

Haruki Murakami's international bestseller comes to the stage!



"Mind-bogglingly beautiful...a dreamy thriller" - *Time Out New York*



What is *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*?

The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle is an interdisciplinary theatrical production based on the international best-selling novel by one of Japan's most celebrated writers, **HARUKI MURAKAMI**.

Inspired by Murakami's visionary style, director Stephen Earnhart (*formerly Director of Production for Miramax Films*) combines dazzling elements of live performance, live music, puppetry and dance/movement with cinematic video and audio technology to create a hypnotic "theatre of dreams."

This cross-cultural play was developed in New York and Tokyo and represents an international collaboration between Western and Asian artists and designers.





Sneak Preview

A “sneak preview” performance was presented during The Public Theater’s “Under the Radar” Festival at the Ohio Theater, NYC, January 2010.

The eighteen-show engagement was completely sold-out one week before performances began.

Although officially closed to reviews, the show was covered by most major New York publications.



”Daring and exciting, Earnhart and his talented team have more than done justice to Murakami’s novel... a theatrical must-go-see.”

-TheaterMania

“Imagine watching a David Lynch movie on stage.”

-City Arts New York

“Mind-bogglingly beautiful...a dreamy thriller.”

-Time Out New York



Storyline



This unique adaptation of Murakami's surreal mystery follows Tokyo suburbanite, Toru Okada as he searches for his wife who has inexplicably vanished.

At once a detective story, an account of a disintegrating marriage, and an excavation of the buried secrets of WWII, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is a tapestry of storylines told by captivating characters in a world where the lines between dreams and reality dissolve.



From International Best-Seller to the Stage

Earnhart's multimedia design surrounds the audience, immersing them in the world of the characters, not watching from a distance.



Disorienting shadows are used to explore the tension between light and dark sides of humanity.



Integrated Puppet Design

Japanese Bunraku-style puppets are used to wander through worlds of dreams and memory.

The puppets act as an emotional mirror, engaging the imagination while adding a sense of mystery.

Tom Lee (puppet designer/director) was featured in the Metropolitan Opera's "Madame Butterfly" directed by Anthony Minghella.





Media Design

At times, performers are surrounded by media projections that cast images onto scrims, shoji screens, household objects, even actors' bodies to create an immersive, experiential experience.

Some characters exist on stage, some on film, and others pass back and forth.

These projections, along with hypnotic soundscapes, transport the audience into Murakami's multiple realities.





Vivid Water Imagery

"Human existence is largely controlled by elements of water."

-Creta Kano

Wells, pools, oceans and sea life make up the play's central image system.





A Miniature World Projected



During the show, a tiny web cam navigates through an on-stage miniature set.



The image is projected on stage which provides a dreamy, disorienting perspective.



Upcoming Performances

WORLD PREMIERE

SUMMER 2011

The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle will premiere at a major European festival in summer of 2011, which hope to be free to announce publicly in the next several weeks.

TOURING

Based on the incredible exposure this festival will provide, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is expected to confirm major touring destinations as early as fall 2011 for US and international venues.

The success of the 2010 “sneak preview” in NYC confirmed there is a massive appetite for this show and Murakami’s material.





Presenting Partners

The Asia Society is the leading global organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States.



The Baryshnikov Arts Center serves as a creative laboratory, meeting place, and performance space for a vibrant community of artists from around the world.





Haruki Murakami (*novelist*) is one of Japan's most renowned writers. His work has been translated into 42 languages, making him among the most widely read Japanese authors ever. A Pulitzer Prize nominee, Murakami's many honors include the prestigious Franz Kafka Prize and the Yomiuri Prize, whose previous recipients include Yukio Mishima and Kenzaburo Oe. *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is widely considered his most important work.

Stephen Earnhart (*director/creator*) has traversed the film and theater worlds for more than twenty years. Previously the Director of Production for Miramax Films, his feature Documentaries have been released by Warner Brothers, Sundance Channel and MSNBC. He's created and performed in several multimedia theatrical productions, including *Trialog at Hangar 7*, commissioned by Dietrich Mateschitz, president of Red Bull. He is a fellow of the Edward Albee Foundation and Asian Cultural Council.



Audience

- *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, an international best-seller with millions of copies sold worldwide, is nothing short of a phenomenon. Haruki Murakami has generated an obsessive global following over the last thirty years, and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* is widely considered his most substantial work.
- The sold-out January 2010 production proved that the work not only appeals to Murakami's obsessive fan base and traditional theater-going audiences, but can engage a younger generation interested in its use of multimedia and interdisciplinary elements to tell a captivating, emotionally engaging story.
- Presenting and producing partners can capitalize on this cross-over appeal and on the overwhelming popularity of Murakami and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, only the second novel Murakami's ever allowed to be adapted.
- Earnhart has gone to great lengths to make sure audiences need not be familiar with the novel to enjoy the production. That said, the majority of fans of the book who saw the January 2010 production remarked how exciting it was to see the novel's essence captured while creating its own unique form.
- Benefiting from the diverse nature of the play, the excitement over Murakami and Japanese culture, and the growing appetite for multicultural, interdisciplinary theatre, this production, which showcases a successful collaboration between international artists, offers tremendous potential to engage the traditional theater-going public as well as create new and diverse audiences interested in Earnhart's thrilling multimedia adaptation.

AUDIENCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Ages 15 - 70

theater-going and atypical theatrical audiences

Murakami enthusiasts





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