

Japan's leading performing arts festival, Festival/Tokyo 2017 takes place this autumn

Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee (Honorary President: Yukio Takano, Mayor of Toshima City; Chair: Shigeo Fukuchi) has announced Festival/Tokyo 2017 and initial information about its lineup.

The largest performing arts event in Japan, Festival/Tokyo (F/T) presents exciting and challenging contemporary theatre and dance every year. The tenth edition of Festival/Tokyo will be held this autumn with a lineup of Japanese and overseas artists, scheduled for 51 days from September 30th to November 19th. In addition to unique international co-productions, the wide-ranging programs include performances that take place in unconventional places in Tokyo, a young artists project, and participatory events for the general public.

First launched in 2014, the Asia Series focuses on Chinese artists this year, which marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of relations between Japan and the People's Republic of China. The showcase explores contemporary performing arts from the perspective of the Millennial generation in China, who are rising to prominence not only politically and economically but also on the global art scene.

Festival Lineup (Initial Announcement)

Pichet Klunchun [dance] [Thailand & Japan]

Yukio Shiba [theatre] [Japan & Taiwan]

mum & gypsy [theatre] [Japan]

marebito theater company [theatre] [Japan]

Asia Series Vol.4: China [performance] [theatre] [music] [China]

F/T in the City Performance Series [theatre] [performance] [art] [Japan]

Theatre for Experimentation and Dialogue [theatre] [Japan]

F/T Campus [student workshop program], and more

More information on the festival lineup and programs will be announced at a press conference on July 18th (TBC).

Overview

Name: Festival/Tokyo 2017 (F/T17)

Period: September 30th (Saturday) to November 19th (Sunday), 2017 (51 days) (TBC)

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

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

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 nine previous occasions, presenting 227 productions and 1,726 performances and events that have achieved total audience and participant numbers of approximately 550,000. Last autumn, Festival/Tokyo 2016 was organized for 58 days between October 15th and December 11th 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. Each year the festival features a program of exciting Japanese and international artists that challenges and develops the conventional model of an urban performing arts festival.

Lineup

Pichet Klunchun [dance] [Thailand & Japan]

F/T17 will open with an outdoor project in Ikebukuro by the Thai choreographer and dancer Pichet Klunchun, created in partnership with Japanese artists. Following a research residency in Tokyo, Klunchun will channel the portrait of Tokyo he experienced into the dance. In addition to Japanese dancers selected by auditions as well as other performers recruited from the general public, passers-by and audiences will also be able to take part for free and without advance reservations. In this way, F/T will present a new style of festival in the city.

Yukio Shiba [theatre] [Japan & Taiwan]

Yukio Shiba of the theatre company Mamagoto will create a new work exploring the theme of distance and how we can reconcile our different values and experiences. No matter how developed our means of communication and transportation become, we are indifferent to events and disasters that occur far away yet also often unable to understand even people who are nearby. Using the neighboring spaces of Theatre East and Theatre West at Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Shiba will create a play that unfolds simultaneously in two versions to express the distance that exists between others and us. This is a co-production between F/T and Taipei Performing Arts Center, which is scheduled to open in 2019, and will be performed again in 2018 at a theatre festival in Taipei.

mum & gypsy [theatre] [Japan]

Takahiro Fujita's mum & gypsy is acclaimed for its original style fusing video, music and fashion, and its fresh approaches to theatre. Fujita, who has attracted attention widely from outside the theatre world, will explore new territory with this project that takes place in various locations in Matsudo City, including Paradise Air, an artist residency facility housed inside a former love hotel in front of Matsudo Station.

marebito theater company [theatre] [Japan]

Led by playwright Masataka Matsuda, marebito theater company returns to F/T for the second installment in this long-term project. Following on from last year, various writers will travel to Fukushima and then write a series of short plays based on their experiences. This collection of plays will be performed in a minimal space in an attempt to stage the reality of daily life in Fukushima today. Last year the writers only looked at Fukushima City but for F/T17 they will turn to the whole of Fukushima Prefecture. Audiences will witness a transient yet multifaceted portrait of Fukushima.

Asia Series Vol.4: China [performance] [theatre] [music] [China]

Launched in 2014, the Asia Series showcases one country in Asia each year. This fourth edition will focus on China's Millennial generation, born into the digital age after the 1978 Chinese economic reforms. It will introduce young artists with unique approaches based on their varied experiences, including studying abroad in Europe and North America, collaborating with overseas artists, and experimenting across genre and discipline. There will also be a symposium featuring specialists from the fields of art, fashion, music, and youth culture. The program presents the unique culture being produced by Millennials in China through subcultures, online platforms, street fashion, and more.

F/T in the City Performance Series [theatre] [performance] [art] [Japan]

Combining theatre, art and performance in various places around the city, this series (previously called the Outdoor Performance Series) returns after its successful debut at last year's festival. By incorporating the history of a particular place, the stories that emerge from it, and the ebb and flow of present-day Tokyo, the series is a new endeavor by the festival to create site-specific works. Various artists will make new projects for special venues in the city that transcend the conventions of theatre and regular performance spaces.

Theatre for Experimentation and Dialogue [theatre] [Japan]

With a focus on performances by emerging younger artists, this program creates a place to question the future of theatre. The program is developed with Masataka Matsuda, the playwright who also teaches at Rikkyo University and has wide experience working with young people to create theatre. It will draw on Matsuda's "theatre of incidents" as a yardstick for measuring the future of theatre, and engaging in discussion and performance. Featuring critics and artists as guest speakers, the program will host a broad debate that transcends

the limits of the festival and its location.

F/T Campus [student workshop program]

F/T Campus is a workshop program bringing together students interested in cultural policy, art and theatre. Selected from applicants all over Japan, the participants stay in Tokyo to watch and discuss performances at Festival/Tokyo over four days. The students chose seminars taught by leading figures in their fields, including the choreographer and director Momoko Shiraga, in addition to attending performances and talks. The program aims to cultivate the next generation by confronting social issues through the performing arts.

Official press images are available upon request. Please contact the Festival/Tokyo press team for further details.

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