

## Performing Arts Japan List of Awardees 2008-2009

The Japan Foundation is pleased to announce grant awards totaling **US\$300,000 to 17 organizations** in the United States through the PAJ Program for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The grant recipients are listed below. (Please contact the Japan Foundation, New York for further information and finalized performance dates).

### PAJ Touring Grant 2008-2009

**Total projects: 6**

**Total funds allocated: \$130,000**

**Grant amounts: \$15,000 – \$30,000**

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**City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs** (Los Angeles, CA) for a five-city tour of traditional master Japanese puppet performances with the **Awaji Puppet Theater** company, designated as an Important Intangible Cultural Folk Asset by the Japanese government.

**Tour Dates:** February 20 – March 7, 2009

**Tour Locations:** DCA Barnsdall Gallery Theater (Los Angeles, CA); DCA Madrid Theater (Canoga Park, CA); The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC); Williams College (Williamstown, MA); Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT); Japan Society (New York, NY)

**Japan Society, Inc.** (New York, NY) for a six-city North American tour of *Five Days in March*, **Chelfitsch Theater Company's** award-winning production written and directed by Toshiki Okada.

**Tour Dates:** January 9 – February 20, 2009

**Tour Locations:** Japan Society (New York, NY); Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN); The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival (Vancouver, BC); On the Boards (Seattle, WA); Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH); Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL)

**Montclair State University Foundation** (Montclair, NJ) for a two-city tour of *Voyage* by **Dumb Type**, the avant-garde artists' collective based in Kyoto, Japan.

**Tour Dates:** October 3 – 18, 2008

**Tour Locations:** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY); Montclair State University (Montclair, NJ)

**ODC Theater** (San Francisco, CA) for a five-city tour of *Recollections of a Hapa Cowgirl*, a creative collaboration of international artists and ensembles, including **Dandelion**

**Dancetheater** (San Francisco, CA), **Gekidan Fe'LIX** (Hyogo, Japan), composer **Kallan Nishimoto**, and Noh theater artists, **Yuriko Doi** and **Masayuki Namiyoshi**.

**Tour Dates:** May - June, 2009

**Tour Locations:** University of Arkansas (Little Rock, AK); Fuller Lodge (Los Alamos, NM); College of Santa Fe (Santa Fe, NM); ODC Theater (San Francisco, CA); California State University, East Bay (Hayward, CA)

**Ragamala Music and Dance Theater** (Minneapolis, MN) for a 13-city tour of *Sva (Vital Force)*, in collaboration with **Wadaiko Ensemble TOKARA** of Nagano, Japan, bringing two artistic traditions – Japanese Taiko drumming and South Indian Bharatanatyam dance – together.

**Tour Dates:** May 1, 2008 – April 8, 2009

**Tour Locations:** The Southern Theater (Minneapolis, MN); University of Maine (Farmington, ME); Montgomery County Community College (Blue Bell, PA); Saint Anselm College (Manchester, NH); Westchester Community College (Valhalla, NY); Shepherd University (Shepherdstown, WV); Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ); Kutztown University (Kutztown, PA); Kupferberg Center Performances (Flushing, NY); Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK); California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA); Poway Center for the Performing Arts (Poway, CA); Performances to Grow On (Ojai, CA)

**The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago** (Chicago, IL) for a three-city tour of *Japan Dance Now* (working title), featuring four contemporary Japanese dance companies or artists: **Nibroll, Youya Shinjo, Sennichimae Blue Sky Dance Club** and **BABY-Q**.

**Tour Dates:** January 29 – February 21, 2009

**Tour Locations:** Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA); The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago (Chicago, IL); Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH)

#### **PAJ Collaboration Grant 2008-2009**

**Total projects: 11**

**Total funds allocated: \$170,000**

**Grant amounts: \$5,000 – \$35,000**

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**American Dance Festival, Inc.** (Durham, NC) **Akaji Maro** along with his **Dairakudakan** performers and 15 **American Dance Festival (ADF) dancers** will collaborate with the American composer, **Robert Kaplan**, to create an hour-long piece, *Secrets of Mankind*, premiering on July 16 in commemoration of the ADF's 75th Anniversary Season.

**Project Period:** June 5 – July 18, 2008

**Bang on a Can, Inc.** (Brooklyn, NY) The **Bang on a Can All-Stars** will partner with **Ryuichi Sakamoto**, an Academy, Grammy, and Golden Globe-winning Japanese composer, to create an evening-length set of work featuring Mr. Sakamoto and the All-Stars as live performers. The work is scheduled to premiere on May 30, 2009 as part of the annual Bang on a Can Marathon at the World Financial Center in New York.

**Project Period:** April 2008 – May 2009

**Dance Theater Workshop, Inc.** (New York, NY) will co-produce the third **U.S./Japan Choreographers Exchange Residencies Project** with Japan Society (New York, NY), MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA) and the Japan Contemporary Dance Network (Kyoto, Japan). Four choreographers – **Yuko Suzuki** (Tokyo), **Kitamari** (Kyoto), **Amy O'Neal** (Seattle) and **Kyle Abraham** (New York) – were invited to jointly participate in a series of two-week residencies in four cities in the U.S. and Japan with the goal of encouraging future projects and

collaborations.

**Project Period:** March – April 2009

**Home for Contemporary Theatre and Art Ltd. (dba HERE Arts Center)** (New York, NY) **Kameron Steele** and his **South Wing Theatre Company** will collaborate with **Mikuni Yanaihara** and her company, **Nibroll**, to create an original tragic-comic dance-theatre piece entitled *The Gospel According to Jack Vitrolo*, examining the conflict between the individual and the health care establishment. The full production is anticipated for Fall 2009.

**Project Period:** Spring 2008 – Spring 2009

**Khmer Arts Academy** (Long Beach, CA) A collaboration between Cambodian-American choreographer, **Sophiline Cheam Shapiro** and **Issui Minegishi**, current Grand Master of the Seikyodo ichigenkin (“one-string zither”), to create a new work, *The Rice Goddess Variations*, exploring multiple understandings of the Japanese rice deity, Inari, through dance and music.

**Project Period:** April 2008 – June 2009

**Painted Bride Art Center** (Philadelphia, PA) Japanese-born/New York-based choreographer **Kota Yamazaki** and his dance company **Fluid Hug-Hug** will participate in *trxf > transfer*, a series of residency activities in collaboration with Philadelphia-based contemporary dance company **dance theatre X** led by choreographer **Charles O. Anderson**, to exchange and explore Japanese Butoh forms and modern and African dance traditions.

**Project Period:** April 1 – 30, 2008

**Portland Taiko** (Portland, OR) will collaborate with **Shohei Kikuchi**, Artistic Director of **Man You Shu**, a folk dance group of Akita, Japan, to create an interdisciplinary performance work, *In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors*, encompassing music, theater and choreography. The work will premiere at the Newmark Theatre in Portland on September 19, 2008.

**Project Period:** April 1 – September 30, 2008

**Sweet Jane Production Inc. (dba International WOW Company)** (Brooklyn, NY) will produce full productions of three new contemporary Japanese plays, in collaboration with leading U.S. artists and companies: **Josh Fox/International WOW Company (Masataka Matsuda’s *Auto Da Fe*)**, **Dan Safer/Witness Relocation (Mikuni Yanaihara’s *The Blue Bird*)**, and **Jay Scheib (Akio Miyazawa’s *At The Entrance of New Town*)**. The project is a continuation of the “Spotlight Japan” program in the 2007 Prelude Festival organized by the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York.

**Project Period:** April 2008 – March 2009

**The Play Production Company, Inc. (dba The Play Company)** (New York, NY) will collaborate with Japanese playwright **Toshiki Okada**, American playwright **Aya Ogawa**, and American director **Dan Rothenberg**, as well as a team of U.S.-based actors and designers to develop a new American translation and production of Mr. Okada’s play *ENJOY*. The premiere is planned for the 2009-10 season in New York.

**Project Period:** Summer 2008 – Spring 2009

**The Playwrights' Center** (Minneapolis, MN), in partnership with the Guthrie Theater, the Tokyo International Arts Festival and the U.S./Japan Cultural Trade Network, will invite two Japanese playwrights, **Shigefumi Fukatsu** and **Yutaka Kuramochi**, to Minneapolis to develop and present staged readings of their plays in collaboration with local teams of theater artists. An American translation of Mr. Fukatsu's *Notari, Notari* (Slowly, Rolling) will be presented on July 17 & 19, 2008, as part of the 26th Annual PlayLabs Festival.

**Project Period:** July 9 – October 31, 2008

**Voice & Vision, Inc.** (New York, NY) will develop and produce Japanese-born/New York-based playwright **Chiori Miyagawa's** new play, *I Have Been to Hiroshima Mon Amour*, in collaboration with American director **Jean Wagner**, Chinese composer **Du Yun**, and lighting designer **Jennifer Tipton**. The work is scheduled to premiere at the HERE Arts Center (New York, NY) in January 2009.

**Project Period:** Fall 2007 – February 2009

The grant applications for the fiscal 2008-2009 were reviewed by the PAJ Advisory Committee, comprising nine performing arts specialists from throughout the United States. The committee made its recommendations to the Japan Foundation Headquarters in Tokyo.

#### **PAJ Advisory Committee Members** (as of December 2007)

- Ms. Elizabeth Boone (Artistic and Executive Director, Miami Light Project)
- Ms. Rachel Cooper (Director, Cultural Programs and Performing Arts, Asia Society)
- Mr. Lane Czaplinski (Artistic Director, On The Boards/Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance)
- Mr. Charles Helm (Director of Performing Arts, Wexner Center for the Arts, The Ohio State University)
- Mr. Arnold Malina (Chief Programming Officer and Artistic Director, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts)
- Mr. Peter Taub (Director of Performance Programs, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago)
- Mr. Sixto Wagan (Co-Executive Director/Performing Arts Curator, DiverseWorks Artspace)
- Ms. MK Wegmann (CEO and President, National Performance Network)
- Mr. Martin Wollesen (Director, University Events Office, UC San Diego)