




How to convey a tragic experience

Attempts regarding the Nagasaki atomic bombing

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Towards the era without any survivors

- As time passes, the era without any survivors of the atomic bombs that were detonated on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 is approaching. Therefore, the question of how to speak about the happenings and how to convey the experience to future generations has become fundamental
- In March 2021, there were about 24 000 survivors of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki and 9 200 in its region
- The average age of the survivors was 84 years

Anthropological research

- Friend's PhD entitled "Entre reconnaissance et rejet : mémoires plurielles du bombardement atomique de Nagasaki" / "Between recognition and rejection: plural memories of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki"
- Several stays, longest 14 months for field work in Nagasaki
- Importance to accept that certain survivors refuse to speak about what happened (some hide that they are survivors), namely due to fear over possible discrimination
- Gain witnesses' trust

Methodology

- Amongst others, participation two times per week at the local choir as well as visits of a retirement home two times per week
 - Usually, around one to two interviews were conducted a day at the retirement home during which the witnesses were given open questions
 - Leave time and choice to hear about what the person wishes to share
 - Not only memories of the bombing but also general memories of the time
 - As many interviews were conducted at the residence of the interviewed persons, family pictures often helped to support the conversations

- One main importance was the concerned people's trust and good human relations
 - The interviews were generally audio registered and in 99% of the cases, complete anonymity was kept

The results may be found in her probably soon published PhD

A serious theme conveyed through comedy

- “Up Down” 「アップダウン」

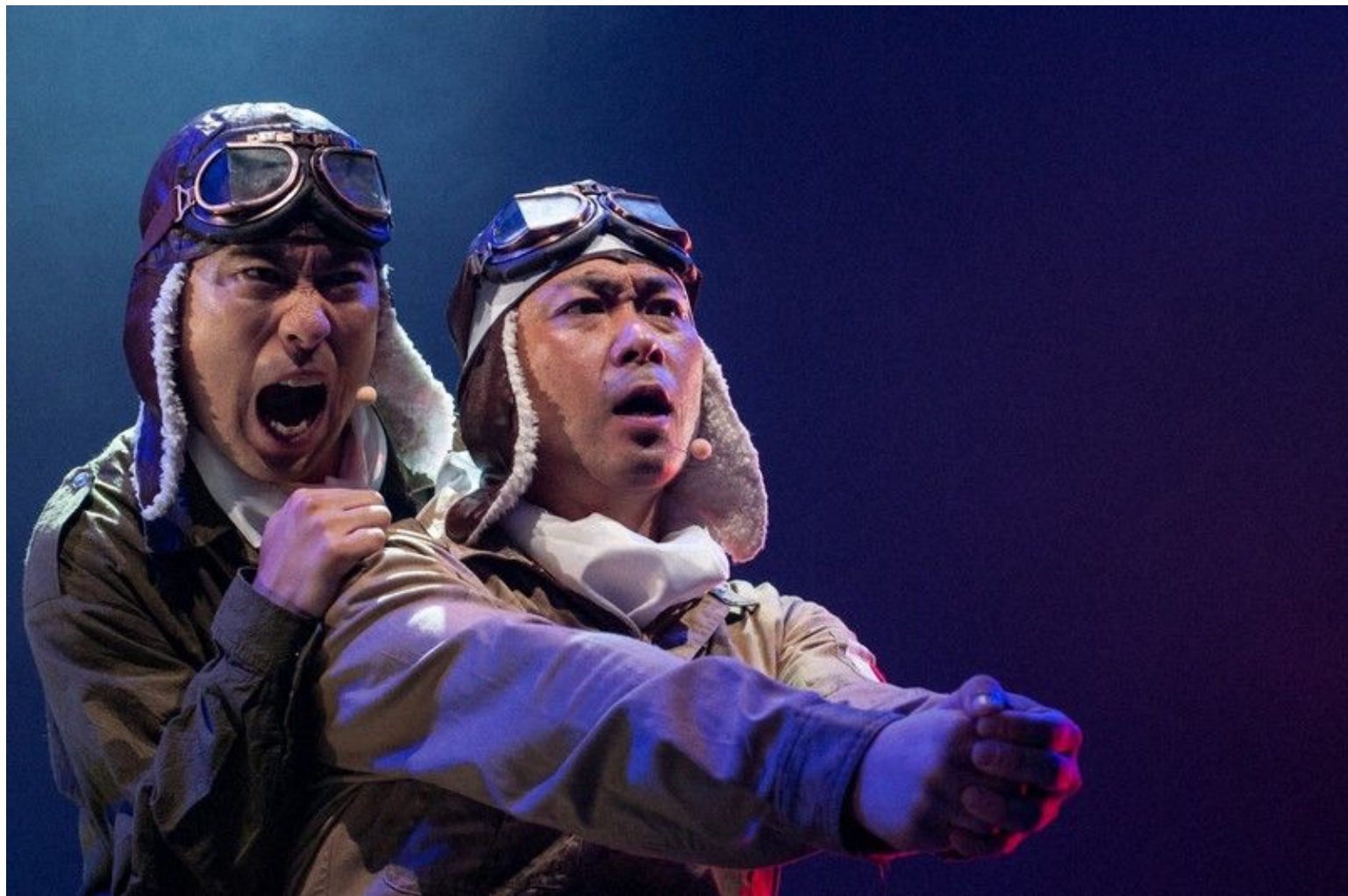
Manzai about the theme of the atomic bomb

- Serious spirit of challenge to inform indifferent young people through laughter, and to never letting the tragic memories fade away
- Creator of the “Atomic Bomb Manzai:” Kazuyuki Yamazaki, chairman of the “Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Association”
- “Up Down:” formed by Takumi Takemori and Hiroki Abe, a duo performing since 25 years



- Over the past years, they have been enthusiastic about works that convey history
- Kazuyuki Yamazaki was impressed by their ability to convey serious topics with laughter → idea to treat the theme of the atomic bomb
- Although concerned about whether the tragedy can be expressed, the comedian duo decided to visit Nagasaki and interacted with atomic bomb survivors
- The two spent a year collecting material and figuring out how much “laughs” can be included
- The organisers want to make a play that can be performed in peace and teach children at schools

- The atomic bomb manzai was completed in July 2021 and first unveiled in Sapporo, the hometown of the two comedians
- First performance in Nagasaki City was held on August 11. Laughter as well as tears were in the audience and it ended with a big applause
- The two comedians said that they were very nervous to perform in front of survivors and second-generation survivors in Nagasaki
- Through the incorporation of humour, the organisers hope the younger generations to understand about the tragedy and increase a repertoire nationwide allowing to keep the memory of the atomic bomb in the future





Thank you for your attention

どうもありがとうございました

