

# Journalist's Raw Kamishibai Hiroshima Story Hits Global Nerve — 33 Years in the Making



**Yoshimura's face and arms are getting thinner by the day. But he still shouts out the Kamishibai.**

## 【One Sentence Summary (Lead Sentence)】

At just 12, journalist Daisaku Yoshimura vowed to end war. After 33 years of silence, he's back – fueled by fierce determination, he's risking his own body—losing 8kg and even livestreaming from a hospital bed—to bring Hiroshima's survivor stories to life through kamishibai. His powerful, heartfelt performances grip audiences worldwide, stirring deep emotions amid rising nuclear tensions. People from over 30 countries stand with him, united by his urgent call: “Let's share love, not bombs.”

## 【Body】

When he was 12, Daisaku Yoshimura wrote in his graduation collection: “I want to end war someday.”

Thirty-three years later, he stands on the streets of Osaka every day, performing kamishibai – Japanese paper theater – telling the story of Hiroshima survivor Keiko Ogura. His kamishibai has been translated into 109 languages, allowing his message to cross cultural and linguistic barriers and reach people around the globe.

Guided by his mother's words, “You can do it,” Yoshimura has devoted himself deeply to his mission. In an effort to better understand and convey the harsh realities of wartime suffering, he subjected himself to a strict diet, losing 8 kilograms in just one month — a toll that left him noticeably thin. This personal sacrifice underscores his commitment to authentically sharing the survivors' pain.

On April 13, 2025, the opening day of the Osaka Expo, he began performing kamishibai daily. He has never missed a day, even when hospitalized for suspected meningitis. IV drip attached, wearing his hospital gown, he livestreamed from his bed at exactly 3pm.

His show is titled “The Cloud That Won't Disappear by Kei,” with illustrations drawn by Ukrainian refugees. Each day, he approaches 5 to 20 groups of people; most ignore him, but for those who stop, the performance leaves them silent and moved. Before parting, he tells each person in their language, reflecting the kamishibai's wide linguistic reach:

“May happiness visit your life. I pray for you from my heart.”

Many shake his hand and hug him. An American woman cried, feeling guilt for Japan. A Ukrainian boy who is currently interacting with a 95-year-old atomic bomb survivor said:

“Let's share love, not bombs.”

As nuclear tensions rise globally, from Eastern Europe to the Middle East, Yoshimura believes stories can shape a different future – one built on empathy rather than fear.

So far, people from over 30 countries, including every nuclear-armed state except North Korea, have shown their support by making Yoshimura's signature “No Nukes” pose. His kamishibai has been performed in seven countries, with Ukraine's Nobel Peace Prize-winning CCL group posting their support on Instagram.

This is not Yoshimura's first time devoting himself to others. After Japan's 2011 tsunami, Yoshimura gathered 100 wishes from people who lost weddings, graduations, and other celebrations that were cancelled, helping revive hope for those affected. During COVID-19, he bartered a spool of red sewing thread into a house and mountain land, donating all profits to people in poverty. When Russia invaded Ukraine, he arranged IT work orders for engineers there and mediated prosthetic donations for injured soldiers.

Yoshimura dreams of performing kamishibai in every country, hoping that nuclear deterrence supporters and abolitionists alike will understand the survivors' suffering.

“Let's share love, not bombs.” The words of a Ukrainian boy sum up everything Yoshimura believes in.

## 【Contact】

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Period: Every day from 14:00 to 15:00 until October 13, 2025

Location: 3-4-66 Ebisu Higashi, Naniwa-ku, Osaka

\*Interviews can be conducted both on-site and online.

\*We will provide an interpreter for English.



Instagram

## 【Alternate Story】

Daisaku Yoshimura does more than just read Kamishibai stories. Yoshimura connected Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor Yoshiko Okabe, 95, with Andrii, a 7-year-old boy from Ukraine featured in the main story, creating a peace exchange across generations and borders.

Yoshimura says this exchange proves that the horrors of nuclear weapons and hopes for peace transcend borders and generations, strengthening his mission.



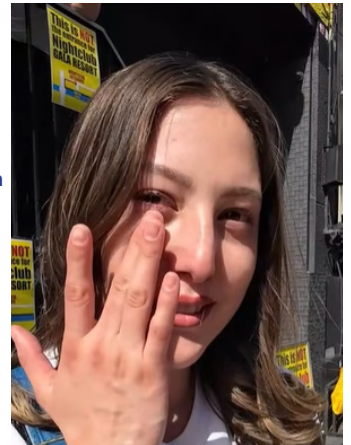
No Nukes pose by nuclear-weapon nations: From left, America, France, Britain, Russia, Israel, China, India, Pakistan

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QR) Press Kit

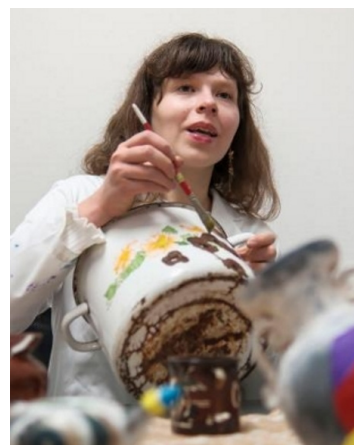
← For details on Yoshimura's profile and humanity, as well as comprehensive information about this project—including videos and images—the press kit is a must-see.



American woman crying



Above: The cover of Paper Theatre. Right: The Ukrainian refugee living in Japan who drew Paper Theatre.



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Announcement of support on CCL's official Instagram