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**PUPPETEER EXTRAORDINAIRE BASIL TWIST BRINGS THE  
WEST COAST PREMIERE OF DOGUGAESHI TO  
ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE WEDNESDAY–SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6–10**

**[View an exclusive video of the artist talking about the production](#)**

**BERKELEY, October 9, 2013**—[Basil Twist](#), “one of the era’s most audacious puppeteers” (*Washington Post*), brings his award-winning [Dogugaeshi](#) to Cal Performances’ Zellerbach Playhouse for nine performances on Wednesday, November 6, at 8:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, November 7 and 8, at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. The production is an evocative re-imagining of traditional Japanese puppet theater staging techniques with music composed and performed by master *shamisen* player [Yumiko Tanaka](#). The word *dogugaeshi* refers to the drawing back of a series of decorative screens. In Twist’s take on this ancient stage mechanism, video projection, painting, and puppetry are combined to produce a meditative and visually striking hour-long performance. The work, commissioned by the Japan Society in New York in 2005, is presented on an intricate set which accommodates only 140 patrons per performance adding to the production’s intimacy. “There is something about that very simple magic [of puppetry] that we are increasingly hungry for,” said Twist. “We want that experience; it is who we are.”

Born in San Francisco, Basil Twist began creating puppets at a young age as his grandfather and mother were both puppeteers. While he is often referred to as a director or choreographer, Twist introduces himself simply as a puppeteer. He has lived in New York for the past two decades, creating unusual and innovative theater works such as *Symphonie Fantastique*, which is performed entirely underwater. Twist has received an Obie and two Bessie awards as well as Guggenheim and United States Artists fellowships for his work. “No theatre artist in New York is showing more poetic force or technical skill than the puppeteer Basil Twist” (*The New Yorker*).

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## TICKET INFORMATION

General admission tickets for [\*Dogugaeshi\*](#) on Wednesday, November 6, at 8:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, November 7 and 8, at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Playhouse range from \$48.00-\$76.00 and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. For more information about discounts, visit <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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## CAL PERFORMANCES

### CALENDAR OF ADDED EVENTS

Wednesday, November 6, 8:30 p.m.	Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley campus
Thursday, November 7, 6:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.	Dana Street and Bancroft Way, Berkeley
Friday, November 8, 6:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.	
Saturday, November 9, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	
Sunday, November 10, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	

*Theater*

***Dogugaeshi***

**Basil Twist**, puppeteer

**Yumiko Tanaka**, *shamisen*

Program: Innovator of puppet theater Basil Twist revives the ancient Japanese stage mechanism of *dogugaeshi*, which involves the drawing back a series of decorative screens to reveal a scene. This intimate, one hour performance combines video projection with an original score.

Tickets: Range from \$48.00-\$76.00 and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door.

Artwork available at: [http://cpinfo.berkeley.edu/information/press/season\\_announcement\\_1314](http://cpinfo.berkeley.edu/information/press/season_announcement_1314)

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