

NEWS RELEASE

Ryu Ga Gotoku Studio to release a new "Like A Dragon" installment in Winter 2023!

June 14th, 2023.

Like a Dragon Gaiden: The Man Who Erased His Name™

Following the success of *Yakuza: Like a Dragon* and *Like A Dragon: Inshin*, RGG revealed a new installment that plans to revisit a beloved former Protagonist, Kazuma Kiryu in "Like a Dragon Gaiden: The Man Who Erased His Name". The game is set between the events of *Yakuza 6* ending to the upcoming installment, *Like a Dragon 8* as he will be returning to become a Protagonist alongside the new face of the series, "Ichiban Kasuga".

The game is set in 2018, following Kazuma Kiryu after faking his death to protect his loved ones and stepping away from the fighting in favour of peace. It was until he was pulled into the crime life of Yakuza yet again and going by the codename "Joryu". The game will provide information regarding Kazuma's whereabouts as someone who is "dead", why he returned in the 7th installment to help Ichiban and fought each other, and finally leading up to the 8th installment as a dual-protagonist with Ichiban Kasuga. As the game is about Kiryu's secret mission, the gameplay will return to the beat-em-up combat system instead of the turned-based combat like the main installments. Fans of the franchise can expect to see returning characters such as Daigo Dojima, Goro Majima, Taiga Saejima, Date-San, Akiyama, and Watase.

But Kazuma Kiryu and their characters are not alone in returning, as fans can also expect many minigames to return from the past predecessor. Such as the Carbenent club that was introduced in *Yakuza 0* (2015) and *Yakuza Kiwami 2* (2017). Alongside, many returning arcade games such as *Sonic*, *Virtua Fighter*, *Outrun*, and *Super Hang-On*.



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After some time had passed since the announcement of the game, Masayoshi Yokoyama walked onto the stage to give an update about the game's development. As Masayoshi said after greeting everyone in the E3 audience, "It has been a while since we announced the new installment that set up as a bridge to the new saga, we appreciate your patience and I am very happy to showcase to you all a new trailer showcasing the story and gameplay on the day of E3!". After Masayoshi's announcement, a new trailer was broadcast. After the trailer, new information about the story, gameplay, price, and release date will be provided.

The story aspect of the trailer, it has sheds more light on how Kazuma has gotten a new name, "Joryu", the mysterious man and why he dragged Kazuma out of retirement, encountering many characters from the franchise, struggles to be alone to keep his family in Okinawa safe, and how he ties into the 7th installment of the game. As for the gameplay, the four battle style has returned from *Yakuza Kiwami*. The battle style is Rush, Brawler, Beast, and his iconic style, Dragon of Dojima. The trailer also showcases Kazuma exploring many iconic areas such as Kamurocho, Sotenbori, Osaka, and Isezaki Ijincho. These areas will be fully explorable throughout the chapters and some areas have a side-story minigame to partake in. In the end, it has been announced the game will arrive in winter 2023, and the price will be USD 40 / CAD 54.

After the trailer, Masayoshi said, "We hoped you guys enjoyed the trailer. As the trailer showcased, the four-battle style has returned since it will be a great send-off to the beat-em-up style for Like a Dragon. Alongside, you will be able to explore many areas from the past games and their relevance to the story, especially the home of the Like a Dragon, Kamurocho. In terms of story length, It will be longer than "Kaito DLC" which was released for *Lost Judgment*, and the story length will be familiar to the main installments. Thank you for your time, and please look forward to the game as it will be released in Winter 2023!".

As Masayoshi walked off the stage, that was the end of the Sega conference in E3 2023. "Like a Dragon Gaiden: The Man Who Erased His Name" will be released in Winter 2023 for the PS4/PS5, Xbox One/Series X and S, and PC (Steam/Windows) for the price of \$40 USD/\$54 CAD. Pre-orders for the digital game are now available across the console's storefront.

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○FACT SHEET○

Yakuza/Like a Dragon was developed by Ryu Ga Gotoku and published by Sega. Most notably, the creator, "Toshihiro Nagoshi". First released in 2005 for the hit console, the PS2. The game was a hit in Japan and has continued striving for over 10 years for many generations.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

- Latest company data from Sega revealed the series had sold 21.6 million units (Feb 09, 2023)
- RGG and Sega changed the name from "Yakuza" to "Like a Dragon" in the West for future titles and matches worldwide.
- PlayStation exclusive for 12 years. Sega/RGG broke the exclusivity and started to release the series onto Xbox and PC starting in 2020.
- Ryu Ga Gotoku although a separate studio is still part of the Sega CS1 division.
- RGG studio's predecessor goes back to 1988, division AM2.

FRANCHISE FACT

- Closure to Kiryu's story into the new saga for the old fans.
- Released 7 years after *Yakuza 6* (2016) and 3 years after the 7th entry (2020)
- Second *Yakuza/Like a dragon* game to release worldwide for both old and new generation consoles, and PC.
- Return to playing Kazuma Kiryu after 6 years (Last Entry: *Yakuza Kiwami 2*, 2017)
- Many returning minigames, such as the Hostess Cabaret Club from *Yakuza 0* (2015) and *Yakuza Kiwami 2*.
- Goro Majima is the number 1 fan favourite character, hosted by Sega.
- *Yakuza (PS2)/Yakuza Kiwami (PS4 remake)* and *Yakuza: Like a Dragon* tell the same story but position and fates are swapped. Ichiban Kasuga suit is an inverted colour compared to Kazuma Kiryu.
- Features many celebrities and references. From movie stars such as Takeshi Kitano, adult entertainers in minigames, YouTubers/streamers, and fans of the franchise
- Features playable arcade games relating to Toshihiro and Sega's past work. The games are; *Outrun*, *Sonic the Fighter*, *Virtua Fighter*, *Super Hang-on*, *Fantasy Zone*, etc.

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TRIVIA

- *Yakuza 6* was the first game Takeshi Kitano endured and willingly joined the cast despite his dislike for video games in the past.
- *Shenmue* was the turning point for Toshihiro Nagoshi to focus on the life of Japan in video games.
- Kazuma Kiryu is an unlockable character in “Super Monkey Ball Mania”.
- *Yakuza: Like a Dragon* referenced in *Persona 5 Striker*.
- Kazuma Kiryu does not hit women. It is showcased in the 7th installment of the game during his boss fights and that is why he isn't featured in fighting video games (*Tekken* series).
- *Yakuza: Like a Dragon* makes many references to the Square-Enix franchise, “Dragon Quest” because it's Kasuga Ichiban's favourite video game series.

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○BACKGROUND○

SEGA ORIGIN

Sega is an American company that originated on September 1st, 1946 when Irving Bromberg and Martin Jerome Bromberg partnered with James L. Humpert to build and distribute slot machines across Asia after World War 2. The Slot machine and many coin-operated machines were focused on in Japan and popularized. After two decades of focusing on slot machines, Sega decided to tip their toes into video games after the success of “Pong” from Atari and Nintendo Entertainment System. Sega released the “Sega Master System” to compete with Nintendo. During the console's release, its arcade cabinet revolutionized with many notable games such as *Hang-On*, *Space Harrier*, *Outrun*, and *After Burner*. After the success, Sega released the second console named “Mega Drive” (1988, Japan) and introduced the beloved mascot, *Sonic the Hedgehog*. As the years go by, many games come out such as “Virtua Fighter”, “Virtua Racing”, many Disney games, sequels and spin-offs to “Sonic”, and the hit open-world game “Shenmue”. Alongside many consoles such as the “Game Gear”(1990-91), “Mega CD” for the Mega Drive (1991-92), 32X (1994-95), Sega Saturn (1994-95), and its final console named the “Sega Dreamcast” (1998-99). After the discontinuation of *Dreamcast*, Sega focused on releasing new video games for years to come on many generations of Xbox, Playstation, and Nintendo.

RYU GA GOTOKU

In 1989, Toshihiro Nagoshi graduated from the Tokyo University of Arts and Design, soon working for the Sega division, AM2 under Yu Suzuki. In 1998, he soon became the manager for the division AM11, and he played a very important role when creating *Shenmue* for the *Dreamcast* during its final months of development. A role that soon became a turning point for Toshihiro. From many divisions such as AM2 (1989) to Sega CS1 (2008-current), he created many popular games named “Daytona USA”, “Super Monkey Ball”, and the beloved franchise “Yakuza/Like a Dragon”. Toshihiro Nagoshi founded Ryu Ga Gotoku studio on August 11, 2011, after the creation of *Yakuza: Dead Soul* (spin-off). The studio is still part of the CS1 division for Sega, but the studio focuses solely on the *Yakuza/Like a Dragon* franchise and Super Monkey Ball. The head of the studio was soon shifted to Masayoshi Yokoyama after Toshihiro's departure in 2021. Currently, RGG focuses on creating games with the concept of “*Entertainment geared towards mature audience*”. It is a series that portrays the life of citizens in

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Japan's red light district, brings the life of Japan to the audience while exploring many themes and emotions such as love, humanity, and betrayal. From exploring the life and culture of Japan in *Shenmue* in 1999 to releasing the first *Yakuza* game exploring the criminal aspect of life in Japan in 2005. RGG continues to bring the life of Japan and explore many iconic locations for the audience to love and roam around the country.

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○MEDIA ADVISORY○

To: ign_general@ign.com

Subject: "Like a Dragon Gaiden: The Man Who Erased His Name" New Trailer.

News release: June 14th, 2023.

Ryu Ga Gotoku Studio to release a new "Like A Dragon" installment in Winter 2023!

What: Producer of the Yakuza/LaD series to announce a new trailer and further update about "LaD Gaiden: The Man Who Erased His Name", a spin-off game focusing on Kazuma Kiryu's adventure from his last game in the 6th installment to the soon-to-be-released 8th installment. Releases at 4 pm, June 14th, 2023, at E3.

Who: News is about Masayoshi Yokoyama's new project for the LaD series, dedicated to the fans of Yakuza/LaD, wrapping up a 12-year saga for the Kazuma Kiryu fans. An introduction to veterans and newcomers of the franchise as it moves onto a new saga.

Where: The news release will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center, in LA California. 1201 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90015, USA.

When: E3 kicks off on June 11th to 16th. During the Sega conference, the video games news release will be at 4 pm on June 14th.

Why: To provide updates about the game such as gameplay, story, release date and price to the audience attending E3 and fans.

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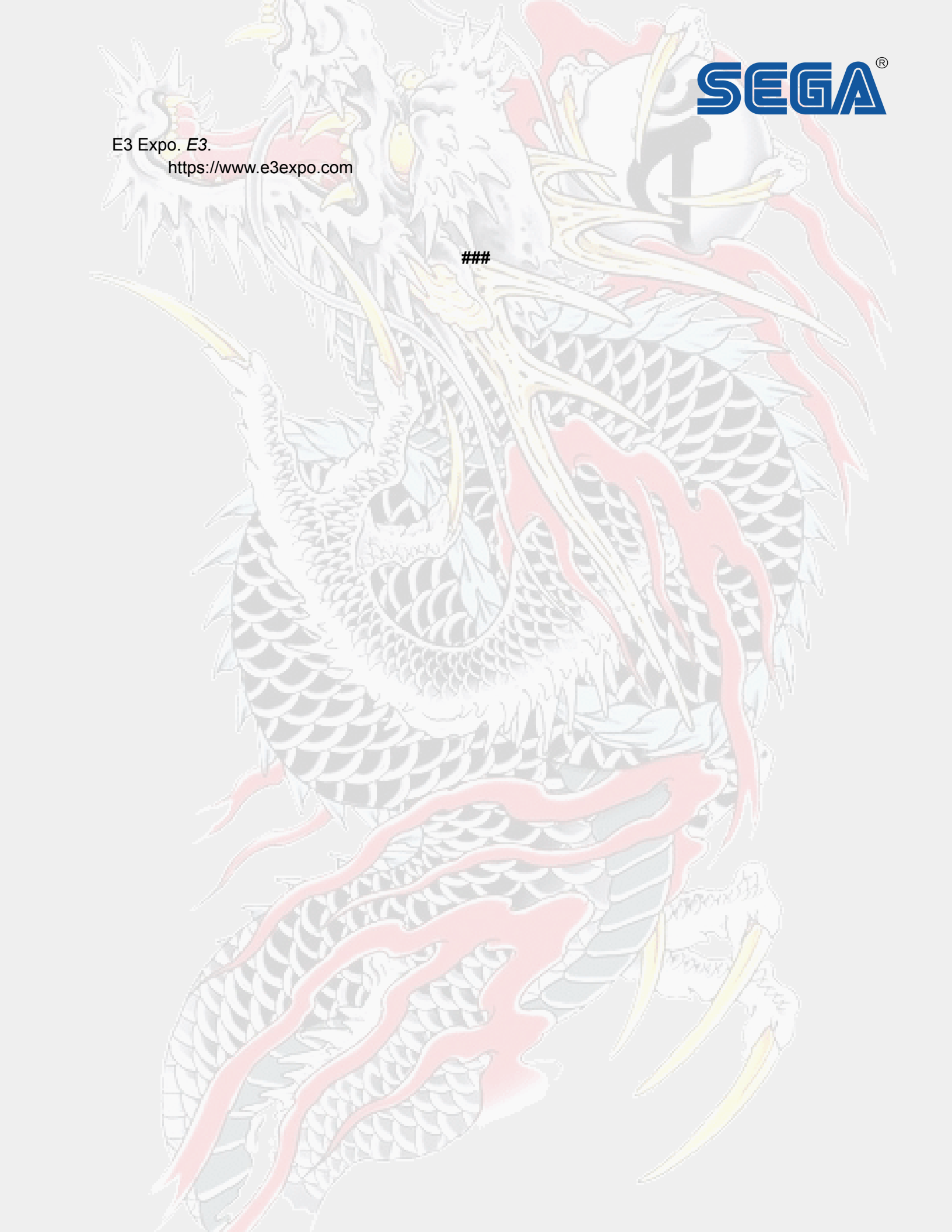
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