



TOKYO CULTURE CREATION PROJECT
New Wave of Culture from Tokyo

F/T 10

FESTIVAL / TOKYO

Performing Arts Festival launching from Tokyo

PRESS RELEASE

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Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee

Introduction

Performing Arts Festival launching from Tokyo

With the aim of creating and transmitting the distinctive art forms and culture of Tokyo, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, Toshima Ward and the Toshima Future Culture Foundation as part of the strategy for cultural city planning and promotion of Toshima ward, and the established NPO Arts Network Japan, will hold the third Festival/Tokyo (Festival/Tokyo 10). The first and second edition of the festival (F/T 09 Spring and F/T 09 Autumn) held in March and October–December 2009 respectively, received a lot of attention for their cutting-edge line-ups and the various programs including audience participation, thus taking the first step in ensuring its position as a festival of high international standard representative of Japan. The upcoming third edition takes another leap forward as it, on the basis of past achievements, seeks to establish itself as a leading festival of performing arts in Asia.

Performing arts is the experience of “here and now”, shared between a limited number of audiences who gathered “there and then”. In an era distinguished by the reduction and dilution of human communication, Festival/Tokyo wishes to emphasize the qualities possessed by the performing arts by providing a platform for various experiments and dialogues searching for the values of man-to-man communication.

While maintaining its basic stance, the third Festival/Tokyo evolves even further. With support from the local community and citizens, the festival structure is improved and the related events are enriched, presenting a line-up of 20 works from Japan and abroad, including audience participation events taking place in the Ikebukuro Nishiguchi Park. Further, performances organized by the festival which until now were limited to Toshima Ward, expands into other parts of the city, and a new program whose function is to recruit and support young artists, is launching.

Through our festival we aim to pioneer the creation of the values of the next generation, and transmit them from the international city of Tokyo to the world.

Festival/Tokyo organizers

What is the Tokyo Culture Creation Project?

The Tokyo Culture Creation Project is a project executed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, in collaboration with various arts and cultural organizations and art NPOs. The Project aims to create Tokyo's unique art and culture, and nurture children through the arts.

The project includes events and festivals such as the theater, music, traditional performing arts and fine arts, art programs realized through active collaboration between citizens of Tokyo and artists, and experimental programs for children. We hope you will join us, the Tokyo Culture Creation Project, to participate in the experience and creation of Tokyo culture.

Festival outline

Name	Festival/Tokyo 10
Period	October 30 (Sat) – November 28 (Sun), 2010 (TBC)
Venues	Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space (Theatre, Mini Theatre 1) Owlspot Theater (Toshima Ward Performing Arts Exchange Center) Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan Theater Green and others
Program	A line-up of 15 dance and theatre performances from Japan and abroad. F/T Emerging Artists Program: A new project whose aim is to support the next generation of artists. Performances co-presented by F/T: An assembly of works launching from theatres in the metropolitan area parallel to F/T, and collaborations with theatre groups etc. Related events: Various programs including audience participation, lectures, artist talks, etc. F/T Partner projects: Different events held in the same period as the festival.
Organizers	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Culture Creation Project (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee ※ Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee affiliated bodies: Toshima Ward, Toshima Future Culture Foundation, NPO Arts Network Japan

What is Festival/Tokyo?

The largest festival of performing arts in Japan

The spring and autumn edition of Festival/Tokyo 09 presented a total of 39 works, shown altogether 282 times, involving 1392 performers and staff. Gathering over 120 000 spectators, this marked a successful start for an international performing arts festival representative of Japan. With the catch phrases “Towards a new real” and “Evolving real” we presented a selection of groundbreaking works questioning the reality of contemporary society and the possibilities of representation. For this we garnered a lot of attention, establishing a good reputation both in Japan and abroad.

A festival of creation upbringing world-class cutting-edge performances

With the inauguration of F/T 09 Spring and F/T 09 Autumn, Festival/Tokyo established its basic policy of being a festival of creation. By creating works together with the artists, we question the possibilities of representation in contemporary society. More than a third of our line-up is either produced or co-produced by the festival. These are all cutting-edge performances and objects of international attention. Not only do Japanese artists desire to participate in our festival, but artists from other parts of Asia and the rest of the world aim to produce and present their work in collaboration with Festival/Tokyo. Similarly, by presenting a large number of new works and world premières, F/T 10 continues to play a central role in pioneering the expression of, and towards contemporary society.

The festival as an open platform

Tokyo, one of the largest cities in Asia. Benefiting from the talents and information gathering here, the festival serves as a unifying force by providing a platform for the continuous production of various expressions and dialogues. That is why we implement a number of related events in which anyone can participate independently, such as lectures and talks, in addition to the regular performances taking place inside the theatre buildings.

Supporting emerging artists – the launch of the “F/T Emerging Artists Program”

Developing from “Theatre/University” held during the F/T 09 spring and autumn edition, the “F/T Emerging Artists Program” is a new project recruiting the next generation of artists. The “F/T Emerging Artists Program” provides a frame for young artists to present their independent works, and is open to everyone. Several of the participating companies come from other parts of Japan. Together with young artists sharing the same ideologies as the festival, we search for their next step.

Project outline

Performances presented by F/T

A line-up of 15 dance and theatre performances from Japan and abroad.

【International productions】 Gisèle Vienne, Roger Bernat, Christoph Marthaler, and others

【Japanese productions】 Akira Takayama (Port B), Ikuyo Kuroda, Shiro Maeda (GOTANNADAN), Masataka Matsuda (Marebito-no-Kai), Motoi Miura (Chiten), and others

The rest of the line-up will be announced on our website upon decision.

F/T Emerging Artists Program

Developing from the “Theatre/University” series, “F/T Emerging Artists Program” supports the next generation of artists.

【Participants】 OKAZAKI ART THEATRE, Kamimura Megumi Company, C/Ompany, dracom, France_pan

The rest of the line-up will be announced on our website upon decision.

Performances co-presented by F/T

Performances co-presented by F/T: An assembly of works launching from theatres in the metropolitan area at the same time as F/T, and collaborations with theatre groups etc.

The line-up will be announced on our website upon decision.

Related events

Programs including audience participation taking place in the Ikebukuro Nishiguchi park, and other related events such as lecture and talks, contributing to enliven the mood of the festival.

Detailed information will be announced on our website upon decision.

Partner projects

Different events held in the same period as the festival.

Detailed information will be announced on our website upon decision.

Performances presented by F/T

Following is a line-up of the performances organized by Festival/Tokyo 10.

Information about additional performances presented and co-presented by F/T will be announced in the future.

[International productions]



© Gisèle Vienne

Concept/choreography/set design: Gisèle Vienne (France)

Video: Shiro Takatani Fog sculpture: Fujiko Nakaya Text: Dennis Cooper
“This is how you will disappear”

End of October / Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory

Première: July 2010 Festival d’Avignon

Co-production: Le Quartz-Scène nationale de Brest, Festival/Tokyo, Steep Slope Studio Yokohama, Festival d’Avignon, and others

Challenging crucial elements of contemporary “beauty”, female artist Gisèle Vienne combines self-made dolls and living actors in her universe. Set in a hyperreal forest enveloped in fog, “This is how you will disappear” questions the aesthetics of beauty linked to perfection and beauty linked to ruin. This is the long-awaited Japan première of the genreless international co-production involving Japanese artists Shiro Takatani from Dumb Type and “fog artist” Fujiko Nakaya.



© Christina Fontsaré

Direction: Roger Bernat (Spain)

“Public Domain”

End of October / Ikebukuro Nishiguchi Park (TBC)

Barcelona-based director Roger Bernat is seeking for new possibilities in opening up public spaces for theatrical performances. The audience of “Public Domain“ gathers in a public place and – equipped with headphones – starts to move around due to instructions, they receive via the headphones. Replying to questions ranging from private life to social and political topics, they unnoticedly get involved into a collective spectacle. A performance questioning the meaning of “public space“ today under participation of the audience.



© Dorothea Wimmer

Direction: Christoph Marthaler (Switzerland) Stage design: Anna Viebrock (Germany) / “Riesenbutzbach”

Fri Nov 19 – Sun Nov 21 / Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Theatre (TBC)

Produced by: Wiener Festwochen

Co-produced by: Napoli Teatro Festival Italia, Hellenic Festival Athens, Festival d’Avignon, Międzynarodowy Festiwal Teatralny DIALOG-WROCLAW, Theater Chur, Festival/Tokyo

The long awaited first appearance of Christoph Marthaler, one of the leading figures in postdramatic theatre, in Japan! In his unique settings, time seems extremely stretched, inscrutable gestures are repeated again and again, voices suddenly arise to sophisticated a-cappella choral arrangements and spoken phrases are varied subtly many times. This comical, melancholic and miraculous music theatre portrays the nostalgia of a society in decline and incorporates a strong presentiment of the future, that turbo-capitalism will bring. The stage-design by Anna Viebrock, who has been raising attention recently as a director at the National Opera of Paris as well, is also a must-see.

Performances presented by F/T

【Japanese productions】

Concept/direction: Akira Takayama (Port B) New work (title unfixed)
End of October/Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TBC)

Choreography/direction: Ikuyo Kuroda New work: “Ray of light, shards of mirror”
Beginning of November/Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory

Text/direction: Shiro Maeda (GOTANNADAN) New work (title unfixed)
Beginning of November/Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Mini Theatre 1

Text/direction: Masataka Matsuda (Marebito-no-Kai) New work (title unfixed)
Mid-November/Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan

Direction: Motoi Miura (Chiten) New work (title unfixed)
Mid-November/Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Mini Theatre 1 (TBC)

Tickets are on sale from September

Details about the program including additional performances and ticket information will be announced on Festival/Tokyo’s website upon decision.

F/T Emerging Artists Program

Developing from “Theatre/University” held during the F/T 09 spring and autumn edition, the “F/T Emerging Artists Program” is a new project recruiting the next generation of artists. The “F/T Emerging Artists Program” provides a frame for the emerging artists to present their independent works, and is open to everyone. Several of the participating companies come from other parts of Japan. Together with young artists sharing the same ideologies as the festival, we search for their next step.

Time: November 2010

Venue: Theater Green (BIG TREE THEATER, BOX in BOX THEATER, BASE THEATER), Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan

Organized by each of the participating companies

Co-organized by Festival/Tokyo

【Participating companies (in order of the Japanese alphabet)】

OKAZAKI ART THEATRE (Tokyo) “Old Air-Conditioner” Text/direction: Yudai Kamisato

Kamimura Megumi Company (Tokyo) “enclave” (TBC) Choreography: Megumi Kamimura

“The Constitution of Japan” Direction: Ichiro Kojima

C/Ompany (Tokyo) “IKI, TE, TAI” Choreography/direction: Shintaro Oue, Masahiro Yanagimoto, Shintaro Hirahara

dracom (Osaka) “JIKEN-BO” Text/direction: Jun Tsutsui

France_pan (Osaka) “Ordinary Life” Text/concept/direction: Taku Ito and others

Main venues (TBC)

Festival /Tokyo 10 will be held in the following venues in the Ikebukuro area, Toshima ward, Tokyo.



Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space
(run by the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

The Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space was opened in October 1990 by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government with the purpose of promoting the arts such as music, theatre, and dance among the citizens of Tokyo, and enhancing international cultural exchange. The facilities include a full-scale concert hall, a medium-sized hall (Theatre) with a proscenium stage and two mini-theatres, one with a free stage and another with a thrust stage. The space also has conference rooms and an exhibition gallery. Hideki Noda formally assumed the position of Artistic Director in 2009.



Owl Spot (run by Toshima Future Culture Foundation)

Aiming at the creation, cultivation and communication of performing arts, Owl Spot (Toshima Performing Arts Center) opened in September 2007, focusing mainly on the dramatic arts. With its 301 seats this compact theatre creates a feeling of intimacy between the spectators and the artists. In addition to the production and co-production of stage performances, Owl Spot also engages in hosting workshops and lectures as part of their goal of nurturing emerging artists.



Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory
(run by NPO Arts Network Japan and NPO Children meet Artists)

Turning a former junior high school into a base for the creation of cultural arts, Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory opened in August 2004. Since its opening Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory has engaged in supporting artistic activity, as well as initiating various art programs with the aim of introducing art to the local community. In addition to providing training room facilities, the former school gymnasium converts into a 200-seat theater, which has served as the main venue at the Tokyo International Arts Festival. In the same spirit Festival/Tokyo continues to stage performances both by Japanese and foreign artists in this unique space.



Theater Green (run by Theater Green)

Run by a temple with the purpose of providing a platform for theatre activities, Theatre Green opened in 1968, reflecting the desire to nurture rising theatre companies, presenting plays of emerging playwrights as well as experimental theatre performances. This intimate space has since been communicating the “heat of theatre arts”, serving as a gateway to success for emerging artists in the small theatre movement. The theatre re-opened in 2005 offering three different stages suiting multiple needs. Theater Green organizes events such as the “Green Festa” and student theatre festivals, attracting a whole range of audiences.



Jiyu Gakuen Myonichikan (run by Jiyu Gakuen Service Corp.)

Jiyugakuen Myonichikan is the original building complex of the school Jiyugakuen that opened in 1912. Designed by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and his assistant Arata Endo, Myonichikan was designated as an Important Cultural Property in May 1997. Restoration work was conducted from January 1999 through September 2001 after which Myonichikan has been open to the public, hosting events such as lectures, wedding ceremonies and concerts. The auditorium, that will be used as a F/T venue, is designed by Arata Endo and capable of seating around 300 people.