

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PNY CANYON presents **【Kengan Ashura - World Premiere & Guest Talk】** at the ANIME EXPO 2018

TOKYO, JAPAN – June 25, 2018 – Audio-visual entertainment company PONY CANYON is pleased to announce the event **【Kengan Ashura - World Premiere & Guest Talk】** scheduled on Saturday (7/7) at Anime Expo 2018 (Los Angeles, CA) between 2:30pm – 4:00pm in Main Events/ Hall B. Seiji Kishi (Director), Makoto Uezu (Series Composition) Yasuharu Takanashi (Music) and Yuji Higa (producer), will participate in the event and do autograph sessions (details TBA).

Originally written by Yabako Sandrovich and drawn by Daromeon, “Kengan Ashura” is an action packed manga series that is getting an anime adaptation for release scheduled in 2019. “Kengan Ashura” has been serialized in Shogakukan's digital manga website, Ura Sunday and Manga One app. The story features hired gladiators that join fights called “Kengan Matches” that battle for rights between businesses. Twenty-two books are on sale currently and have sold over a total 2,200,000 copies. It has been nominated as the best comic in the “Web comic selected by a million readers that is really fun to read” awards.

#### **【Story】**

Fifty-six-year-old Kazuo Yamashita was an ordinary salaryman who was one day suddenly summoned by the chairman of his company. What he saw was not the chairman, but the dark side of the Japanese economy. Representing the company, hired gladiators to fight for rights between corporate businesses in violent battles called the “Kengan Matches!” Kazuo is assigned to a mysterious Kengan fighter, Ohma Tokita. They both join the “Kengan Zetsumei Tournament” in order to win the seat as the chairman of the Kengan Organization and decide Japan's best business and fighter. What will become the fate of Kazuo and Ohma?



#### **【Seiji Kishi Profile】**

For more than a decade, prolific director Seiji Kishi has built a name for himself helping critically acclaimed and popular animation. From early works like “Astro Fighter Sunred”, “My Bride Is a Mermaid” and more other works, Kishi has proven adept at fantasy, supernatural, and sci-fi stories. Other hits have included “Humanity Has Declined”, “Yuki Yuna is a Hero”, and “Persona 4: The Animation”. He received the 19th Animation Kobe Individual award for his achievements through 2014, citing his work directing “Arpeggio of Blue Steel”, in particular. Most recently, Kishi has been hard at work on the well-received “Persona 4, Assassination Classroom”, “Game of Laplace”, “Danganronpa”, “Yuki Yuna is a Hero”, as well as “Kengan Ashura”.



#### **【Makoto Uezu Profile】**

A scenario writer and a chief story editor. His main works include "Akame ga Kill!", "Assassination Classroom", "The Heroic Legend of Arslan", "KonoSuba", "Boruto: Naruto Next Generations", "Yuki Yuna is a Hero", and many more.

Working on a wide range of genres from comedy to serious, he is considered to be one of Japan's busiest scenario writers. He has also been good friends for over ten years with the director Seiji Kishi and has produced many joint works with him.



### **【Yasuharu Takanashi】**

A musical expert that is known for creating music with heavy yet elegant sounds by merging hard rock and orchestral elements. He is also the chairman of the music production group, “Team-MAX” and also is the leader of “Yaiba”; a rock group featuring Japanese instruments.

Awarded the International JASRAC award in 2013, 2014, and 2017.

His major works include the theme song for the martial arts show, “Pride” in 2000, “Naruto Shippuden” (2007-2017), “Pretty Cure” series (2009-2012), “FAIRY TAIL” (2009-), “Sailor Moon Crystal” (2014-), “Tiger Mask W” (2016), and more. Latest work: “Boruto: Naruto Next Generations”, “Kengan Ashura”, “GeGeGe no Kitaro”, and “Kaiju Girls”.



### **【Yuji Higa Profile】**

Animation Producer at Studio Hibari who also founded the animation team, Lerche within the studio.

He first debuted as a producer in 2011 with the OVA, "Carnival Phantasm" and continued to work on many other series such as "Danganronpa" series and "Assassination Classroom".

### **【Anime Expo 2018 Official Announcement Site】**

<http://www.anime-expo.org/2018/06/16/pony-canyon-presents-world-premiere-kengan-ashura-director-seiji-kishi/>

### **(c) Sandrovich Yabako, Daromeon/Shogakukan**

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