



Kumiko Mendl has worked for many years in theatre as an actor, teacher, storyteller, movement director and director. She is Artistic Director and founder member of Yellow Earth Theatre, the UK's leading British East Asian Theatre company www.yellowearth.org.

In 2006 she set up her own storytelling theatre company *A Thousand Cranes* with renowned Children's Director Vicky Ireland to bring Japanese stories and arts to young UK audiences (www.athousandcranes.org.uk). To date they have created 6 shows and are available for touring. In 2009 *A Thousand Cranes* became an Artistic Associate of artsdepot, North Finchley.

Kumiko also works freelance as a storyteller and workshop leader for organisations such as Unicorn Theatre, Polka Theatre, Discover, Asia House and various museums and galleries.

Examples of Productions (see website for more details)

Current show on tour *Me and My Cat?* ages 5 -11

Tales from old Japan – Three delightful traditional Japanese tales are brought to life through inventive storytelling, puppetry and music. Ages 4+

The Paper Washi Wish – an interactive show for 3-5 year olds with 2 performers, a bike, a Kamishibai (traditional Japanese Paper Theatre) and a paper making experience.

Little Sunshine Little Rainfall – Blending Japanese folklore with traditional music and dance and inspired by haiku and origami.

Origami Stories – 3 tales on One Mountain and includes simple origami making for ages 4+

Milky Way – Tanabata Legend. Kamishibai storytelling with a twist, 3-5 year olds

Ghost stories – traditional Kaidan. Ages 8+

Workshops can also be arranged – Origami (4+), Introduction to Manga and Origami (6+) Bon Dance (all ages)