

## **Name of the project**

JCDN International Dance-in-Residence Exchange Project

## **Purpose of the project**

Through communication and collaboration, Japanese and foreign dance artists will widen their view and work areas, and be able to create and produce high quality forms of dance.

In order to do so:

- JCDN will develop facilities that can host dance artists from abroad during their creation period, using our network with dance venues and organizations all over Japan.
- JCDN will choose foreign dance artists together with our international partner organizations with whom they have established relationships through international projects.
- Japanese dance artists will stay in the partner country and create dance works with dancers in that country. Having the two residency exchanges both in Japan and in the partner country, stronger relationships, support, and creativity will be fostered.

## **Expected Outcome**

1. Dance networking between Asia and the Western World, as well as an improvement in the capability of dance artists' presentation skills.
2. To tour the partner country with newly created dance works will stimulate global communication throughout the dance industry as a whole, and to gradually develop a suitable environment for the performing arts in society.
3. More international dance projects will be promoted. The hosting venue will play a key role as the launching pad for dance programs and will enrich the art environment of each community.
4. Communication between the hosting venues will create a new type of network, having meetings and exchanging work ideas, while creating opportunities for the birth of new ideas and new directions in dance.
5. Since the dance artists live in each corresponding city for extended periods, cultural exchange between the artists and the local people will be stimulated.

### How to select the dance artists

We have two ways of choosing suitable artists for this project.

- 1) The directors of JCDN and our partner organization offer their recommendations, and we decide together through discussion.
- 2) Advertise the project and recruit dance artists. The advertisement will be on both JCDN and the partner organization's websites as well as in newsletters, and on bulletin boards at major theaters. Coordinators in the industry will be contacted, in order to encourage the widest range of applicants. Then, the directors at JCDN and our partner organizations, together with dance critics and theater producers, will select the most suitable artists for the project.

### Conditions for the dance artists:

The artist must:

Understand and agree with the purpose of this project.

Be able to stay in Japan more than a month, and be willing to work with Japanese artists.

Be able to submit more than three performances longer than 30 minutes on film and one review of his/her own work.

Be able to communicate in English.

Have more than five years of experience as a dance artist, and be able to provide a recommendation from a theater or cultural organization.

### Our support

\*Coordinate the selection process of the artists. When recruiting, we organize the whole process from advertisement through to selection. Once we know who is selected, we will then coordinate with that artist.

\*Coordinate the performing opportunities of the new creation.

\*Prepare the best conditions for the artist to create a high quality work.

\*Financial support for the international airfare, accommodation, and creation fee.

\*Secure the creation venue.

This project will have five seasons from 2011 through 2015.

### Season 1: Program in 2011 – 2012

“Japan – Finland Contemporary Dance Residence Exchange Co-production Program”

The aim of this residency exchange is to offer cultural influences and inspiration to dance artists in both countries; to improve opportunities for international work for dance artists; and to provide touring performances in Finland and Japan. The organizers will provide optimal conditions for them.

Partner Organizations: Japan Contemporary Dance Network (Japan)

Zodiak – Center for New Dance (Finland)

Festivals: BIRD Theatre Festival TOTTORI 4 (Japan)

Full Moon Dance Festival (Finland)

### Program in brief

Japanese choreographer Kosei Sakamoto and Finnish choreographer Ervi Siren were chosen for this season. The two choreographers will, separately, create a new dance with dancers from opposite countries. In tandem with their audition/workshop, they will perform their own work as an introduction: Sakamoto visited the Full Moon Dance Festival in Finland in July 2011, while Siren visited BIRD Theatre Festival 4 Tottori in Sep 2011.

In March – May, 2012, Sakamoto and the chosen Finnish dancers will work in residence in Helsinki. They will create a new piece, which will premiere in Helsinki.

Siren and the chosen Japanese dancers will work in residence in Tokyo from January 25<sup>th</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and then premiere the new creation at Kyoto Art Center in Kyoto on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Later in 2012 (or 2013), the creations from Finland and from Japan will be performed as a double-bill event in both countries.

### \*Work-in Progress Show

Ervi Siren will have a work-in-progress show at Morishita studio in Tokyo (owned by the Saison Foundation) during her one month residency. Following the show, a talk session with the audience will be held to foster more creativity.

Date: Mid- to late February, 2012

Admission: Free

### \*Performances in Kyoto

Date: March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Venue: Kyoto Art Center “Free Space”

In cooperation with the Kyoto Art Center

**\*Selection process for the dancers who will work with Ervi Siren**

Audition/Workshop was held at Morishita Studio in Tokyo from September 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to choose local dancers. At the same time, JCDN and ZODIAK recommended artists to Siren, and some have already committed to work with her.

Takayuki Fujimoto (Kinsei)/Technical director, Lighting designer; Takao Kawaguchi/Dancer



**\*Creation period and venue**

Ervi Siren arrives in Japan on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

January 25<sup>th</sup> – February 25<sup>th</sup> (32 days) at Morishita Studio

March 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> at Kyoto Art Center, performance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Morishita Studio is the only venue for this season. However, for the later seasons, we are thinking of cooperating with the organizations/venues with whom we have established residency projects, including: Beppu Contemporary Art Festival Mixed Bathing World in Beppu, The Bird Theatre Tottori in Tottori, Fukuoka City Foundation for Arts and Cultural Promotion in Fukuoka, Kyoto Art Center in Kyoto, and Con Carino in Sapporo.

Produced by:  (Japan) /  (Finland)

Agency for cultural affairs, Japan  平成23年度文化庁文化芸術の海外発信拠点形成事業

Sponsored by: THE SAISON FOUNDATION  THE FINNISH INSTITUTE IN JAPAN  
Finland: Performing Arts Japan Program for Europe (PAJ Europe)

Relate festivals: BIRD THEATRE FESTIVAL TOTTORI 4 (Japan)

Full Moon Dance Festival (Finland)

## JCDN Concept and Mission

The art of dance is distinct from other forms of art that require language or external tools in that the body itself is the primary medium of expression and communication. The ability to look deeply within oneself, the resources for self-expression, and the capacity to build organic relationships with others — these are the core elements of creation in dance. These elements are also essential aspects of the energy of human life.

As we plan ahead for the future of Japanese society, the nurturing of new sources of life energy is one of the essential tasks we face. The art of dance possesses this vitality that is so urgently needed in our contemporary world. The enrichment of society through the vitality of dance is JCDN's mission — both to provide opportunities for all people, from our children to our elders, to experience dance in everyday life, and to develop the infrastructure needed to support these activities.

An important part of our mission in fostering a constructive environment for dance is to give artists support so that their work can be created and presented outside of the communities where they are based and be spread throughout the country.

As a nonprofit arts service organization, JCDN aims to develop an environment for dance creation and to reform and improve the overall situation of the arts in Japan. We hope that JCDN can act as a bridge between the art of dance and society at large.

JCDN invites new members to join in ensuring the continued success of this mission, and to support in the expansion of JCDN's activities. It is our firm belief that with the continued support of our members, JCDN can make substantial contributions toward improving the performing arts environment in Japan.

**Japan Contemporary Dance Network**

## Similar Projects in the Past

### 2002 – 2009

The U.S. - Japan Choreographers Exchange Residency Project

Partner Organization: Dance Theater Workshop (New York), Japan Society

A few dance artists were selected each year, and they stayed together in multiple cities in both countries for a week each. During their stay, they will have studio work, perform shows, work on project creation, and hold open discussions.

#### First season in 2002

Cities: Philadelphia, New York, Kyoto

Artists: Headlong Dance Theater (Philadelphia), PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER (New York), Takeshi Yazaki (Kyoto), Ko Murobushi (Tokyo)

#### Second season in 2005

Cities: Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Kyoto and Matsuyama

Artists: Yukiko Amano(Tokyo), Shigemi Kitamura (Osaka), Ori Flomin (New York), Sara Sweet Ravidoux (Cambridge), Tania Isaacs (Philadelphia)

#### Third season in 2009

Cities: Boston, New York, Kyoto and Okinawa

Artists: Yukio Suzuki (Tokyo), Kitamari (Kyoto), Amy O’Neal (Seattle) and Kyle Abraham (New York)

### 2004

#### JCDN International Creative Residency Project <In Asia>

This was a project for Japanese and Asian dance artists to create a collaborative work through their residencies in each country.

Artists: Mugiyono Kasido (Indonesia), Daniel Yeung (Hong Kong), Shigemi Katamura and Osamu Jareo (Japan)

#### Artist in Residence Program 2004 (coordinated for Kyoto Art Center)

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER were invited from the USA. Each group stayed in Kyoto for a month. We recruited local people to participate in this program, had workshops and rehearsals, and final performances. There were many people who experienced dance for the first time in their life, and many of them are still involved in some type of dance

## activity.

### 2006

#### **Australia-Japan Dance Exchange (AJdX) 2006**

As one of the events associated with 2006, Australia-Japan Year of Exchange, which celebrated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia, the Australia Japan Dance Exchange (AJdX) 2006 was held in both countries as an international exchange project. Residencies were organized in various locations for dancers from both countries which involved creating collaborative works and giving performances. The locations for residencies and events included Kanazawa, Kyoto, Osaka and Matsuyama in Japan and Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Townsville in Australia.

#### “LUCY/KOTA Project”

Representative choreographers from the two countries, Lucy Guerin and Kota Yamazaki, went to one another's countries to hold auditions and choreograph a work for the assembled dancers. Performances were held in Kyoto, Yamaguchi, and then at the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

#### “SYDNEY KANSAI Project”

Six groups of active young artists from the two countries gave dance performances beginning with Art Theater dB and “remo” at the Osaka Festival Gate and then went on to stays in Matsuyama and Sydney, ending with a club event at the Sydney Opera House.

#### “KINOKO Project”

A collaborative project with an Australian interior designer, Justin Caleo. All the dancers of the Strange Kinoko dance company had a month of residency in Sydney's Old Meat market and in Kanazawa, Japan, where they created a collaborative work. Performances were held in Sydney, Kanazawa and Nagoya.

#### “CIRCUS Project”

The world famous Brisbane circus company C!RCA, having created a new wave in the Australian circus world with its unique fusion of dance and circus, was invited to give its first performance in Japan. Workshops were also held.

#### “BATIK×DANCE NORTH/SPLINTER GROUP Project”

The collaborative work between the Japanese dance group BATIK and Brisbane-based DANCE NORTH/SPLINTER GROUP, which was performed as an opening event for AJdX 2006 at the Yokohama Dance Collection R in February of 2006, was also performed in Australia. In the Australian performances, the additional presence of Jiro Matsumoto (music) and Sayoko Yamaguchi

(costumes) added new dimension to the production.

## 2009

### **BEPPU PROJECT 2010 -Art, Dance, Architecture and the City-**

(note: only the international program is mentioned here)

The first international art festival held in the hot spring town of Beppu had a dance program for which JCDN served as coordinator. The artists stayed in Beppu and created new works inspired by the city. The performance spaces were specially chosen to be very unique to the city including: a hot spring, a shopping arcade, a ferry deck.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

Vanguard dance artists of international standing resided in Beppu and produced and presented new collaborative works.

##### **A: No Matter (Women taking a bath)**

Dance: Julie Nioche (France) \_ Takiko Iwabuchi (Japan)

##### **B: Murobushi & Charmatz - magnetic field or cosmic nostalgia**

Ko Murobushi (Japan) \_ Boris Charmatz (France)

## 2008

### **Dance Life Festival 2008**

(note: only the international program is mentioned here)

The first Community Dance Festival in Japan. Artists stayed in multiple cities in Japan, worked with particular communities (e.g. the elderly, disabled, children), and created a performance. The artists' long term residency made deeper understanding between themselves and the community, especially for those who had no previous dance or performance experience. In each program, the artists stayed two to four weeks, and held a final performance.

\* Dance for everybody in Fukuoka 1

"Let's dance Kecak! Kecak workshop and the performance" Artist: I Ketut Rina (Indonesia)

\*Dance for everybody in Fukuoka 2

"Your story will become the dance – Magical experience with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange"

Artist: Liz Lerman (USA)

\*Dance for everybody in Fukuoka 3

"Discover your charm, everyone! With StopGap" Artist: StopGap Dance Company (UK)



\*Dance with kids and people with disabilities in Toyama “Community Dance’s Challenge – Discover your charm, everyone! With StopGap + Workshop for Kids” Artists: StopGap Dance Company (UK), Takuji Ito (Japan)

\*Dance with the elderly in Sapporo

“Your story will become the dance – Magical experience with Liz Lerman Dance Exchange”

Artist: Liz Lerman (USA)