

You-Ri Yamanaka

You-Ri Yamanaka is an actor, movement director, intimacy coordinator, voiceover artist, cultural consultant, and acting coach. Born in Japan, she has been based in the UK since 1995.

She trained at **LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art)** and with **Philippe Gaulier** after completing an **MA in Directing** at **Royal Holloway, University of London**. In addition to her formal training in the UK, she has studied **Kabuki dance** and **Butoh** in Japan for over 25 years, deepening her understanding of physical expression and performance.

Throughout her career, You-Ri has been dedicated to exploring the meeting points between Eastern and Western performance traditions, seeking a universal language in acting. Her passion for movement and storytelling has led her to teach at some of the UK's leading drama schools, including **LAMDA, ALRA, East 15, ArtsEd, Rose Bruford, BADA**, and **The London Dramatic Academy**, as well as at **New National Theatre Drama Studio Tokyo, Sophia University**, and **Toyo University** in Japan.

As an actress, she has worked extensively in theatre, film, and television in the UK. Her distinctive, body-centered performance style has been widely recognised by companies such as the **Royal Shakespeare Company, Watermill Theatre Newbury, dreamthinkspeak, Volcano Theatre, Theatre503, Southwark Playhouse, New Earth Theatre, StoneCrabs Theatre**, and **Dash Arts**, among others. Her film and television credits include work with **Amazon Prime Video, Sony Pictures Television, BBC, CBBC**, and **Northern Ireland Film**.

Alongside her acting career, You-Ri has established herself as a highly regarded **movement director, coach, and choreographer**. Her work includes productions such as *My Neighbour Totoro* with the **Royal Shakespeare Company**, *Dido and Aeneas* at **Temple Middle Hall (Temple Festival)**, *Magic Flute* at **New National Theatre Tokyo**, *Madam Butterfly* with **English National Opera (ENO)**, and *Illyria* at **Theatre Royal Bath**. She has also directed movement for productions at institutions such as **East 15 Acting School, New National Theatre Tokyo Drama Studio**, and **NAHDA, Cairo, Egypt**.

Currently, *My Neighbour Totoro* is running as a long-term production at the **Gillian Lynne Theatre in London's West End**.

In addition to her performance and movement work, You-Ri's workshop "**Freeing the Inner Voice – Body and Expression**" has been in high demand worldwide for many years, offering performers a unique approach to unlocking their full expressive potential.

For more information, visit:
www.you-ri.com