

2018.11.27

NY Japion Featutred Article 1/31 Edition

Performer: Manatsu Tanaka

2020.01.31

Japanese people who hustle in New York City. The passion, new ideas and the pursue of their dreams truly inspire us. We interviewed those new artists thoughts and passion, and we also heard words from the people who recommended them to us.

-What is your first memory of your performance experience?

When I was three years old, I loved those eagles in circuses and I was “performing” the eagle of my mother pretty much everyday. I saw the Shiki Theater (Japan’s most prominent theater company) and I was inspired and wanted to be on stage too. I joined a musical theater company and I was in Musical Theater productions

-Why did you decide to study abroad?

I grew up in the United States from when I was one to six years old. I love both America and Japan, but I really wanted to seriously train in dance. New York City has opportunities everywhere

-What did you learn in college?

Outside of Ballet, Modern, and Jazz, I had to take lectures such as Dance History, Kinesiology, and other general studies as well. I was minoring in Theater Arts, so I also took Script Analysis, Acting, and Stage Combat classes too. However, when I was a sophomore, I hit the wall, the struggle of “Why am I studying Art?”, and I had a strong desire of “I want to be an Artist, not a student.” And that allowed me to change my perspective. There is this one play by Samuel Beckett that has no lines, no words to it, and since I was also into making very contemporary works, it was a chance for me to start creating and independent project based on this; from writing to choreography to design to everything else

-So you started your own ways of expressing while your time in college?

That experience has really helped me to understand my artistic vision right after graduation. I started dancing late, at the age of 18, and I did had frustration and embarrassment of myself, but I soon realized that there is no reason and no way to compare myself with others, and as long as it fulfills my artistic intension, then it was all fine. Post graduation, I am currently dancing with a dance company, and also doing Acting and Modelling gigs, music videos and being an actor who can move, and being successful as a performer. I really think that the versatility of one’s ability is the way to be successful in this field.

o

-What is your main career as a performer?

I am an immersive theater performer at ZeroSpace. A traditional theater is where the audiences sit in the seats and watch the play happen, but in immersive theaters, the performers and audiences share the experience. It is a four hour show, non-stop talking and moving, and it is a very special moment when we are able to click in to their experiences. Sometimes there are disrespectful audience members that complain directly to us, and those are not fun times.

-When do you feel the most accomplished?

The dance company I belong to had a very collaborative process, and everyone in the cast gave ideas and contributed something to the choreography. Having very different backgrounds and careers, but working together to a singular purpose with an intension was very heart moving and accomplishing. It is a pleasure to me when we are able to create something that could only be done when several people collaborate and not as a solo.

-What are your goals for moving forward?

I really want to be able to inspire something to the young actors I have worked with in Japan. If I can be a person for them that my words, my actions having an impact on them, that will be the best way for me to show gratitude.

Quote from Reference

Artist / Mona Haydar

I love working with Manatsu. She had such a creative spirit and is so open to the movement of true creativity which comes from a higher plane. She's such a joy and a treasure and I know that she is a credit and honor to all of Japan!



2018.11.27



Manatsu Tanaka

BFA Dance Major at SUNY Fredonia .
Class of 2019. Working in the Immersive theater and the Dance field. Also working as an
Actor and a Model.

Instagram: [manatsu.tanaka](https://www.instagram.com/manatsu.tanaka)

2018.11.27

Daily Life of a New Yorker!

What is their daily life like? We asked them what they do at work and on day offs!



A scene from an Immersive Theater Productions, “Pansy Craze”.

It is not an easy job, but it is a very accomplishing.

2018.11.27



Backstage pic with the performers of Hard/Femme Dances Company at the evening length piece "Disco biscuits". The connections with performers from different backgrounds is the key to expand the field of their career.

2018.11.27



On day offs, she goes to the Muse Brooklyn to train Aerial Silks.