About Our Robot/Android Theatre

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Our first objective was to transform a conventional display of robots at scientific expositions into a robot theatre of artwork. Scientists may boast about their technology at such exhibitions, but visitors are not typically emotionally inspired by such technology, although they may be intellectually intrigued. We thought we should display robots that inspire people. This stance provides a basis for research into developing future robots that will not make elderly people and children feel uncomfortable or intimidated.

The short piece I wrote first, I, Worker, deals with a husband who has lost the will to work and a robot who can no longer work. In this memorable piece as the first robot theatre, I problematize the definition of robots as human replacements that are created to work and consider human existence in contemporary society.

The next piece, In the Heart of a Forest, is an hour and a half long. In this piece, robots and humans discuss differences between humans and anthropoid apes. Many sci-fi works have been created to underline differences between robots and humans, but I chose to take a more deviated approach.

My most recent work, Good-bye, is my first attempt at using androids in theatre. Since we cannot build androids that can get up and move around, I turned this restriction into a virtue and set up a situation in which an android reads poems to a dying person. In part because the stage set is easy to carry, this piece has been produced nationwide, as well as abroad, since its premiere.

With my next piece, I plan to produce the android version of Chekhov’s Three Sisters using both androids and robots.