



The Devotion of Suspect X – Taiwan Stage Adaptation

2026.3.20 Fri. 19:30

2026.3.21 Sat. 14:30

2026.3.22 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Opera House

Duration is 195 minutes with a 20-minute intermission.



National Kaohsiung
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEIWUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

Love is a riddle, no logic can ever solve.

Story based on | Keigo HIGASINO, *The Devotion of Suspect X*
(published by Bungeishunju Ltd.)

Planning collaboration | Bungeishunju Ltd.

Presenter | StupidBird Studio, udnFunLife Co., LTD., SWSG Co. Ltd.

Synopsis

A body discovered along the riverbank sets off a baffling murder case. The police follow the trail and soon fix their suspicions on the victim's ex-wife, Yasuko HANAOKA, and her daughter, Misato HANAOKA, yet they are unable to piece together what truly happened. Detective Shunpei KUSANAGI, assigned to the case, seeks help from his old friend, Manabu YUKAWA, an associate professor of physics. This unexpected request leads YUKAWA to a fateful reunion with a former university classmate: the reclusive mathematics genius Tetsuya ISHIGAMI.

ISHIGAMI was the only person who ever truly understood YUKAWA during their student days, a man consumed by an almost fanatical devotion to mathematics and a chillingly pure logic. When YUKAWA begins to sense ISHIGAMI's connection to the case, his quiet inquiry gradually strips away layer after layer of deception. To protect Yasuko and her daughter, ISHIGAMI has constructed an elaborate scheme with painstaking precision, staking nothing less than his own future on the outcome.

On the borderland where reason collides with emotion, within the fiendish problem ISHIGAMI has devised, there lies an unknown variable that no formula can capture: the silent, unspoken feeling buried in the deepest reaches of the human heart.

Original Work by Keigo HIGASHINO

Born in Osaka in 1958, he graduated from Osaka Prefecture University with a degree in electrical engineering. While working as an engineer, he wrote fiction on the side, and in 1985 he won the Edogawa Rampo Prize for his novel *After School*.

In 1999, he received the Mystery Writers of Japan Award for *Secret*. In 2006, he was awarded the 134th Naoki Prize for *The Devotion of Suspect X*. The novel also won the Honkaku Mystery Award and ranked first in several annual mystery rankings, including *Weekly Bunshun Mystery Best 10*, *Kono Mystery ga Sugoi!*, and *Honkaku Mystery Best 10* for 2005, and it was nominated for the Edgar Award (presented by the Mystery Writers

of America) in 2012. In the same year, he received the Chūō Kōron Literary Prize for *The Miracles of the Namiya General Store*; in 2013, the Shibata Renzaburō Prize for *Yume Miru Hana (Dream Flower)*; in 2014, the Yoshikawa Eiji Prize for Literature for *When the Prayers End*; the Noma Publishing Culture Award in 2019; and the Kikuchi Kan Prize in 2023. That same year, he was also awarded the Medal with Purple Ribbon.

His many works include *Journey Under the Midnight Sun*, *The Wings of the Kirin*, *The Masked Hotel*, *The Swan and the Bat*, *Seven Days with the Witch*, *Whom Did You Kill?*, and *The Tree of Prayers: A Guardian Heart*, among numerous others. With his wide-ranging creative style, he remains a dominant and exceptionally popular presence in the literary world.

Actors

Tetsuya ISHIGAMI



MO Tzu-yi

Manabu YUKAWA



YEH Wen-hao

Yasuko HANAOKA



MEI Jo-ying

Shunpei KUSANAGI



KAO Ying-hsuan

Misato HANAOKA



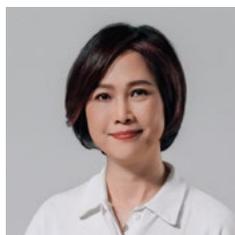
Tannie HUANG

Kuniaki KUDOU



CHOU Ming-yu

Sayoko YONEZAWA



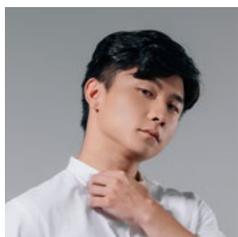
TU Shih-hue

Shinji TOGASHI



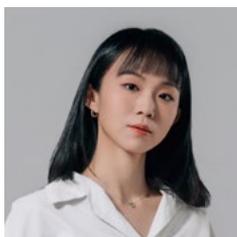
Whyme HSU

Yukio KISHITANI



Martin HSIEH

Sonoko SUGIMURA



HO Kuan-yi

Producer's Note

"What is love?" With this question in mind, I bring to Taiwan's audiences this classic novel that left me stunned and haunted long after turning the final page.

In its story, it's a timeless mystery beloved across nations since its debut. In its performance, a cast of gifted, dedicated actors brings the characters vividly to life on stage. In its production, our team has earned a place among the many global adaptations of this work. And in the market, the sold-out houses in Taipei confirm there's still a clear path forward with our efforts.

I'll keep pushing harder to create more works that leave you eager with anticipation. My thanks to Keigo HIGASHINO for his authorization, to the team's unwavering commitment, and equally to all of you in the audience—those irreplaceable moments of live theater magic are what make it all worthwhile. I hope you savor this production.



Producer | YANG Po-han

Graduate of the Department of Theatre, National Taipei University of the Arts. Currently serves as theatre director/producer and Vice Chairman of the Taipei City Live Performance Backstage Technicians' Professional Union. Previously worked as full-time administrator for Shakespeare's Sisters Theatre Company, TV/film project planner and screenwriter, theatre producer, theatre director, weekend performance curator for a café, and private chef.

Recent Productions: Stupid Bird Studio's *Nobody Wants to Do Homework*, Ministry of Culture's 1st *White Terror Memorial Day* Ceremony Performance, Shakespeare's Wild Sisters' Group *Tayal Spirit Cultural and Creative Theatre*, among others.



Stupid Bird Studio

Established in March 2021, Dumb Bird Studio focuses on theatre performances and film production. We are dedicated to the performing arts, connecting contemporary original stories, and creating works that align with international standards while balancing depth and entertainment. Our renowned stage production is *Nobody Wants to Do Homework*.



udnFunLife Co., LTD

In October 2016, the United Daily News Group consolidated its cultural and creative exhibition and performance businesses to formally establish "United Digital Cultural and Creative Co., Ltd.," committing to the development of Taiwan's cultural and creative industry. Drawing on nearly two decades of experience in art exhibitions, performances, and event curation—combined with ticketing services—the company has recently focused on developing cultural and creative venues, investing in Taiwanese theatre and film/TV IPs, and building a healthy ecosystem for the cultural and creative sector. It brings the world to Taiwan and propels Taiwan onto the international stage. In the metaverse era, it will integrate technology applications and innovative services for pan-cultural and creative experiments and breakthroughs, aiming to usher in a new chapter for cultural innovation, sparking limitless imagination and endless fun for the public, and influencing the world with creativity.



SWSG Co., LTD.

Established in 2014, Shakespeare's Sisters Studio is formed around the core creative team of Taiwan's renowned theatre company "Shakespeare's Sisters Theatre Company." Its members include artists from performing arts, visual arts, graphic and industrial design, multimedia imagery, and more. The studio focuses on theatre as its core, extending into diverse interdisciplinary exhibitions, performances, and experiential designs. In recent years, it has also been dedicated to developing applications of AR augmented reality technology and VR virtual reality in performing arts and creative works.

Director's Note

"Which is harder: posing a problem no one else can solve, or solving that problem yourself?"

Liking someone may be the world's most unsolvable puzzle. It defies logic, cannot be proven, yet people relentlessly try to validate its existence with disproportionate effort. Love itself is an overly vast and ambiguous proposition—the more you seek to clarify it, the easier it is to lose yourself within.

This production starts from that "most unsolvable problem." On stage, the set truck never leaves; its movements and transformations mirror the process of solving a puzzle, step by step approaching the core. Those pauses, misalignments, and gaps evoke the cracks in emotions. The audience witnesses the logic of deduction, while the characters endure the proof of love, left with lingering emptiness in their hearts.

In the world of mystery, deduction and induction oppose yet complement each other. ISHIGAMI tries to prove the world through love, only to reach a dead end of self-sacrifice

in his narrow choices. X is like the path between YUKAWA and ISHIGAMI—intersecting yet diverging.

In the script, though following the novel's path, it instinctively shifts from linear narrative to a woven structure: threads and perspectives entangle and crisscross, finally forming a single rope. In the play, the rope is a prop, a symbol, a bond—it ties relationships and strangles escape, just like ISHIGAMI's no-way-out.

As rehearsals progress, the puzzle grows more complex, the pull deeper; love yearns to be proven yet resists proof, even given time. I keep thinking of Mizoguchi from *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*. Both are crushed by extreme love and beauty, responding only through self-immolation. When a value becomes absolute, one is trapped beyond answers.

In rehearsals chasing love and perfection, we probably just follow this rope downward, winding it with heart, patiently loosening, then admitting at some moment that certain knots needn't be untied—they are the story itself. We can only let these unsolvable tales be illuminated on stage, briefly glimpsed clearly, before returning to our lives among the gears.



Director and Script Adaptation | WU Wei-wei

Graduate of the Graduate Institute of Theatre Arts, National Taipei University of the Arts. Currently engaged in theatre and educational work, dedicated to local development of performing arts and international exchange. Curated the "Not Poor Art Festival" and "Asia Base," collaborating on curatorial projects with cities including Hong Kong, Beijing, Adelaide, Perth, Itoshima, and Rome. Featured in a 2019 London interview for *WOW*. In 2021, co-created "Cloud Theater" with "cloudjoi," establishing Taiwan's first online performance platform.

Recent directorial works include the children's musical *The Great Musicians of Nature*, which premiered simultaneously in five Chinese cities and set a world record for the largest audience sound-tube performance. The fixed program *Walking Through the Yiwei Incident* for the World Masters Games won the Muse Design Award and the London Design Gold Award. The stage adaptation of Dr. Deng Hui-wen's book *In-Marriage Heartbreak* sold out immediately in separate productions in Taipei and Shanghai in 2024. In 2025, the dance theatre *Sole to Soul* received Asian Arts Award Highly Commended for Female Performance, IC Pioneer Award nomination, What the Fringe Best Dance nomination, Fringe Review "Very Good Show," and high recommendation from What the Fringe.

Production Team

Original Story | Keigo HIGASHINO *The Devotion of Suspect X* (Published by Bungeishunju)

Planning Assistance | Bungeishunju Ltd.

Cast | MO Tzu-yi, YEH Wen-hao, MEI Jo-ying, KAO Ying-hsuan (Taipei/Kaohsiung), Wang Ching-Guan (Taichung), Tannie HUANG, CHOU Ming-yu, Whyme HSU, TU Shih-hue, Martin HSIEH, HO Kuan-yi, HSU Chao-tzu (Taichung)

Producer | YANG Po-han

Production Manager | LEE Chiu-hui

Executive Producer | LEE Tsz-wai

Script Adaptation | WU Wei-wei

Script Translation | Huai HUANG

Director | WU Wei-wei

Executive Stage Manager | Huai HUANG

Stage Design | HSIEH Chun-an

Props Coordinator | LIN Yu-quan

Lighting Design | LAI Ke-chu

Costume Design | Jeffy CHEAH

Assistant Costume Design | HUANG Tzu-en

Music Design | JUO Shr-yau

Video Design | WANG Yi-sheng

Assistant Video Design | YU Po-sheng

Soundscape Design | LIU Yu-chieh

Technical Director | LEE Po-han

Lighting Programmer/Supervisor | TSAI Cheng-lin

Hair & Makeup Coordinator | CHEN Yi-fan

Assistant Director | HOU You-jia

Rehearsal Assistant | LIN Siang-ting

Ticketing | CHOU Chang-wei

Stage Crew | LEE Hung-chan, LIN Xin-xuan,

LIN Che-wei, HUNG Hao-guan, PAN Yu-ping,

PAN Pei-yu, HSU Hung-cheng, WU Hao-chen

Lighting Crew | WU I-chen, CHOU I-hsuan,

HUANG Shao-lun, CHIU Li-yu

Sound Crew | LIEN Lo, HSIEH Jin-ran,

HUANG Bao-sen, LIN Chin-wei

Video Operator | LIU Yen-chi

Video Crew | LEE Zhuan

Wardrobe Management | YEN Ting-ju,

CHEN Yi-ting

Hair & Makeup Crew | LU Ching-wen,

LIU Han-lun, CHEN Yung-wei

Small Props Execution | HUANG Xin-yuan

Marketing Director | SU Ting-Ruei (Good Terms Production Co., Ltd.), Yen CHEN (Yen's Enterprise)

Marketing Executive | Eating CHEN

Digital Advertising | FANG Li-An

Advertising Video Production | LIU Yi

Key Visual & Logo Design | YEN Design

Key Visual Photographer | HUANG Huang-chih

Presenters | Stupid Bird Studio, udnFunLife Co., LTD., SWSG Co. Ltd.

Co-organizer (Kaohsiung) | National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying)

Special Thanks | Crown Publishing Co., Ltd., APUJAN, Emma LEI, NOT AT HOME, LI Chi-guan

(Mardy), KAO Chu-lan, CHIU Yun-chi,

LIANG Hao-lan (Together Entertainment),

CHANG I-tsung, KUO I-lin, WEI I-cheng,

LIN Dai-jung, CHANG Wen-hao, Norimitsu INAMI,

Yukako SAJIKI, WANG Hsu-ping

Official Accommodation |

Talmud Hotel Group (Taichung)

Stage Production | Mountain Fun Studio (Mountain Town Production & Design)

Weiwuying Online
Questionnaire

