

Yara Arts Group presents:



# A Hillock

by Watoku Ueno

*June 30, 2020 8:00 pm  
video streaming on YouTube*

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Poetic shadow puppet theatre based on  
"The Earthgod and the Fox"  
by Japanese poet and novelist Kenji Miyazawa

created by **Watoku Ueno**

music: Shu Odamura.

vocal/narration: Christopher Ignacio

puppeteers: Watoku Ueno, Luba Kierkosz

**Kenji Miyazawa (1896-1933)** was poet and author of children's books during the late Taisho era in Japan. He died in 1933 of pneumonia, almost unknown, but later he has transcended the generations to become one of Japan's most read and best loved authors.

**This event was made possible with public funds by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and private funds from the Self Reliance Foundation and the friends of Yara Arts Group.**



## THE ARTISTS:

**CHRISTOPHER IGNACIO (vocals/narration)** is a Filipino-American theatre artist, musician, puppeteer, producer and educator. He has toured nationally and abroad since graduating from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, performing everything from Broadway to Off-Off-Broadway and all the fun in between. He is a Culture Push Fellow for Utopian Practice, and Queens Council on the Arts: Community Engagement Commissioning grantee for his self-produced project *Co-written*, which involves collaborative songwriting with young people of color.

**LUBA KIERKOSZ (puppeteer)** is a full-time librarian and occasional costume designer. She always believed in magic of story telling.

**SHU ODAMURA (music)** was born and raised in Kyoto, Japan. He is a guitarist and composer based in New York City. Shu has released two albums with his groups "Shu Odamura Trio" and "Jazz Triangle 65-77." They have toured in Japan and performed at the venues in New York including Blue Note and Flushing Town Hall. Beside his jazz performances, Shu has appeared on several Off-Broadway musicals and theater shows in New York. As a composer, he has written music for films, chamber ensembles, and Jazz orchestras. Website: [shuodamura.com](http://shuodamura.com)

**WATOKU UENO (director/puppeteer)** is the NY based theatre artist. He has been exploring shadow puppet design for last 10 years. "A Hillock" had to be created as a video work because of Covid -19 situation. Not having normal rehearsal was hard but also an interesting process. His shows include: Grain of Wood, Secret; Brother Ken/Night of Tanabata; Illumination: Gorsch the Cellist; Music in the Wood; Tiger Rising; The Boy Who Drew Cats; On the Wave; and The Curious Case of the Sidewalk Tree. He hopes, after Covid, the theatre world emerges stronger, more creative, and more inspiring. Website: [www.watokuueno.com](http://www.watokuueno.com)

**Special thanks:** Motoko Nakamura, Haruna, Sumire Ueno

**YARA ARTS GROUP** is a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York that creates original theatre pieces. Since 1990 we have created over 37 theatre pieces rooted in the East especially Ukraine, Central Asia, Siberia, and Japan. Since 2010 Yara has produced shadow puppet plays by Watoku Ueno. [.yara@prodigy.net](mailto:yara@prodigy.net); [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)