

Performing Arts Japan List of Awardees 2007-2008

The Japan Foundation is pleased to announce grant awards totaling **\$275,000** to **16 organizations** in the United States through the PAJ Program for the fiscal 2007-2008. The grant recipients are listed below. (Please contact the Japan Foundation, New York for further information and finalized performance dates.)

PAJ Touring Grant 2007-2008

Total projects: 6

Total funds allocated: \$132,500

Grant amounts: \$10,000 - \$55,000

Haleakala Inc. dba The Kitchen (New York, NY) for a three-city tour of the audio-visual performance, *Some Cats from Japan 2007*, featuring **Fuyuki Yamakawa, Kanta Horio** and **Atsuhiko Ito**, three of the most inventive performers active in Tokyo's underground electronic art and music scene.

Tour Dates: September 16 – 28, 2007

Tour Locations: Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (Portland, OR); Vancouver New Music (Vancouver, Canada); The Kitchen (New York, NY)

Inta, Inc. (Eiko & Koma) (New York, NY) for a three-city tour of *Cambodian Voices*, a half-evening dance quartet created by **Eiko and Koma** and Cambodian performers **Peace and Charian**.

Tour Dates: May 1 – June 30, 2007

Tour Locations: Danspace Project (New York, NY); American Dance Festival (Durham, NC); Center for the Arts, Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT)

The Japan Society of Boston (Boston, MA) for a five-city tour of the **National Bunraku Theater** of Osaka, Japan.

Tour Dates: September 29 – October 20, 2007

Tour Locations: Japan Society (New York, NY); Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College (Boston, MA); Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (Urbana, IL); Zellerbach Hall, Cal Performances (Berkeley, CA); Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (Los Angeles, CA)

Maureen Fleming Company (New York Foundation for the Arts) (New York, NY) for a four-city tour of **Maureen Fleming Company's** new evening-length interdisciplinary work, *Waters of Immortality*, featuring shakuhachi master **Akikazu Nakamura**.

Tour Dates: April 16 – November 4, 2007

Tour Locations: Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT); Kaatsbaan International Dance Center (Tivoli, NY); La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club (New York, NY); Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, MA)

Music From Japan, Inc. (New York, NY) for a four-city tour of percussionist **Yasunori Yamaguchi** and **Takeshi Sasamoto**, Japanese ancient flautist, and ensemble, with related educational events.

Tour Dates: February 23 – 29, 2008

Tour Locations: Merkin Concert Hall (New York, NY); Yasuragi Center (Mahopac, NY); Samford University (Birmingham, AL); Converse College (Spartanburg, SC)

Washington University (St. Louis, MO) for a three-city tour of **Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo Puppet Theatre Company**, accompanied by live Japanese traditional narrative songs (*shinnai*) featuring **Tsuruga Wakasanojo XI**, a living national treasure.

Tour Dates: September 27 – October 22, 2007

Tour Locations: University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Amherst, MA); Hanford Fox Theater (Hanford, CA); Washington University (St. Louis, MO)

PAJ Collaboration Grant 2007-2008

Total projects: 10

Total funds allocated: \$142,500

Grant amounts: \$7,500 - \$25,000

CAVE Organization, Inc. (Brooklyn, NY) **Ximena Garnica LEIMAY AcTS LAB** will create *Saigo No Honou: A Timeless Kaidan*, a new interdisciplinary piece inspired by traditional Japanese ghost stories (*kaidan*) and the Edo-era practice of telling these tales with progressively diminishing candlelight (*hyaku monogatari*) in collaboration with video artist **Shige Moriya** and Japanese butoh dancers, **Takuya Ishide**, **Yuko Kaseki** and **Daiji Meguro**. The work will premiere at the Theater for the New City in November 2007 as part of the New York Butoh Festival in November 2007.

Project Period: April – November 2007

Dancer's Group (San Francisco, CA) Japan-based butoh master, **Katsura Kan**, and San Francisco-based American butoh artist, **Saw Ledoh**, will develop *Harvesting Beauty in the Dark*, a new performance grounded in an exploration of butoh notation – the literary roots of founder Tatsumi Hijikata's butoh technique. The objective of the performance is to generate an original danced form of butoh poetry in the new global context of Japanese performance art.

Project Period: April 2007 – Spring 2008

Dansology, Inc. (New York, NY) **Koosil-ja/dance KUMIKOKIMOTO** will create an original dance work, *Blocks of Continuity/Movement – Live Cinema*, in collaboration with eight artists based in New York, including composer **Geoff Matters** and video artist **Caspar Stracke**. Inspired by Gilles Deleuze's philosophical theory that individuals are connected in a flow, beyond and outside of geography, the artists will explore the notion of presence, the realm of reality and the politics of body in digital community. The work will premiere at Dance Theater Workshop (New York) in Fall/Winter 2008.

Project Period: September 2007 – Spring 2008

Japan Society, Inc. (New York, NY) will commission butoh legend **Akira Kasai** to create a new dance work, *Butoh: America* (tentative title), in collaboration with five emerging U.S.-based butoh artists selected through an audition: **Sara Baird, Deborah Butler, Alissa Cardone, Celeste Hastings** and **Stephanie Lanckton**. The work will premiere at Japan Society in October 2007 as part of *Kazuo Ohno 101: Three-week Butoh Parade* in celebration of the 101st birthday of Kazuo Ohno, one of the founders of butoh.
Project Period: November 2006 – October 2007

Links Hall (Chicago, IL) will produce *Sound Space: Japan/USA*, a new collaborative music and dance project by eight Japanese and American artists: **Gene Coleman** (bass clarinet and project director), **Ko Ishikawa** (sho), **Yoko Nishi** (koto), **Ryuko Mizutani** (koto), **Kazuhisa Uchihashi** (guitar and electronics) as well as **Nicole Binder, Asimina Chremos** and **Daniel Burkholder** (dancers). The artists will create a work using movement and sound, responding to different architectural spaces through a series of residencies in Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.
Project Period: June 2007 – March 2008

Ma-Yi Theatre Company (New York, NY) will create an original multi-media theatre production based on Haruki Murakami's novel, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, under the artistic direction of **Stephen Earnhart**. Other artists include **Gregory Pierce** (writer), **Tal Yarden** (visual designer) and **Keiko Tsuneda** (Japanese literary translator). Work-in-progress showings will be held at Morishita Studio (Tokyo) in December 2007 as well as at 3-Legged Dog Art and Technology Center (New York) in Spring 2008.
Project Period: April 2007 – Spring 2008

Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, CUNY Graduate Center (New York, NY) will foster the development of a collaborative relationship between contemporary cutting-edge playwrights from Japan and New York-based ensemble theatre companies. Four Japanese playwrights, **Masataka Matsuda, Akio Miyazawa, Toshiki Okada** and **Mikuni Yanaiharu**, will be invited to New York to work with **Josh Fox (International WOW Company), Jay Scheib, The Play Company** and **Daniel Safer (Witness Relocation)**, culminating in an evening of staged readings at the 5th Annual PRELUDE Festival in September 2007.
Project Period: April – September 2007

The Playwrights' Center (Minneapolis, MN), in collaboration with the Guthrie Theater, will develop and present staged readings of two contemporary Japanese plays: *Like a Butterfly, My Nostalgia* by **Masataka Matsuda** and *Women Want to Tidy Up* by **Ai Nagai**. Matsuda and Nagai will be invited to the 25th Annual PlayLabs Festival in July 2007 as well as to the Writer/Director Series in November 2007 to work with American directors and dramaturgs.
Project Period: July 2007 – Spring 2008

7 Loaves, Inc. AKA GOH PRODUCTIONS (New York, NY) will produce a new dance-theater work, *POOOM* (tentative title), conceived and directed by New York-based choreographer, **Yoshiko Chuma**. Based on the personal history and essays by M.K. Binodini, a leading female writer in Manipur (India), the work will be developed through a series of

residencies in Manipur, Japan and the U.S., exploring the theme of cultures in conflict. The artists include five dancers from Chuma's **School of Hard Knocks**, **Jacob Burckhardt** (sound designer), **Han'nya Teikoku** (shakuhachi trio), **Sizzle Ohtaka** (singer/narrator) and **Kyoko Hirano** (dramaturg). The work will premiere at Japan Society (New York) in Fall 2008.

Project Period: May 2007 – April 2008

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA) will produce *c(H)ord*, a new collaborative performance work that takes its cue from butoh dance, Korean traditional music and dance, rock and roll, new music composition, Roy Hart vocal training and physical theater under the artistic direction of San Francisco-based artist, **Shinichi Iwano-Koga (inkBoat)**. Other artists include **Takuya Ishide**, **Sten Rudstrøm**, **Yuko Kaseki**, **Heini Nukari**, **Dohee Lee**, **Haruko Nishimura**, **Dana Iwano-Koga** and **Sherwood Chen**. The work will premiere at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on April 24, 2008.

Project Period: January 2007 – April 2008

The grant applications for the fiscal 2007-2008 were reviewed by the PAJ Advisory Committee, comprising one Japanese consultant and ten 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 2006)

- 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)
- Dr. 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)
- Mr. Martin Wechsler (Director of Programming, The Joyce Theater Foundation)
- Ms. MK Wegmann (CEO and President, National Performance Network)
- Mr. Martin Wollesen (Director, University Events Office, University of California, San Diego)

PAJ Advisory Committee Consultant (as of December 2006)

- Mr. Hidenaga Otori (Theater Critic)