

= My?jin Yahiko =

My?jin Yahiko (?? ??) , known as Yahiko Myojin in the Media Blasters English @-@ language dub and Yoshi Myojin in the English Sony Samurai X dub , is a fictional character from the Rurouni Kenshin manga and anime series authored by Nobuhiro Watsuki . The character of Yahiko is based on the author 's childhood experiences practicing kendo ; since Watsuki 's experienced frustration during kendo classes , the author wrote Yahiko as experiencing frustration with his kendo skills . Watsuki liked Yahiko , and while writing the manga , he began to develop the character so that readers would enjoy him .

The fictional setting takes place during the pre @-@ Meiji period of Japan . Yahiko is an orphan from a samurai family who was forced to work as a thief to repay the debt he had presumably owed , as his parents died before they could repay it . When he is rescued by the main character of the story Himura Kenshin , he decides that he will grow up to be just like Kenshin . But because of his strong beliefs , Kenshin is no longer teaching the sword style he had learned . Therefore , Kenshin arranges for Yahiko to be trained by Kamiya Kaoru , the teacher of the Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ry? (????? , lit . " Gods ' Valley Alive Heart Style ") . As the series progresses , Yahiko becomes skilled at swordsmanship and faces many opponents .

Yahiko appears in the featured movie of the series , as well as other media relating to the franchise , including a wide range of electronic games and an original video animations (OVAs) series . His character has been very popular with readers from Rurouni Kenshin , ranking near the top of the series ' popularity polls . His character is featured in various types of merchandising developed for the series , such as figurines and key @-@ chains . Several publications have commented on his character . While he was initially criticized for his lack of action in the plot , his further development in the series has been praised .

= = Creation and conception = =

Nobuhiro Watsuki , creator of Rurouni Kenshin , says that he used no particular logic when drawing Yahiko except for the " defiant " eyes and " mussed " hair . (Watsuki describes these traits as " a must " in a sh?nen comic .) Watsuki enjoyed practicing kendo " almost as much as drawing manga " . To create Yahiko , Watsuki drew on his emotions from junior high school . He has described himself then as " weak " and " an embarrassment to my 183 centimeters of height " (183 centimeters is equivalent to 6 feet) . He says he was a member of the kendo starting squad only because the school suspended another student originally intended to be a starter . However , he failed to win in a league tournament , experienced frustration and felt he was " awful " despite his desire to succeed ; he yearned to improve his kendo skills . As an " outlet " for Watsuki 's kendo emotions , Yahiko " knows a pain that hero @-@ types like Himura Kenshin and Sagara Sanosuke can never know " . As Watsuki further developed the story , Yahiko becomes a comedic character . Watsuki wanted to draw Yahiko in a way that readers could envision him as being a " great " swordsman five to ten years later .

During the last story arc from the manga , the story takes a darker tone than those from other sh?nen series published by Shueisha . As the series was aimed at teenagers , Watsuki made Yahiko the main character during the time when Kenshin thought that Kamiya Kaoru was dead ; his role was to serve as the identifying character for readers . However , the author found this hard to do , as the more time Kenshin was unwilling to continue to live , the worse Yahiko felt , leaving Watsuki a more negative feeling concerning the story . By the end of the series as Yahiko becomes a teenager , Watsuki had redesigned his appearance . He wanted Yahiko to impress manga readers so that he could be a protagonist for a possible series sequel . He said this goal influenced his design of Yahiko , with Kenshin 's physical appearance as well as Sanosuke 's personality . He added Sanosuke 's kanji of " evil " (? , aku) to the back of his clothes , and was pleased that various readers recognized it . Although he suggested he was not going to make a sequel , he said the main characters would be Yahiko , Sanj? Tsubame and Tsukayama Yutar? . Watsuki thought about writing a story in which Yahiko and Tsubame would have a son , My?jin Shinya , who would

become a skilled swordsman .

In the 20th volume from the Rurouni Kenshin kanzenban edition , Watsuki again redesigned Yahiko 's appearance to show how he would appear at that time . His hair was not as spiky as it was originally , and he had new clothes . He wore a dark jacket , a white short @-@ sleeved T @-@ shirt and short trousers . He did not have socks under his sandals and he had bandages on his hands in order hold a swords . He had two swords ? a shinai and a katana ? with the latter tied on his back .

In the anime adaptation of Rurouni Kenshin , Watsuki 's designs were combined with the voice talents of Miina Tominaga , a voice actress . In producing the English dub version of the series , Media Blasters chose Wendee Lee to voice Yahiko , but she was credited as Elyse Floyd .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In Rurouni Kenshin = = =

Born January 1869 in Tokyo , Yahiko is arrogant , cheeky , bad @-@ mannered and a user of profanity ; he has already bestowed upon himself the title " Tokyo Samurai " , as his father was a samurai who died during the Battle of Ueno in the Boshin War , slain at the Keneiji Temple . Because Yahiko respected his parents , he becomes a thief before the start of the series , to pay back their debt . Yahiko first appears trying to rob Kenshin , who stops him but lets him go . As his yakuza bosses are about to beat him to death for his desire to quit , Kenshin arrives to save him and take him to Kaoru 's dojo to learn swordsmanship . Yahiko 's dream is to be as strong as Kenshin so he will be able to protect himself and the people he loves . Despite his young age and his short time of training , as the series continues Kenshin allows Yahiko to fight with him , noting that he is too mature for his age . He becomes a witness to many of Kenshin 's later battles to the point which Yahiko becomes adept at imitating some of Kenshin 's Hiten Mitsurugi @-@ ry? (????? , lit . " Flying Heaven Honorable Sword Style ") techniques , combining them to perform many other powerful sword techniques . Yahiko also learns the principles of Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ry? (????? , lit . " Gods ' Valley Alive Heart Style ") , which matches Kenshin 's ideal of saving lives . When Kenshin goes to Kyoto to fight Shishio Makoto who wanted to conquer Japan , Yahiko accompanies Kaoru to find and aid Kenshin . While Kenshin goes to have his final fight against Shishio , he stays in Kyoto to defend their base , a hotel named Aoi @-@ ya , from Shishio 's forces along with Kaoru and the Oniwabansh? . They are successful in doing it , and Yahiko manages to defeat one of Shishio 's strongest soldiers , Henya .

Back in Tokyo after Shishio 's defeat , Yahiko notices Yukishiro Enishi 's revenge plot against Kenshin . Sensing his own inability to help , he trains much harder to learn the two succession techniques in Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ry? . Such moves allow him to block an opponent 's attack and then hit him with his weapon . He successfully learns both of this techniques and becomes so adept at using them , that Yahiko starts performing several variations . He uses these moves against one of Enishi 's partners Otowa Hy?ko and defeats him . While Yahiko rests from to his injuries , Kaoru is kidnapped by Enishi , and Yahiko and his friends start searching for her . When another of Enishi 's comrades , Kujiranami Hy?go escapes from jail and goes on a rampage , Yahiko stands up against him . However , he is not strong enough on his own to defeat him and Kenshin saves him at the last moment . After he and Kenshin recover from their fight injuries , they go to rescue Kaoru from Enishi . While on his island fortress , Yahiko defeats one of the four bodyguards from Enishi 's partner , Heishin , and witnesses Kenshin 's fight against Enishi , which Kenshin wins . Five years later , he is the acting instructor at the Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ry? dojo . One day Kenshin calls him to test his skills ; when he lands a hit on Kenshin , he gives Yahiko his own reverse @-@ blade sword as a sign that he has become a true samurai .

= = = In other media = = =

In Rurouni , Meiji Swordsman Romantic Story , he is known as Kamiya Yahiko (?? ??) and is the brother of Takani Megumi and Kaoru . Yahiko also appears in all of the Rurouni Kenshin video games , including the crossover game Jump Ultimate Stars . After the manga serialization ended , Watsuki authored one @-@ shot chapter from the series in which Yahiko goes to take care from the people of dojo , but ends confronting a former soldier from Shishio who takes as hostages the students from the dojo . In Samurai X The Motion Picture , Yahiko joins the samurai Takimi Shigure 's group in their attempt to overthrow the Meiji Government , but Shigure later knocks Yahiko out to make him stay out of danger . In Samurai X : Reflection , set various years after the manga 's end , a now adult Yahiko lives with Sanj? Tsubame , a childhood friend he met works at a restaurant where both worked together . He starts taking care of Kaoru when she suffers from an illness while Kenshin went to assist people injured in wars . Due to Kaoru 's suffering , Yahiko goes to Kyoto to request Kenshin and Kaoru 's son , Himura Kenji , to accompany his mother . In order to make him accept , both have a duel , and Yahiko wins .

In the reboot Rurouni Kenshin : Restoration , he works for Takeda Kanryu . As Kanryu plans to kill Kaoru who is fighting for her dojo , Yahiko requests Kenshin 's help to save her . After Kanryu 's defeat , Yahiko stays in Kaoru 's dojo alongside her and Kenshin .

Yahiko was featured in the live action film portrayed by Taketo Tanaka and in the sequel portrayed by Kaito ?yagi . He appears as the only student in Kaoru 's dojo , instead of starting as a thief from the streets in the original series . Also , in the film , he doesn 't join Kenshin and Sanosuke in rescuing Megumi from Kanryuu 's mansion as he does in the manga .

= = Reception = =

The character from Yahiko has been well received by manga readers , having consistently placed highly in the Weekly Sh?nen Jump popularity polls of the series , usually in the top ten characters and once taking third place . A plethora of merchandise have been released in Yahiko 's image , including key @-@ chains wall scrolls , and action figures in both his child and teenager appearances . In an interview with Miina Tominaga , the voice actress for the character , has said that she was a bit afraid when performing the voice of Yahiko in the OVAs since the character was now an adult , but she ended up happy with her performance . Watsuki described Minami Takayama , the CD voice actor , as having " a lot of energy " and as being a " great fit " for Yahiko .

Various publications for manga , anime and other media have provided acclaim and criticism of Yahiko 's character . While reviewing the volume 8 from the manga , Mania Entertainment writer Megan Lavey applauded the way Yahiko starts acting much stronger after Kenshin 's departure to Kyoto and noted that , along with the other characters starring in the volume , he is seen more in @-@ depth . While reviewing volume 15 , Lavey praised Yahiko 's development during the series as he becomes a good fighter and his courage shows a remarkable potential to become a powerful swordsman . However , Carlos Ross from T.H.E.M. Anime Reviews criticized Yahiko for being " a bit annoying " during the start of the series but noted that he has his enjoyable moments . His design in the OVA series has drawn acclaim as one of the few to be well translated from his original manga design by Mike Crandol from Anime News Network . In the second review from the OVA , Crandol liked that Yahiko appeared several times in contrast to the previous OVA in which he was " written out " so that the story would focus more in Kamiya Kaoru and Kenshin 's relationship . He also noted his battle against Himura Kenji to be very entertaining , but not as much as the previous fight which was between Kenshin and Yukishiro Enishi .