene Reynolds, Nellie Licul, Maija Rutkovska, Pan Yu, Sam Robbins, Matthew O'Hara, Tony Ortiz, Edward Reyes, Shoko Tamai

Premiere June 28 2018 at The Secret Theatre.

The people celebrate the power of forgiveness and form a living mandala for everyone to live in the negative space. Contemporary dance and martial arts, with live musical accompaniment.



STEP BY STEP

Choreography - Shoko Tamai/Tony Ortiz

Music - Step by Step/Symphonic Techno by Ionel Petroi

Lighting - Ayumu Poe Saegusa

Costume - Christina Giannini

Premiered May 25 2019 at The Secret Theatre

Two ancient spirits reverse the Time Wheel in order to relive their most legendary battle. Classical Ballet with Eskrima.





UNLIMITED

Producer, Director, Choreographer - Shoko Tamai

Music - Shoko Tamai

Theatre Manager - E. Mesiyah McGinnis

Premiered at HSA Theatre March 2009.

Fundraiser for Tsunami victims in Japan.

Contemporary Ballet, Asian and Latin dance.

FREEDOM

Choreography - Shoko Tamai

Composer - William Catanzaro

Lighting - Ayumu Poe Saegusa

Costume - Christina Giannini

Premiered May 25 2019 at The Secret Theatre

A young woman breaks down when she discovers a red parrot, white lion, and gold fish all trapped in cages, unable to roam freely like her.





GALAXY SEED

Choreography - Shoko Tamai

Martial Arts Choreography - Tony Ortiz

Music - Gather by V-Zone

Costume - Christina Giannini

Lighting - Ayumu Poe Saegusa

Premiered at Arts on Site, September 15 2018

Two celestial entities collide in deep space, planting the Galaxy Seed in themselves for the future. Contemporary dance and martial arts.



BARDO

Choreography: Shoko Tamai/Tony Ortiz
Music: Michael Joseph Burdi/Shoko Tamai
Lighting: Aren Carpenter
Costume: Christina Giannini
Premiered June 28 2018 at The Secret Theatre

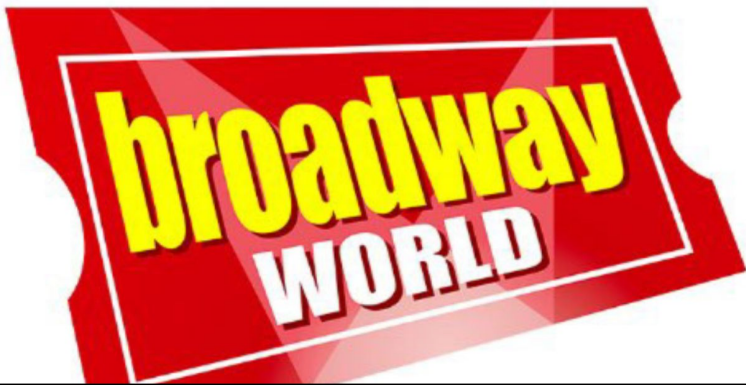
Subaru, a female ninja on the run, cannot escape from Scorpion, a man eager to take his revenge on a descendant of the rival clan that murdered his parents.

"But the real coup de grace is the riveting clash between Subaru and Scorpion. The two martial arts experts perform chanbara (sword fighting) with such a level of exceptional skill and artistry, it's as if a scene from Kill Bill, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, any of the Japanese samurai films or even combat anime episodes had come to life, only there are no edits, cutaways or special effects, just years of training and exceptional talent performed within inches of their lives in the intimate space." - BroadwayWorld



THE
DANCE
ENTHUSIAST

“Shoko Tamai is the ringleader of NINJA BALLET!” – Sammi Lim, Dance Enthusiast Asks



“...a whole new genre full of opportunity for dramatic expression could open up for the multi-talented creative team and performers who comprised Ninja Ballet.”
– Cindy Sibilsky, BroadwayWorld



“Ninja Ballet Dance Company fuses classical ballet with traditional martial arts, creating an immersive and interactive dance theatre performance with original music, special effects and fight choreography.” – Dance/NYC



“Cross Swan Lake with The Matrix and you’ve got Ninja Ballet.” – Eva Kis, Metro US



“Shoko Tamai fuses martial arts, classical dance, Japanese philosophy, and Mayan mythology.”
– TimeOut

SPMfi, Inc. NinjaMame



Asahi

Thank you to our sponsors!

General Information

Ninja Ballet Dance Company
244 5th ave. #V237 2nd fl.
New York, NY 10001
www.ninjaballet.com

Contact Information

Shoko Tamai - Artistic Director
shokotamai@gmail.com
Edward Reyes - Associate Director
edward.reyes@live.com
Adria Rolnik - Publicist
adria.rolnik@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Nathan Leonard
Steve Globus
Joaquin Clausell
Alfonso Alexander
Sammy Chan

Advisory Committee

Yumi Fukasawa
Keith Saunders
Abdel Salaam
Fadi J. Khoury
Christopher Pelham

Photography by Thomas Wilson, John Fleming, Kyunguk Kim

NINJABALLET
Summer 2018 Season

The Secret Theatre
4402 23rd street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Thursday June 28 7:30PM
Friday June 29 7:30PM
Saturday June 30 2:30PM & 7:30PM
Sunday July 1 7:30PM



DECEMBER 8 .2017

AN IMMERSIVE THEATRE EXPERIENCE
SHOKO TAMAI DANCE COMPANY
presents

NINJABALLET

with special guests
Phillip Baldwin William Catanzaro
Media Production Artist Creative Director / Choreographer

UNARTHODOX
547 W 27th St #300
DOOR OPENS @ 7:30PM
SHOW AT 8PM

