NEW NATIONAL THEATRE, TOKYO 2018/2019 SEASON

BALLET & DANCE THE NATIONAL BALLET OF JAPAN

● National Ballet of Japan takes on Christopher WHEELDON’s “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”

The 2018/2019 ballet season will open with a new, full-length ballet, “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”. Co-produced with the Australian Ballet, this will be the first time a Japanese ballet company to perform this much acclaimed work, first performed by the Royal Ballet in 2011. Based on Lewis CARROLL’s tale, this is a ballet in three acts choreographed by Christopher WHEELDON with a scenario by Nicholas WRIGHT, music by Joby TALBOT and designed by the award-winning Bob CROWLEY. With only the foremost ballet companies around the world able to stage this production, this is a truly commendable addition to our repertoire. We hope that this new and vibrant work will take the artistry and expressiveness of the dancers to a new level in creating a theatrical performance for audiences to enjoy. Expect much of this brilliant piece that combines entertainment with artistry, incorporating elements such as colourful costumes, physical expression that is beyond what we have known as classical ballet and a stage setting empowered by modern technology.

● Revivals and Repertory

For the December Christmas season, we will be performing “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King”, choreographed by Wayne EAGLING, which opened our 2017/2018 season. In January, we will stage our “New Year Ballet”, which comprise three pieces: “Les Sylphides” and “Petrouchka”, both over a century old and choreographed by Michel FOKINE, and a new production of “The Firebird” choreographed by NAKAMURA Megumi, a driving force in the modern Japanese dance world. In March, we will perform “La Bayadère” with direction and revised choreography by MAKI Asami, followed by the heart-warming masterpiece “Cinderella” choreographed by Sir Frederick ASHTON. In June, the popular “Aladdin” choreographed by David BINTLEY will bring the season to a close.

● 3 New Dance Productions and a Dance Archive Performance

The 2018/2019 dance season also comprises a colourful line-up. In August, the highly-acclaimed “JAPON dance project” choreographed by Japanese dancers based in Monaco, will present a new work based on SHAKESPEARE’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”. In November, we will be staging “Dance Archives in Japan 2018”, the third in the Dance Archives series, which looks back at the history of Japanese modern dance. In March, we present some of the best works to emerge from the NBJ Choreographic Group, followed by “NINJA” by MORIYAMA Kaiji, highly acclaimed for his engaging productions enjoyed by adults and children alike.
OHARA Noriko, Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Japan

Trained under TACHIBANA Akiko, MAKI Asami, Alexandra DANILLOVA, and Igor SCHWEZOFF. After graduating from the Tchibana Ballet School, she entered the Tchibana Ballet Company and, in 1956, joined the just-formed Asami Maki Ballet Tokyo. Chosen for the lead role in "Swan Lake" in 1962, and thereafter performed in leading roles in numerous works from classical to contemporary.

She went to the United States to study in 1971, then to Great Britain in 1974. Joined the New London Ballet, then moved to the London Festival Ballet, then to the Scottish Ballet. She was a guest at the Basel Ballet in Switzerland in 1977, then in 1978 returned to the Scottish Ballet where she was the Principal Dancer until 1996.

She became the Ballet Mistress of the National Ballet of Japan from 1999, then Assistant Director of Ballet from 2010, and was appointed as the Artistic Director of Ballet and Dance at the New National Theatre, Tokyo in September 2014.

Introducing Principal Dancers of the National Ballet of Japan

FUKUOKA Yudai  IZAWA Shun  OKUMURA Kosuke  SUGANO Hideo

MOTOJIMA Miwa  ONO Ayako  YONEZAWA Yui
NTT BALLET 2018/2019 SEASON AT A GLANCE
--------- 7 Productions including 5 Full-Length Narrative Ballets ---------

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND ©
[ New Production ]
2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11 November 2018

Music: Joby TALBOT
Choreography: Christopher WHEELDON
Conductor: Nathan BROCK
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
Co-Production with The Australian Ballet

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING
16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 December 2018

Music: Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY
Choreography: Wayne EAGLING
Conductor: Alexei BAKLAN
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
Chorus: The Little Singers of Tokyo

NEW YEAR BALLET
12, 13, 14 January 2019

< Les Sylphides >
Music: Frederic CHOPIN
Choreography: Michel FOKINE

< The Firebird >
[ New Production ]
Music: Igor STRAVINSKY
Choreography: NAKAMURA Megumi

< Petrouchka >
Music: Igor STRAVINSKY
Libretto: Igor STRAVINSKY and Alexandre BENOIS
Choreography: Michel FOKINE
Conductor: Martin YATES
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
LA BAYADÈRE
2, 3, 9, 10 March 2019
Music: Leon MINKUS
Choreography: Marius PETIPA
Production: MAKI Asami
Conductor: Alexei BAKLAN
Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra

CINDERELLA
27, 28, 29 April, 3, 4, 5 May 2019
Music: Sergei PROKOFIEV
Choreography: Sir Frederic ASHTON
Conductor: TOMITA Misato
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

ALADDIN
15, 16, 22, 23 June 2019
Music: Carl DAVIS
Choreography: David BINTLEY
Conductor: Paul MURPHY / TOMITA Misato
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

BALLET FOR CHILDREN "CINDERELLA"
21, 22, 23, 24 July 2018
Music: Sergei PROKOFIEV
Production Supervisor: MAKI Asami
Choreography: OGURA Sachiko
NNTT DANCE 2018/2019 SEASON AT A GLANCE
---------- 4 Productions in Total ----------

JAPON DANCE PROJECT 2018 × NBJ
"SUMMER / NIGHT / DREAM" [New Production]
25, 26 August 2018

Choreography and Performance:
Members of JAPON dance project:
ENDO Yasuyuki, KOIKE Mimoza, YANAGIMOTO Masahiro
Guest Artists: HATTORI Yukichi, TSUGAWA Yurie
Dancers of the National Ballet of Japan

DANCE ARCHIVES IN JAPAN 2018
24, 25 November 2018

< Mummies in the Desert >
Choreography: FUJII Koh & Toshiko
Staging: FUJII Toshiko
Music Selection: YAMAMOTO Nao

< Dancing in the Prison Cell >
Choreography: WAKAMATSU Miki
Staging: OYAIDE Kayoko, KUBOUCHI Kinuko
Music: Kurt WEILL etc.

< Garden in August >
Choreography: SHOJI Hiroshi
Staging: NAKAI Keiko
Music: YASURAOKA Akio

"JAPON dance project 2016 Move/Still" (Photographed by Takashi SHIKAMA)
DANCE TO THE FUTURE 2019  
29, 30, 31 March 2019  [ New Production ]

Choreography and Performance:  
The National Ballet of Japan  
Adviser: NAKAMURA Megumi

MORIYAMA KAIJI "NINJA"  [ New Production ]  
31 May, 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 June 2019

Art Direction & Choreography: MORIYAMA Kaiji  
Music: KAWASE Kohske  
Cast: MORIYAMA Kaiji and others
ABOUT THE NEW NATIONAL THEATRE, TOKYO

The New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT) is Japan's only national theatre dedicated to the performing arts of Opera, Ballet, Dance and Drama. Since we opened in 1997, the NNTT has presented world-class performances not only at our theatre in Tokyo but also at many regional theatres, and has come to occupy a familiar and much-loved place in the nation's cultural life.

The NNTT comprises the Opera House (1814 seats; known as Opera Palace), Playhouse (1038 seats) and The Pit (open space theatre with flexible seating arrangements up to 468 seats), each of which uniquely contributes to an annual total of about 300 stage performances to the delight of approx. 200,000 theatregoers, including many visitors from overseas. The theatre is constantly active in staging productions, by itself or in collaboration with other theatres throughout Japan and overseas.

New National Theatre Chorus and The National Ballet of Japan are the two resident companies of the NNTT. NNT Chorus inaugurated since the 1998/1999 Season performs in most of the opera productions produced by NNTT. Their activities go beyond operatic performances while they also appear at other concert halls and music festivals and performs in concerts with symphony orchestra. Meanwhile, the National Ballet of Japan (NBJ) was founded in 1997 as the first ballet company in Japan resident of a Theatre. NBJ’s repertoire is broad in scope, embracing classics such as “Swan Lake”, “The Sleeping Beauty”, “The Nutcracker” and works by choreographers such as George BALANCHINE, Roland PETIT, Kenneth MACMILLAN, Frederic ASHTON and David BINTLEY.

The NNTT is also involved in educational programmes for high school students for their first time opera, ballet for children, free lectures, talk sessions and workshops, and other initiatives to provide people the opportunities to encounter the art forms they have not been exposed to before. Also, training young artists and personnel involved in the performing arts is equally important for the NNTT and we have Opera Studio, Ballet School and Drama School within the theatre complex, hoping that the graduates will take these arts forms forward into the future.

As Japan's foremost national theatre/opera house, New National Theatre Tokyo strives to create, promote and disseminate performing arts of the highest achievement to the public, in a way that inspires and engage with people on the emotional level. In doing so, we strive to be a full and enriching presence, and to this end we look to your support and partnership.