

Performing Arts Japan List of Awardees 2005-2006

The Japan Foundation is pleased to announce grant awards totaling **\$270,000** to 10 presenters and artists in the United States through the Performing Arts Japan (PAJ) program for the fiscal 2005-2006. The grant recipients are listed below. (Please contact the Japan Foundation, New York for further information and finalized tour dates.)

PAJ Touring Grant awards 2005-2006

Total projects: 7

Total funds allocated: \$205,000

Grant amounts: \$10,000 - \$45,000

Bang on a Can (Brooklyn, NY) for a two-city U.S. tour of **Bang on a Can All-Stars** (www.bangonacan.org), featuring the work of Somei Satoh, Japanese composer of the postwar generation. Satoh's new piece, *Shu*, was commissioned by Bang on a Can with the support of the Japan Foundation through PAJ 2002-2003. The work had its world premiere in New York at Japan Society in February 2004.

Tour Dates: May 1 – July 23, 2005

Tour Locations: University of Maine (Orno, ME); MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA)

Cal Performances (Berkeley, CA) for an eleven-city North-American tour of **Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort** (www.ykvc.jp), founded in 1983 by Yukimi Kambe to perform both traditional repertoire and contemporary music for the *viola da gamba* (viol), a European stringed instrument similar to a modern cello, which was first introduced to Japan as early as 16th Century. The Consort's tour will include public performances and outreach activities.

Tour Dates: March 10 – April 8, 2006

Tour Locations: Capital University (Columbus, OH); University of Louisville (Louisville, KY); Arizona Early Music Society (Tucson, AZ); St. Cecilia Concert Series (Halifax, NS); Toronto Early Music Society (Toronto, ON); Emory University (Atlanta, GA); Yale University (New Haven, CT); Seattle Asian Art Museum (Seattle, WA); Cal Performances (Berkeley, CA); Santa Cruz Baroque Festival (Santa Cruz, CA); Early Music Now (Milwaukee, MN)

IUP Research Institute/The Lively Arts at IUP (Indiana, PA) for a twelve-city U.S. tour of **Nitta Oyako** (www.nittaoyako.com), a duo of Hiroshi Nitta (father) and Masahiro Nitta (son), both playing the *Tsugaru shamisen*, a three-stringed Japanese lute endemic to the northern part of Japan. At each tour location, the duo will engage in public performance as well as workshops, lectures/demonstrations, and open rehearsals.

Tour Dates: April 14 – May 6, 2005

Tour Locations: Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, PA); Latrobe Area Senior High School Center for Creativity (Latrobe, PA); Muhlenberg College (Allentown, PA); Lafayette

College (Easton, PA); Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Punxsutawney, PA); Japan America Society of Minnesota (St. Paul, MN); Lotus World Music and Arts Festival (Bloomington, IN); Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC); Joe's Pub at the Public Theater (New York, NY); Frostburg State University (Frostburg, MD); Warren County School District (Warren, PA); Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts (Harrisburg, PA)

Japan Society, Inc. (New York, NY) for a six-city North American tour of one of the most internationally acclaimed Butoh artists of our time, **Ko Murobushi and Ko & Edge Co.** (www.murobushi.com) in *Handsome Blue Sky (Bibo no Aozora)*, which was premiered at the JADE 2003 Memorial for Tatsumi Hijikata. The work will have its North American premiere during the tour. Workshops and other related events are planned at each touring venue.

Tour Dates: September 17 – October 8, 2005

Tour Locations: Towson University (Towson, MD); Japan Society (New York, NY); Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT); Usine C (Montreal, QC); On the Boards/Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance (Seattle, WA); Kirkland Performance Center (Kirkland, WA)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) (Portland, OR) for a three-city U.S. tour of Japanese dancer/choreographer, **Kota Yamazaki's Fluid hug-hug Co.** (www.jcdn.org). The tour will include performances of the company's work, as well as residencies for community outreach, educational programs, master classes and lectures/demonstrations. In Portland, the company's performance will be in addition to the presentation of Yamazaki's choreography of *FAGAALA*, the result of his creative partnership with Senegalese choreographer, Germaine Acogny, and her Compagnie Jant-Bi.

Tour Dates: September 7 – October 8, 2005

Tour Locations: Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (Portland, OR); North Fourth Art Center (Albuquerque, NM); Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)

Tradex, a National Organization for Traditional Artists Exchange (Honolulu, HI) for an eleven-city U.S. tour of **Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble East & West** (www.taikoarts.com) that furthers an appreciation of *taiko* – the Japanese art of drumming – and continues to develop this time-honored tradition. The tour will bring together professional musicians of both Japanese and Western instruments in an eclectic collaboration of traditional rhythms and modern compositions.

Tour Dates: October 26 – November 19, 2005

Tour Locations: Mu Performing Arts (Minneapolis, MN); Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center/University of Maryland (College Park, MD); Swarthmore College (Swarthmore, PA); American University (Washington, DC); St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN); Salt Lake Japanese American Citizens League (Salt Lake, UT); Stanford University (Stanford, CA); Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Maui, HI); University of Hawaii at Hilo (Hilo, HI); Kahilu Theatre Foundation (Kamuela, HI); University of Hawaii at Manoa (Honolulu, HI)

UCLA Live (Los Angeles, CA) for a five-city North American tour of **Pappa Tarahumara** (www.pappa-tara.com), a leading Japanese interdisciplinary performance company led by Hiroshi Koike, to present *Ship in a View*, a free-flowing panorama of images ranging from a

seaside town in the 1960's, when postwar Japan was experiencing a rapid industrialization, to a futuristic scene of dazzling movement and mysteriously beautiful imagery.

Tour Dates: January 30 – February 25, 2006

Tour Locations: UCLA Live/University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA); National Arts Centre (Ottawa, ON); Harbourfront Centre (Toronto, ON); University Musical Society/University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI); Wexner Center for the Performing Arts/The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)

PAJ Collaboration Grant awards 2005-2006

Total projects: 3

Total funds allocated: \$65,000

Grant amounts: \$20,000 - \$25,000

Fiji Theater Company, Inc. a.k.a. Ping Chong & Company, Inc. (New York, NY) in collaboration with Kani Public Arts Center (Kani, Gifu Prefecture, Japan) and Conversation & Company (Tokyo, Japan) will hold residencies in Japan and the U.S. to develop *Kwaidan 3*, the third installment of Ping Chong's full-length puppet theatre series, which is scheduled to premiere in the fall of 2007. *Kwaidan 3* will be conceived, written and directed by **Ping Chong** (www.pingchong.org), along with the artists Randy Ward (light & set design) and Atsushi Yamamoto (puppet design & construction), to become a multidisciplinary puppet theatre work featuring a traditional Japanese ghost story, a story adapted from a Middle Eastern source, and an original tale of the macabre by Ping Chong.

Project Period: April 2005 – March 2006

Inta, Inc. (New York, NY) for a collaboration among **Eiko & Koma** (www.eikoandkoma.org) (choreographers/dancers), Sam-Ang Sam (Cambodian-American composer) and David Ferri (lighting designer) to develop *The Reyum Project: Mourning* (tentative title), a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural and cross-generational performance work that explores contrasting notions of "Asian-ness" and its relationship to each artist's cultural identity. Young Cambodian men will participate as performers and visual artists. During the year-long creative phase of the project, Eiko & Koma will conduct workshops, master classes and "work-in-progress" showings in Cambodia and the U.S. The new work is scheduled to premiere and subsequently tour the U.S. in the spring of 2006.

Project Period: April 2005 – March 2006

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) (New York, NY) for a new contemporary dance work *What We When We*, directed by choreographer/performing artist, **Yasuko Yokoshi** (www.jcdn.org) that explores the emotional dynamics of male/female conversations in Raymond Carver's short story *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love*. The movement will be choreographed utilizing traditional Japanese kabuki dance vocabulary and aesthetics. The project is in collaboration with Masumi Seyama, a master of Kanjuro Fujima-style Kabuki dance. Yokoshi has invited four contemporary Japanese dancers based in New York City to participate in the project. After several residencies and

“work-in-progress” showings in Japan and the U.S., the new work is scheduled to premiere in New York at Danspace Project at the end of March 2006.

Project Period: April 2005 – March 2006

The grant applications for the fiscal 2005-2006 were reviewed by the PAJ Advisory Committee, which is comprised of one Japanese consultant and ten performing arts specialists from throughout the United States. The committee makes its award recommendations to Japan Foundation Headquarters in Tokyo.

PAJ Advisory Committee Members (as of December 2004)

- Dr. Michael Blachly (Director, University of Florida Performing Arts)
- Ms. Rachel Cooper (Director, Cultural Programs and Performing Arts, Asia Society)
- Mr. Lane Czaplinski (Artistic Director, On The Boards/Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance)
- Ms. Margaret Lawrence (Director of Programming, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College)
- Ms. Cora Mirikitani (Executive Director, Center for Cultural Innovation)
- Mr. Phillip Reynolds (Executive Director, The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago)
- Dr. Michael Ross (Executive Director, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- Ms. Julie Voigt (Senior Program Officer, Performing Arts, Walker Art Center)
- Ms. Pebbles Wadsworth (Director, The University of Texas at Austin Performing Arts Center)
- Mr. Martin Wechsler (Director of Programming, The Joyce Theater Foundation, Inc.)

PAJ Advisory Committee Consultant (as of December 2004)

- Prof. Tadashi Uchino (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo)