

Festival/Tokyo

Japan's leading performing arts festival

Kaku Nagashima Appointed New Director of Festival/Tokyo, Japan's Leading International Performing Arts Event



Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee (Honorary President: Yukio Takano, Mayor of Toshima City; Chair: Shigeo Fukuchi) is pleased to announce Kaku Nagashima as the new director of Festival/Tokyo (F/T).

Since its launch in 2009, F/T has been a pioneering presence in the Japanese and Asia contemporary performing arts as the largest theatre and dance event in Japan. Under the new leadership of Kaku Nagashima as festival director, and Chika Kawai as co-director, F/T will continue its endeavors to share the multifaceted appeal of the performing arts with audiences, and contribute to the development of culture and the arts in Tokyo and Japan.

Initial details about Festival/Tokyo 2018, which is scheduled to be held this autumn, will be announced in May.

Statement by Kaku Nagashima

I will take over as director of Festival/Tokyo, which has been a leading presence in theatre, dance, and art these past ten years. Theatre and dance can only come about when the creators and audiences are together in the same place. I am keen to re-examine what kind of function this troublesome medium can fulfill in the mega-city of speed and density that is Tokyo. Until now, F/T has committed itself to one of the important roles of art, that of opening up alternative channels and doors to mainstream politics and economics. This entails the creation of new intersections and points of contact as well as the consideration of other places for us to exist in society today. The 2018 festival will be a transition period in which I continue with the program initiated by current director Sachio Ichimura and work towards next year's festival, aspiring, in partnership with the co-director, Chika Kawai, to build a festival for a new generation.

Kaku Nagashima

Born in Tokyo in 1969. He graduated with a degree in French literature from Rikkyo University. During graduate studies, he began to research and translate the later prose of Samuel Beckett. His involvement with theatre came first as a performance surtitles operator and script translator. He then became a pioneer of dramaturgy in Japan and has since worked with a wide range of directors and choreographers in that capacity. Interested in seeking ways to take theatre ideas and know-how outside regular theatre spaces, he has also been involved recently with various art projects.

His major theatre credits include “Atomic Survivor” (directed by Hatsumi Abe, TIF 2007), “4.48 Psychosis” (directed by Norimizu Ameya, F/T09 Autumn), “The Marriage of Figaro” (directed by Tomo Sugao, Nissay Opera 2012), “The Opportunity of Efficiency” (directed by John McGrath, New National Theatre, Tokyo), and “Double Tomorrow” (directed by Fabien Prioville, Theatrical Group EN).

His main credits for projects and works at non-theatre venues include the “House of Atreus” series and Kaku Nagashima’s How-To-Make-Laboratory (both for Tokyo Artpoint Project), “The World” (Kakuya Ohashi and Dancers), and “YAJIRUSHI” (Saitama Triennale 2016). He is currently a special invited professor at the Department of Musical Creativity and the Environment, Tokyo University of the Arts.

Festival/Tokyo

Festival/Tokyo (F/T) is Japan’s largest performing arts events, happening annually at Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre as well as other venues around the Ikebukuro area and elsewhere in Tokyo. Launched in 2009, the ten editions of the festival have presented 241 productions and 1,905 performances or events that have achieved total audience and participant numbers of approximately 610,000.

Last autumn, Festival/Tokyo 2017 was organized for 44 days between September 30th and November 12th by the Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee, Toshima City, Toshima Future Culture Foundation, NPO Arts Network Japan (NPO-ANJ), and Arts Council Tokyo and Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), along with support from the Agency for Cultural Affairs and various corporate partners. Held since 2016 as part of the wider framework of Tokyo Festival, F/T brings together an exciting program of cutting-edge Japanese and international artists, and challenges and develops the conventional model of a city performing arts festival.

History of F/T

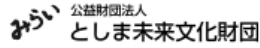
NPO Arts Network Japan partnered with metropolitan and local government bodies to re-launch Tokyo International Arts Festival (TIF), which had been held from 2002 to 2008, as Festival/Tokyo (F/T). The inaugural festival was held in spring 2009, after which F/T has taken place annually in the autumn. It features a lineup of Japanese and international performing arts, including originally commissioned work, performances held in public spaces, and participatory theatre. Chiaki Soma served as Program Director from 2009 and 2013. From 2014, Sachio Ichimura was appointed Directors Committee Representative and, from 2016, Director of the festival.

February 9, 2018
Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee Secretariat

Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee

Toshima City, Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation, NPO Arts Network Japan (NPO-ANJ)

Arts Council Tokyo & Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)



Festival/Tokyo 2017 was organized as part of Tokyo Festival 2017.



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