

World renowned butoh dance comes to Tokyo's underground spaces

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

「TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND」

Performance Program Announcement



Dance Archive Network is pleased to announce the main lineup for the performance program of TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND, part of Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13 organised by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture). Introducing artists from Japan and abroad, performances and exhibitions will be held in underground spaces all around Tokyo over a two month festival. Ticket now on sale.

1. About TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND

TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND (TRU) takes the word “underground” both literally and figuratively, referencing the free spirited “underground culture”, showcasing an exciting new program of events influenced by Japanese butoh dance in underground locations throughout Tokyo. Audiences will have the chance to witness a great variety of performing arts while discovering the hidden spaces of modern Tokyo.

The main focus of TRU is to take a contemporary view of “butoh”, a performing art that started in Japan in the 1960s and has since spread worldwide. Moving beyond the stereotypes of white-painted bodies and slow movements, this festival brings together both experienced butoh dancers and contemporary artists to develop experimental works that capture the essence of butoh through free interpretation. The aim is to reach a broader audience by shining a new light on this dance form that has not received sufficient recognition in the past.

Another big focus of TRU is the “city”. Keeping in mind that butoh is a performative expression born just before the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, and that evolved in a rapidly changing city, some of the program is being taken out of traditional theatres and galleries. Performances and exhibitions are being organised in underpasses, empty

stores, a former station building, and other urban spaces that emphasise the lively relationship between body and the city. More details on this program to be announced soon. This varied lineup of events reflecting the unexpectedness and diversity of butoh includes a special two month long program, up-and-coming artists working in a variety of arts genres from across Japan and abroad are invited under the direction of performer Takao Kawaguchi to perform in Ueno's Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station built in the 1930s. Internationally renowned choreographer Trajal Harrell will be performing a Japan premiere of his *The Return of La Argentina*, inspired by the legendary Kazuo Ohno's masterpiece *Admiring La Argentina*. Six Japanese artists now based abroad and continuing butoh around the world are coming back to Japan to perform in a one time only gala performance and symposium event *Butoh Diaspora*, and world famous musician and composer Anohni will be performing a world premiere *She Who Saw Beautiful Things*.

2. Festival Outline

Dates April ~ June 2020

Venues Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station, Sogetsu Hall,
Tokyo Women's Plaza, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre
...and more locations in Tokyo

Festival Details

Dance performances, music concerts, film screenings, and symposiums will be held in the above mentioned venues. Additionally, archived films showing the history of butoh and brand new media art pieces by contemporary butoh dancers will be exhibited. Exhibition program to be announced at a later date.

Ticket Sales

Tickets now on sale from our website.

Participating Artists

Anohni, Tadashi Endo, Trajal Harrell, Yuko Kaseki, Takao Kawaguchi, Yuki Kobayashi, Oguri, Eiko Otake, Naoyuki Sakai, Atsushi Takenouchi, Toshi Tanaka, Ana Rita Teodoro, Yumi Umiumare, Daisuke Yoshimoto, ...and more to be announced!

Curatorial Team

Artistic Director: Takao Kawaguchi (Performer)
Curators: Naoto Iina (Film Maker, Director - Dance and Media Japan)
Dai Matsuoka (Butoh Dancer - LAND FES)
Producer: Toshio Mizohata (Director - NPO Dance Archive Network)



川口隆夫 大野一雄について photo by naoto iina

Organisers

Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)



Planning and Production

NPO Dance Archive Network

Sponsored by:

BNP Paribas Group

With the cooperation of:

Kazuo Ohno Dance Studio, Keio University Art Center, Dance and Media Japan, Sasaki Architecture, Canta Co. Ltd, Keisei Electric Railway, Shuto Metropolitan Expressway Company Limited, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Sega Sammy Arts Foundation

Public Relations Cooperation:

dance press tokyo

Official Website: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/>

Facebook: @DanceArchiveNetwork

Twitter: @dance_archive

Instagram: @dancearchivenetwork

3. Performance Lineup

Gala Performance + Symposium: *Butoh Diaspora*

Japanese butoh artists who are now based abroad return to Japan for a one-time event of performances and a symposium to showcase how butoh's inspiration has spread throughout the world.

[Dates] Sat 2 May 15:00

[Venue] Sogetsu Hall

[Performers] (In Japanese alphabetical order)

Tadashi Endo / Oguri / Yuko Kaseki / Atsushi Takenouchi / Toshi Tanaka / Yumi Umiumare

[Tickets] In advance 3,000yen / On the door 3,500ye

Stage Program

A program of popular dancers, musicians, video and multi-genre artists who perform all over the world. To be performed in underground spaces around Tokyo, including the profound experimental arts theatre, Sogetsu Hall.

Eiko Otake *A Body in Fukushima* JAPAN PREMIERE

A durational video created during multiple stays in Fukushima after the earthquake, shown in tandem with a solo dance piece. Shown in 2017 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York over seven and a half hours, this latest version will be one and a half hours long.

[Dates] Tue 28 April 19:00 / Wed 29 April (NH) 13:00

[Venue] Tokyo Women's Plaza Hall

[Tickets] In advance 3,000yen / On the door 3,500yen



Eiko Otake *A Body in Fukushima* Photo by CPAK Studio

Eiko Otake *Duet Project* JAPAN PREMIERE

A project of duets not only with dancers, but with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds. In this Japan premiere, renowned self-portrait artist Beverly McIver and rapper Don Christian have been invited as co-stars. This work is an expression of her feelings to her mother, who passed away last year.

[Dates] Fri 8 May 19:00

[Venue] Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre's Theatre East

[Tickets] In advance 3,000yen / On the door 3,500yen

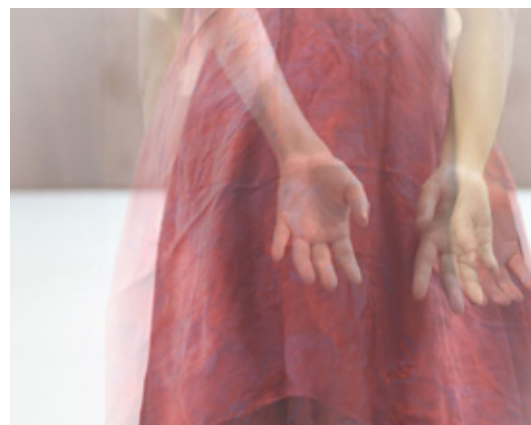
Ana Rita Teodoro *Your Teacher, Pleas* JAPAN PREMIERE

Based on her experience of studying with the legendary butoh dancer Yoshito Ohno, this performance explores the unique philosophy of butoh from a different cultural perspective.

[Dates] Tue 19 May 19:00

[Venue] Tokyo Women's Plaza Hall

[Tickets] In advance 3,000yen / On the door 3,500yen



Ana Rita Teodoro *Your Teacher, Pleas* © Raquel Melgue

Anohni *She Who Saw Beautiful Things* WORLD PREMIERE

Anohni (formerly Antony Hegarty), founder of the BlackLips Performance Cult which gained popularity in the 90s NY underground scene, returns to Japan with a world premiere dedicated to Japanese transgender performer Julia Yasuda, and to butoh dancer Yoshito Ohno, both of whom passed away recently.

[Dates] Thu 21 May 19:00 / Fri 22 May 19:00
[Venue] Sogetsu Hall
[Tickets] In advance 3,500yen / On the door 4,000yen

Takao Kawaguchi *About Kazuo Ohno*

On the one hand a faithful reproduction, on the other a bold reinterpretation of legendary butoh dancer Kazuo Ohno created by “totally copying” his movements, returns to Tokyo after seven years. Since its premiere in 2013 it has been performed in 38 cities worldwide, and nominated for a Bessie Award after its New York showing in 2016.

[Dates] Sun 24 May 14:00
[Venue] Sogetsu Hall
[Tickets] In advance 3,500yen / On the door 4,000yen



Takao Kawaguchi *About Kazuo Ohno* Photo by Teijiro

DETAILS COMING SOON

Trajal Harrell *In the Mood for Frankie*

Created during a research stay in Tokyo in 2012, and inspired by butoh dancer Tatsumi Hijikata and Comme des Garçons' Rei Kawakubo, this is a multimedia performance with three dancers and video.

[Dates] Early June
[Venue] Details coming soon
[Tickets] In advance 3,000yen / On the door 3,500yen



トラジャル・ハレル『気分はフランキー』 Photo by Laurent Philippe

DETAILS COMING SOON

Takao Kawaguchi Direction: *Takao Kawaguchi and the Invisible Japanese*

Half a century after the performance of butoh masterpiece *Hijikata Tatsumi and Japanese People: Revolt of the Body* (1968), this program of experimental performances by up-and-coming artists from Japan and abroad brings us a new aspect of butoh by considering the modern “Japanese body” of 2020. Directed by Takao Kawaguchi in a historic station building, the audience will be given the sense of butoh as a still an evolving art form.

[Dates] Between 17 April ~ 5 June 2020 (details coming soon)
[Venue] Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station
[Performers] (In Japanese alphabetical order) Takao Kawaguchi / Yuki Kobayashi / Naoyuki Sakai / Ana Rita Teodoro / Trajal Harrell / Daisuke Yoshimoto and others
[Tickets] In advance 2,000yen / On the door 2,500yen

*This program is subject to change without notice.

4. About the Artists

Takao Kawaguchi

Joined the performance group Dumb Type in 1996, and started creating solo works in 2000. *About Kazuo Ohno*, which premiered in 2013, received high praise around the world and was nominated for a Bessie Award. He has worked in many roles, such as director of the Tokyo International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (1996-99); translator of *Chroma* a the book by British experimental film director Derek German (2003); and appeared in short film *KINGYO* (directed by Edmund Yeo and commissioned by the Venice Film Festival 2009).

Eiko Otake

Studied with Tatsumi Hijikata and Kazuo Ohno in Japan in the 1970s, with Manja Chmiel in Germany and Lucas Hoving in the Netherlands. Moved to New York in 1976, where she pursues a unique form of bodily expression as part of the duo Eiko & Koma. Her 2014 solo performance *A Body in Places* attracted much attention, and her works have been presented at the Whitney Museum of American Art, MoMA and the Walker Art Center among others. She was the first Asian artist to win the ADF Awards (2004) and Dance Magazine Awards (2006).

Anohni

Born in England, based in New York. Mercury Prize winner for the UK's premiere of Antony and the Johnson's *I Am a Bird Now* released in 2005. She has performed with orchestras from multiple countries, as

well as with Lou Reed, Charles Atlas, Marina Abramović, Björk and others. In 2016, she had an exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld museum in Germany, and was an Oscar nominee for her song Manta Ray, which calls for the protection of coral reefs around the world.

Trajal Harrell

An American dancer and choreographer, Trajal Harrell's works have been presented at major theatres and festivals around the world, including The Kitchen, The Paris Autumn Festival, Festival d'Avignon and ImpulsTantz. His performances have also been shown at MoMA, New Museum, the Centre Pompidou and the Barbican Centre. A Saison Foundation 2011 Visiting Fellow. 2014 Bessie Award winner. His deep interest in butoh has inspired many works, including *The Return of La Argentina* and *In the Mood for Frankie*.

Ana Rita Teodoro

A Portuguese artist with a master's degree from the National Center of Contemporary Dance (CNDC) and the Université Paris 8. She has also studied anatomy, palaeontology, philosophy and qigong. Recent works include a lecture performance *Your Teacher, Please* (2018) based her experiences in workshops with Yoshito Ohno, and *FoFo* (2019) inspired by Japanese cute culture. Currently an associate artist at the Centre National de la Danse (CN D).

What is Butoh?

An avant-garde performance based art born in post-war Japan. Although it has roots in 1920s German modern dance, it was a ground-breaking form that shook Western dance concepts. *Kinjiki* by Tatsumi Hijikata in 1959 is often claimed to be the first butoh performance, and since the 1970s it has become increasingly well known internationally. There are now butoh festivals all over the world and it has even become featured in school classes and textbooks.

About Dance Archive Network

Dance Archive Network (DAN) is a non-profit organisation that conserves the artistic assets and knowledge of Kazuo Ohno and Yoshito Ohno, and promotes the significance of dance archives and international networks. The aim is to contribute to the legacy and promotion of dance culture by collecting and saving documentation, and organising current works inspired by them. DAN is also working towards the development of a new, 3D technology based archive.

Official website: <http://www.dance-archive.net/>

About Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL is an initiative that will see a variety of cultural programs unfold in 2020 when the Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place in Tokyo, promoting Tokyo's appeal as a city of arts and culture.

About Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo sought a wide range of creative and innovative ideas from the public for projects that would become the core of the cultural programs for the Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL. From a total of 2,436 project proposals submitted from within Japan and overseas, 13 were selected for implementation. The 13 projects are collectively named "Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13" and are being implemented in sequence towards 2020, when the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 will be held.

Official Website: <https://ttf-koubo.jp/en/>

Contact Details

Mai Honda, Yuko Nishiyama (NPO Dance Archive Network)

E-mail: press@tokyorealunderground.net / TEL: 03-3582-9273 / FAX: 03-3582-927

