



OZ Asia

FESTIVAL
14 + 28 September



Chika

26 & 27 September, 8pm
Dunstan Playhouse

Chika is the story of being in the wrong place, for a long time

This intensely personal documentary performance tells the story of Chika Honda, a Japanese tourist who spent over a decade in an Australian jail for allegedly importing heroin—a crime she has always insisted she did not commit.

Japanese-Australian artist, Mayu Kanamori, who regularly visited and documented Chika during her incarceration, recounts this tragic and remarkable story of human endeavour in the face of great adversity.

Incorporating live music, dance, narration, documentary images, archival footage and recorded interviews, Chika is multi-dimensional, contemporary storytelling at its powerful best.

After hearing about the case via an activist, photographer Mayu Kanamori met Chika at the Dame Phyllis Frost Center, where she had spent the previous eight years. Initially unsure, Kanamori became convinced of Chika's innocence and began to document her story in photos.

"After an hour talking to her, I was convinced she was an innocent person" Kanamori explains. "I told her I couldn't prove her innocence, nor was I a mainstream journalist who could really publicise her case."

"But I thought I could portray her heart."

Mayu Kanamori—Creator/Narrator

Japanese born artist and photographer based in Sydney. Her works combine photography, performance art, videography, and story telling with emphasis on documentary photography in collaboration with artists from

diverse genres and disciplines. Her recent collaborative works include projective installation for In Repose, a site-specific multi arts project at a century old Japanese cemetery in Townsville, Back to the Block, another site-specific projection work as part of Gathering Ground in the Block, Redfern, Sydney and Bacio della Vita, projection work with series of photographs and sounds of centenarians from Sardinia shown at Cross Projections In Sydney and Festival No Arte in San Sperate.

Mayu's single images were selected for 2007 Julie Millock Photography Prize, 2006 Conrad Jupiter Art Prize, and 2005 Olive Cotton Award for Photographic Portraiture, whilst her series work was finalist for 2005 Harries National Digital Art Award for Judy and Alan, 2004 Walkley Awards Radio Feature for CHIKA, Commendation, 2000 United Nations Media Peace Awards, Promotion of Multicultural Issues and 2001 NAIDOC Non Indigenous Reconciliation Award for The Heart of the Journey. Her solo photographic exhibitions include Sugao no Australia and Unseen Faces of Japan.

www.mayu.com.au
www.chika.asia

What: Chika
Venue: Dunstan Playhouse
When: 26 & 27 September 8pm
Cost: Adults \$30, Conc \$25, Student \$25, Group (6+) \$25
Bookings: BASS on 131 246
or online at www.ozasiafestival.com.au