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Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee Secretariat

Japan's leading performing arts festival Festival/Tokyo 2018 takes place this autumn

Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee (Honorary President: Yukio Takano, Mayor of Toshima City; Chair: Shigeo Fukuchi) is pleased to announce Festival/Tokyo 2018.

An international performing arts event, Festival/Tokyo (F/T) presents exciting and challenging contemporary theatre and dance. The eleventh edition of F/T will be held this autumn, scheduled for 37 days from October 13th to November 18th, and marks the tenth anniversary of the festival with a lineup of Japanese and overseas artists. In addition to unique international co-productions, the wide-ranging programs include outdoor performances, a young artists project, and participatory events for the general public.

First launched in 2014, the Asia Series will adopt a new approach this year, showcasing contemporary art and performing arts in Asia without a focus on a single nation as in previous editions. Moreover, the F/T in the City Performance Series, whose inaugural edition was at the 2016 festival, will continue to break out of conventional theatre spaces and build new kinds of connections with audiences and participants.

Highlights from the lineup for the 2018 festival also include an opening work by the Thai choreographer and dancer Pichet Klunchun, taking place outdoors in Minami Ikebukuro Park, as well as the culmination of the three-year "Performing Fukushima" project by marebito theater company.

An announcement of the participating artists is scheduled for mid-June, followed by full details on the festival programs from mid-July at a press conference.

Festival Overview

Name: Festival/Tokyo 2018 (F/T18)

Dates: October 13th – November 18th, 2018 (TBC)

Venues: Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Owlspot Theater, Minami Ikebukuro Park, and more

Messages from the Directors

Festival/Tokyo has continued to present programs that offer premonitions of the “newcomers” who will appear en masse throughout the globe, casting off and transcending this society, so to speak, where an insidious world that is neither at war nor at peace has been fragmented. This year is no different. We are starting to see, little by little, just a few glimpses of the kind of world and art these newcomers will create. All I can do is merely manifest this as a festival program, but now the time has come to hand over the reigns.



Sachio Ichimura
Executive Director, Festival/Tokyo 2018

Festival/Tokyo will shift to a new administration.

While we come to realize that the various values we had taken as given without doubting them are actually no longer valid, the next horizon is still not clearly visible. I understand this as the present state of the world. Faced with this present state, what we can believe in for now is not momentary change on the surface but rather an honest, sincere re-inquiring and re-forging of the framework of ideas and actions that proceeds slowly at a more fundamental level. And I know that this is already starting in many places.



Kaku Nagashima
Director, Festival/Tokyo

Inheriting what Festival/Tokyo has accumulated until now, we will now spend a few years searching for new forms. The new system of running the festival jointly through two directors with differing expertise is also an endeavor for this purpose. Given that each festival’s preparation normally stretches out over several years, the previous director will remain for the 2018 festival in an executive capacity in order to ensure a gradual and sound transition. Each and every program is both a question and a response. Please look forward to them.

These last few years I have felt that bringing together people limited to those who already share the same values and creating something through a top-down structure based on individual ability is no longer a valid approach for producing a performing arts work. At the least, I sense potential in creating a special time while engaging in dialogue



deliberately with people whose thinking and expertise differ or those who are shouldering different situations, rather than matching to someone else's orthodoxy. In my experience until now, I have grasped that people who feel the same as me in this exist regardless of location in Japan or overseas. Though far from a simple matter, I hope first to form partnerships with these people and build up our future festival.

Chika Kawai
Co-Director, Festival/Tokyo

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. Starting with the first festival in 2009, it has been held on ten previous occasions, presenting 270 productions and 2,045 performances and events that have achieved total audience and participant numbers of approximately 610,000. Last autumn, Festival/Tokyo 2017 was held over 51 days between September 30th and November 1st, organized by the Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee, Toshima City, Toshima Mirai Cultural 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. Each year the festival features a lineup of exciting Japanese and international artists that challenges and develops the conventional model of an urban performing arts festival.



Organizers: 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)

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Festival/Tokyo 2018 is organized as part of Tokyo Festival 2018.



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Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation

ANJ 国際アートネットワーク・ジャパン
Arts Network Japan

ARTS COUNCIL TOKYO 

東京芸術劇場
Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre

Publicity images are available. For inquiries, please see the details below.

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