

[For Japan Residents] The Open Call for APAF Lab. Participants (Deadline June 24)

■ About APAF Lab.

Tokyo Festival APAF (Asian Performing Arts Farm 2019) will be running APAF Lab. Participants from Asia who are active in the field of performing arts, selected through a public call for participants, will stay in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and Tokyo, Japan, for about one week each, to deepen their understanding of their mutual awareness of issues and approach to creating performative works through theater, listening to lectures, visiting art spaces, workshops, and discussions.

During the Lab period, facilitators known as captains will assist the participants in setting up the issues and exploring these through dialog. In the latter session, held in Tokyo, an interim reporting session will be held on the first day, with a public presentation held on the final day, in which each participant will share with an audience what they have acquired in the course of this Lab.

Unlike performances of regular works, rather than focusing on degree of completion, this will be a site to focus on the processes leading up to completion, as well as emphasizing future possibilities. This program will foster the human resources and activities required for the future world of performing arts, in which cross-border activities will be in high demand.

■ From the Organizers

This year's APAF Lab will be held in the two countries of Indonesia and Japan, in recognition that behaviors and attitudes change with the environment; through various interactions with participating members from other Asian countries, this program aims to cultivate the ability to stand up everywhere, literally, as artists in the emergent performing arts scene in Asia engaged with transborder and transcultural issues. As captains, we welcome the two members of the *orangcosong* collective, who are active in this field in Asia, and we look forward to meeting young artists with adventurous minds who seek to stand up in an environment different from the usual, a harsh environment, and who can also overcome any difficulties in doing so.

APAF Director Junnosuke Tada

This Lab may be an entrance or exit to a new world for you, and for me too. I was the captain at the Art Camp of APAF 2015, but in these four years, the situation has changed dramatically. I no longer intend to act like a teacher or a mentor. I just want to find friends who can walk together in this changing world. Whether he or she is an artist, a producer, a dramaturg, or in any other position, I need a person who has the ambition to stand alone in this unknown world, and who is able to accept the solitude and connect with others. There is only one requirement to participate in this Lab. Look at your own theme and bring it here. Let's share and exchange among the participants, and explore our common language. For the time being we will use English, but we don't need fluent English. No one can use a "perfect language." I hope we can start from this chaotic field.

Captain: Chikara Fujiwara (orangcosong)

I have been working in various parts of Asia for this last year. Living between different cultures sometimes makes me feel hurt or angry. Sometimes it's difficult, but when that happens, I try to convey my feelings and opinions using my broken English or the local language. I feel my awareness has changed from such experiences. In Japan, people tend to have an unconscious spirit of "Harmony is to be valued," but I think there is no "harmony" at the beginning. Let's confront each other. Let's discuss and talk with each other. Then "harmony" may occur as a result. In this opportunity to meet with other artists gathering from different environments, I will struggle together with you.

Captain: Minori Sumiyoshiyama (orangcosong)

■ Details & Period

First session: Lab. Yogyakarta

Thursday, September 26, to Friday, October 4, 2019 *First day and last day are allocated for moving.

The participants will begin by deepening each other's activities and ideas. To this end, while visiting the local artistic sector and local artists, they will have a lot of time for casual dialogue and discussion. Workshops will also be held for participants to introduce their own specialties. At the end of this stay, we will explain the format for the final presentation in Tokyo and the format of the interim reporting session. Please prepare for yourself leading up to the first day of your stay in Tokyo.

Second session: Lab. Tokyo

Sunday, October 20, to Monday, October 28, 2019

*First day and last day are allocated for moving.

After the interim reporting session, participants will enter a period of preparation for the presentation held on the final day. They will also interact with APAF Exhibition participants and artists visiting Japan for the Tokyo Festival, listen to lectures, and view theater performances as part of the Tokyo Festival. We hope they experience unique stay in Tokyo during this international festival. The public presentation on the final day will be held at Theatre West, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre.

■ Number of Participants Sought

Approximately 3 persons

*A total of around 8 persons will take part, including the participants from Southeast Asia and overseas.

■ Participation Fee

Free of charge

Please note: participants will pay for their own meals and transportation to activities such as attending performances, fieldwork, during the program period (about 2,000 yen per day).

■ Support

- For Lab. Yogyakarta, roundtrip flights from a Japanese international airport to and from Yogyakarta and travel expenses associated with the common program.
- For Lab. Tokyo, assistance with roundtrip transportation from place of residence to Ikebukuro, Tokyo (on request)
- Provision of accommodation during the program period (8 nights × 2 cities) (* May be shared accommodation)
- Per diem allowance during the program period (2,000 yen × 8 days × 2 cities)
- Participation cost for tickets and lectures performed as part of the program
- Local language–English (or local language–Japanese) translation for Lab. Yogyakarta
- Japanese–English interpretation for the interim presentation and final presentation
- Procurement costs for materials required for final presentation (upper limit 5,000 yen)
- Participants will receive a separate fee payment 30,000 yen for speaking at the final presentation.

■ Eligibility

- Persons based in Japan or Asia who have presented works or projects in the field of performing arts (ex: Director, Choreographer, Performer, Dramaturg, Producer, Coordinator). Alternatively, persons who have played a significant role in the creation of such works.
- As a rule, persons aged 35 or under
- Persons able to stay and participate throughout both the first and second sessions of the exhibition period (for Lab. Tokyo, those based in the Tokyo suburbs may commute from home)
- Persons who agree with the objective of this program and intend to participate actively
- Persons who intend to continue working in the field of performing arts in the future
- Persons willing to communicate with other participants in English

■ Application Method

Selection will be made based on documents. Please fill in and attach the following information using the special application form on the APAF official site. Application documents should be written in English.

- Name and/or artist name
- Country of citizenship
- Occupation (organizational affiliation, etc.)
- Main career and history of activities (up to 250 words/Proper nouns may be in Japanese)
- Contact address (with postal code)
- Daytime phone number
- Email address
- Website
- Video links (YouTube etc.) to works that you have created or have been involved in *Please describe the role you played in these works.
- Motivation for application (up to 150 words)
- Central themes of artistic creation, awareness of issues, etc. (up to 250 words)
- Attitude to future activities, goals, etc. (up to 150 words)
- English language ability (level selection)
- Contact details for correspondence with the APAF Office

* All personal information will be stored in strict confidentiality and will not be used for any communications other than this project.

■ Application Deadline

Monday, June 24, 2019 at 11:59 pm (Japan Standard Time)

■ Announcement of Results

Around July 20, 2019

* In principle, the results of the screening and communications will be sent by email. Please be sure to check your computer and mobile phone settings to ensure effective contact by email.

◆ Contact Us

APAF Office

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■ The Profiles of Captains

Chikara FUJIWARA



photo by Hong Kong Art Center

Born in Kochi (Japan) in 1977. He is based in Yokohama and is active in Japan and overseas as a critic/artist/curator/dramaturg. In order to connect a world divided by “invisible walls,” he produced a touring project called “ENGEKI QUEST” in Yokohama, Kinoshita, Manila, Düsseldorf, Ansan, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Bangkok. Inspired by his interest in human mobility, he created the performances “Woman in A Port” (2017) and “HONEYMOON” (2018), and he invented “IsLand Bar” with transnational artists at ADAM 2017 and Taipei Arts Festival 2018. As a dramaturg, he has participated in “Hitsudankai” by Minori Sumiyoshiyama since 2018. As a critic, he co-authored “Engeki Saikyo-ron: New Currents in Japanese Contemporary Theater” (2013) with theater journalist Kyoko Tokunaga, and also co-manages the website “Engeki Saikyo-ron-ing.” Since 2017, he has been a Senior Fellow at The Saison Foundation and the East Asian Cultural Exchange Envoy of Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Minori SUMIYOSHIYAMA



Born in Osaka (Japan) in 1986. She studied architecture at Kyoto Institute of Technology. She acted based in Kyoto in various directors' works including contemporary dance, butoh, and theater. She belonged to the butoh group Sennichimae Blue Sky Dance Club (2009–11) and the dance company Ensemble Sonne (2013–18), and became an associate member of the performing arts group dracom (2018–). Since 2010, she has worked on her own creations. Her works focus on the relationship between space and body, and also create relationships with audiences by making her own tools such as balloons or karuta (Japanese traditional cards), etc. Sometimes she collaborates with musicians or architects; for example, she recently danced with contemporary musician Tam Pham on a train track in Hanoi. Since 2017, she has performed “Hitsudankai - From now/here, Silence” in Kyoto, Osaka, Busan, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Kochi, Yangon, and Yogyakarta. In this performance, participants communicate by only writing in complete silence. She has participated in Chikara Fujiwara’s “ENGEKI QUEST” and “HONEYMOON” in various Asian cities since 2017.

orangcosong



photo by Hajime Kato

An art collective founded in 2019 by Chikara Fujiwara and Minori Sumiyoshiyama, who have been active mainly in Asia. A married couple, they connect and create with others on each project. Their activities are based on the experience of performing arts, but transcend any genres and positions. The group’s name was conceived based on the Indonesian words *orang* (person) and *kosong* (empty). The Chinese name is 偶然空尊.

APAF-Asian Performing Arts Farm

Organized by Tokyo Festival Executive Committee

[Toshima City, Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation, Festival/Tokyo Executive Committee, Arts Council Tokyo & Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)]

Co-organized by The Japan Foundation Asia Center

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