

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

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

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 *trxfr > 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)