



Le Logoscope presents

JAPON

DANCE PROJECT



JAPON DANCE PROJECT/PERFORMING ARTS PLATFORM OF THE LOGOSCOPE

Manager : **Noriko Bonafede Katayanagi**

Artists : **Naoya Aoki, Yasuyuki Endo, Hokuto Kodama, Mimoza Koike, Masahiro Yanagimoto**

Responsible for communication, artistic advisor : **Agnès Roux**

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PARTNERS

BALLET NATIONAL DE MARSEILLE

EU-JAPAN FEST - Tokyo

ESDC ROSELLA HIGHTOWER - Cannes

NEW NATIONAL THEATER OF JAPAN - Tokyo

In May 2013, **Le Logoscope** – the centre for mixed media artistic research based in the Principality of Monaco – hosted the **JAPON Dance Project**. This project was formed by five top-flight Japanese dancer-choreographers – **Mimoza KOÏKE** (Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo), **Yasuyuki ENDO** (Ballet National de Marseille), **Naoya AOKI** (freelance dancer and choreographer), **Masahiro YANAGIMOTO** (freelance dancer and choreographer), and **Hokuto KODAMA** (Royal Swedish Ballet). All five are involved in the world of professional dance, either internationally or in Japan.

JAPON Dance Project is a platform for **research, collaboration, creativity and intergenerational transmission**, set within the framework of contemporary **choreographic practices and Japanese culture**.

JAPON Dance Project is a kind of **floating island** where Japanese culture imagines itself both here and elsewhere. The artists' physical distance from one another has led them to focus on the **internet as their central communication tool**. Within this system of digital interconnectivity, they explore the **dramatic quality** of the choreographed narratives that their **unique personalities** convey.

The project is **in perpetual motion**, and its founders regularly collaborate with **other guest artists from Japan**. In the spirit of **knowledge-sharing**, their research and choreographic productions give rise to **performances, videos, residencies, workshops, and internships for young dancers**.

Following three residencies (from May to August 2013) in Marseille, Monaco et Tokyo, **JAPON Dance Project** presented **Le Paradis des fourmis** at ESDC Rosella Hightower in Cannes on 24 and 25 August 2013: a **Production-Manifesto** by the five founders **in two acts** that marks a very important step in the evolution of their project, and that in some ways anticipates the major production they will present **in New National Theater of Japan - Tokyo on 30 and 31 August 2014**.

“By thinking about their culture in the context of this vast globalised and localised world, JAPON Dance Project questions our relationship to this distorted sense of distance, in which the concepts of the Other and Elsewhere reflect and reinvent themselves. Caught up in our increasingly fast-paced society, these five dancer-choreographers seek out their path and their place, alone and together, through a constant process of adaptation: these Japanese are true chameleons, or quite simply eternal survivors! In this fragility (or strength), they seek to prolong History and stories...” **Agnès Roux, Artistic Director of Le Logoscope**

“There are many excellent dancers in the world, but I was very impressed with JAPON Dance Project’s energy. These five strong personalities – all individually superb – combine to create something truly extraordinary.” **Mochizuki, Director of New National Theatre of Japan - Tokyo**

“This unique project brings together not only the best of Japanese contemporary dance, but takes the best of Japanese culture and showcases it on the Riviera. JAPON Dance Project’s vision for the future is to tour the world and grow its collaborators and productions.” **Noriko Katayanagi-Bonafede, K.I.C. Business & Entertainment Consulting**









Mimoza KOÏKE

Japanese, born in Tokyo in 1982

Lives and works in Monaco

From 1998 to 2000 Mimoza studied dance at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in Lyon, graduating with distinction. She continued her training at the Jeune Ballet du Conservatoire de Lyon. In 2001 she joined the Ballet du Grand Théâtre in Geneva.

In 2003 she entered Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, directed by Jean-Christophe Maillot. In 2005 she was promoted to soloist. Since then, Mimoza Koïke has become one of the company's leading dancers.

Mimoza Koïke's superb artistry and unique technical abilities have also made her a popular dancer with the guest choreographers whom Jean-Christophe Maillot has invited to Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, including Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Jiri Kylián, William Forsythe, Johan Inger, Matjash Mrozewski, Emio Greco, Pieter C. Scholten, Inna Yohanson, and Alexander Ekman, as well as a favourite performer in repertory works by choreographers such as George Balanchine, Nijinsky, and Maurice Béjart.

Since 2007, spurred on by Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Imprévu*s and the ESAP, she has developed her skills as a choreographer and created pieces such as "Voisinages" (2007), "U Turn" (2008 – co-created with Jérôme Marchand), "Rossignols" (2010), "Ichi Ni San" and "Kodama" (2012). In 2008 she also created a solo piece, "Amenimo", for a gala performance in Tokyo.

Mimoza Koïke has been the artistic director of Le Logoscope's performing arts platform since 2010.



Yasuyuki ENDO

Japanese, born in Tokyo in 1969
Lives and works in Marseille

In 1991 Yasuyuki Endo joined the Star Dancers Ballet Tokyo company, moving to the Australian Ballet in 1994, before returning to the Star Dancers Ballet Tokyo in 1996. In 1998 he received the 10th Muramutu Award in Japan.

From 1999 to 2004 he danced with Charleroi Danses plan-k in Belgium, where he collaborated with Frédéric Flamand. He choreographed "Haoto" for the Passerelles project (Belgium) and "Chain" for the Aoyama ballet festival in Japan. He formed the performing arts group "BOnoBOS" with Taka Shamoto, and created productions and workshops with The Saison Foundation in Japan. He also danced with Saburo Teshigawara in "I was real document" and "Turandot". In 2005 Yasuyuki Endo joined the Ballet National de Marseille as a soloist and choreographer, creating productions such as "MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY This is...", "DOJYOJI+", "Té TO Té" and "3 in Passacaglia". He is also the Rehearsal Director. In 2008 he created "Kaeru" for the NBA Ballet in Tokyo, and in 2009 "Super MAN Project episode 1", which was presented at the Berlin International Dance Film Festival.

In 2010 he took the "Super MAN Project" to the Musée d'Art Contemporain in Marseille, and was invited to lead a workshop for the Architanz studio in Tokyo. Since 2011 he has organised the All Nippon Ballet Gala Dance Festival in Yokohama and Tokyo, in aid of the Tohoku earthquake disaster, as well as the Gala for Fukushima. He also choreographed "LOVE LOVE ROBOT <junkie of happiness>" for SDB Tokyo, and, in 2013, "Da.Da.Ma.Da.MAD" for the opening of Marseille-Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture.



Masahiro YANAGIMOTO

Japanese, born in Osaka in 1976
Lives and works in Tokyo

In 1988 Masahiro Yanagimoto played in a children's theatre group, which gave him the opportunity of acting in a television series. He then studied jazz dance. In 1994 he took an intensive training course in classical dance at the Art Ballet Naniwatsu company. In 1996 he was awarded second prize in the Kobe Dance Competition and won a leading role in "Shéhérazade" for the Kaisai Ballet Association.

In 1998 he left to work in Germany as a soloist at the Staatstheater Braunschweig, then moved to the Tanz Theater in Munich alongside Pierre Wyss. In 2000 he joined the Tanz Theater in Munich with Philip Taylor and began his career in contemporary dance.

In 2002 he moved to the Netherlands and joined the Ballet Scapino in Rotterdam. In 2004 he danced with the Conny Janssen Danst company, and entered Dance Galili in 2005.

In 2006 he returned to live and work in Japan as a choreographer, freelance dancer, professor and leader of W.

At the same time, he developed his choreographic style with the dancer and choreographer Naoya Aoki in his own company called +81.

In 2008 he co-founded C/society with Shintaro Ooe, touring Europe with "IKI SI TAI".



Naoya AOKI

Japanese, born in Tokyo in 1973

Lives and works in Tokyo

Naoya Aoki began dancing at the age of 16, and studied the structure of the human body in Tokyo contemporaneously. He then developed and taught his own method called "Contact x Balance".

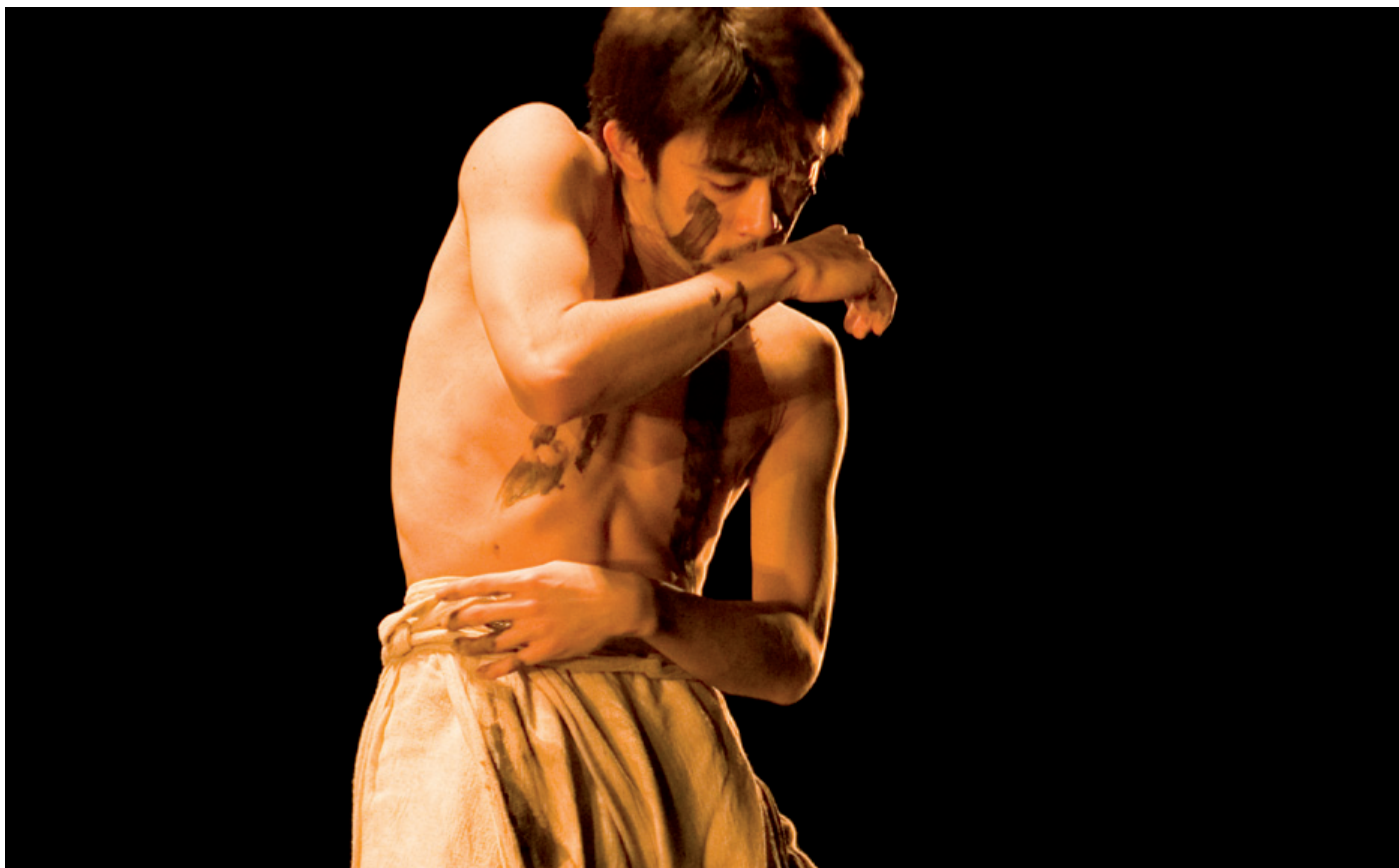
In 2004 he founded the Noism Company, the first Japanese dance company to receive a state subsidy.

In 2009 he choreographed and performed "L'oeuf" at the International Art Festival of Economic Co-operation in Setouchi.

In 2011 he formed a choreographic research group called +81 with Masahiro Yanagimoto. The team presented two productions: "Lilly", and "Shakotan blue" (2012) at the All Japan Charity Gala Valle.

In 2012 he created "Kuuneru dance" and "4 soku" for the project "Let's go dancing / ODORINI Ikuze! Vol. 2", for "Kuuneru dance" (Toritto dance), which he directed for the celebration of community theatre.

Naoya continues to invest in his need to dance as a human being by floating between the tradition of pure spirit and contemporary work.



Hokuto KODAMA

Japanese, born in Tokyo in 1982
Lives and works in Stockholm

Hokuto Kodama began his dance training at the Tokyo Ballet Works. After winning a number of competitions, including the Varna International Ballet Competition in 2000, he continued his training at the San Francisco Ballet School. He started his professional career at Alberta Ballet (Canada) in 2001, leaving in 2004 to join the Grands Ballets Canadiens in Montreal as a first soloist.

From 2008 to 2012 he danced with the Gothenburg Ballet (Sweden), before becoming first soloist at the Royal Ballet of Sweden.

Hokuto Kodama is an exceptionally versatile dancer with extensive experience in theatre dance and improv. He has taken part in major productions with numerous internationally renowned choreographers such as Mats Ek, Wim Vandekeybus, Johan Inger, Stijn Celis, Emanuel Gat, Tilman O'Donnell and Inbal Pinto. He has also danced in works by Ohad Naharin, Jiri Kylian, Sasha Waltz, Alexander Ekman and others.

Hokuto is also a choreographer. In 2010 he created "Nudans" for the Gothenburg Ballet's project for young dancers. From 2010 to 2011 he directed the "Point Blank" project in Japan with Kenta Kojiri and Yuuki Yamada.



LE LOGOSCOPE

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Le Logoscope is an accredited association based in Monaco. It was created in July 1997 at the behest of the first interministerial commission on youth.

ANATOMY OF LE LOGOSCOPE

Le Logoscope is a centre for mixed media* artistic research based in the Principality of Monaco. Its mission is to bring together professional artists. Dedicated to creativity and experimentation, it promotes contemporary artistic practices.

The specific focus of Le Logoscope is to encourage research by independent disciplines. This research fosters collective creativity and an interdisciplinary approach.

One of the goals of Le Logoscope is to stimulate an open dialogue between the arts and the community through these artistic creations.

PLATFORMS

LE LABORATOIRE – LABORATORY – Visual arts platform – Artistic director: **AGNÈS ROUX**

LE STUDIO – STUDIO – Music platform – Artistic director: **MICHA VANONY**

LE PLATEAU – STAGE – Performing arts platform – Artistic director: **MIMOZA KOÏKE**

LA FABRIQUE – FACTORY – Textile arts platform – Artistic director: **ALAIN PIERIMARCHI**

LES ÉDITIONS – EDITIONS – Supporting arts media platform – Coordinator: **Agnès Roux**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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