NEW NATIONAL THEATRE, TOKYO 2019/2020 SEASON
BALLET & DANCE  THE NATIONAL BALLET OF JAPAN

New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT) announced the 2019/2020 Ballet & Dance Season, the final season under the Artistic Director, Noriko OHARA, which features 38 performances of 6 ballet works including 5 full-length narrative ballet, and 11 performances of 3 dance pieces.

• The Final Season for Noriko OHARA as Artistic Director of Ballet and Dance at the New National Theatre, Tokyo

Noriko OHARA became the Ballet Mistress of the company in 1999, Assistant Director in 2010 before assumed office as the Artistic Director in September 2014. During these 20 years ever since the company was founded, she has nurtured and led the dancers for The National Ballet of Japan to become the leading company in Japan. This season's line-up sums up this company's best works thus far.

The season will open in October with Kenneth MACMILLAN's "Romeo and Juliet", an exemplar of the dramatic ballet tradition. This will be followed by "Manon" in February and March. Both works will showcase the company's expressive richness and depth. Christmas season will feature Wayne EAGLING's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King". Technically a very demanding piece, this dreamy fairy tale has real visual appeal which audiences of all ages will enjoy. Then, our "New Year Ballet" will feature what has been called "music for the eyes" in the form of George BALANCHINE's "Serenade", as well as pas de deux from "Raymonda" and "Le Corsaire". We will also present a new one-act ballet "DGV (Danse à Grand Vitesse)" choreographed by Christopher WHEELDON. We are pleased to add this piece to our repertoire following "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland©" by the same choreographer, who is one of today's most popular and talented artist in the ballet world. In May, we will be performing "Don Quixote", which has been very popular ever since it was first performed in 1999. We will close the season in June with a reprise of WHEELDON's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland©", a celebrated piece that demands much of the dancers in terms of expressiveness and technique.

As for our Dance productions, for the opening of the Season in November, we will present "Beethoven Sonata", a collaborative work between The National Ballet of Japan and Megumi NAKAMURA that received critical acclaim in the 2017 when it had its world premiere. In March, we will stage the "DANCE to the Future 2020" choreographed by dancers from the National Ballet. In June, we will be performing "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Shuji ONODERA of Company Derashinera, a piece that could be enjoyed by the whole family.
NNTT BALLET 2019/2020 SEASON AT A GLANCE

--------- 6 Productions including 5 Full-Length Narrative Ballets ---------

ROMEO AND JULIET
19, 20, 24, 26, 27 October 2019
Music:  Sergei PROKOFIEV
Choreography: Sir Kenneth MACMILLAN
Set & Costume: Paul ANDREWS
Lighting:  SAWADA Yuji
Conductor:  Martin YATES
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING
14, 15, 17, 21, 22 December 2019
Music:  Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY
Choreography: Wayne EAGLING
Set Design:  KAWAGUCHI Naoji
Costume:  MAEDA Ayako
Lighting:  SAWADA Yuji
Conductor:  Alexei BAKLAN
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
Chorus:  The Little Singers of Tokyo

NEW YEAR BALLET
11, 12, 13 January 2020

<SERENADE>
Music:  Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY
Choreography: George BALANCHINE

<PAS DE DEUX FROM RAYMONDA & LE CORSAIRE>
Music:  Alexandr GLAZUNOV (Raymonda)
Riccardo DRIGO (Le Corsaire)
Choreography: Marius PETIPA

<DGV Danse à Grande Vitesse> [New Production]
Music:  Michael NYMAN
Choreography: Christopher WHEELDON
Set & Costume: Jean-Marc PUISSANT
Lighting:  Jennifer TIPTON
Conductor:  Martin YATES
Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra

--- Photographs ---
Romeo and Juliet (Photographed by Hidemi SETO)
The Nutcracker and the Mouse King (Photographed by Takashi SHIKAMA)
Serenade © The George Balanchine Trust (Photographed by Hidemi SETO)
MANON
22, 23, 26, 29 February, 1 March 2020
Music: Jules MASSENET
Choreography: Sir Kenneth MACMILLAN
Set & Costume: Peter FARMER
Lighting: SAWADA Yuji
Conductor: Martin YATES
Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra

DON QUIXOTE
2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 May 2020
Music: Léon MINKUS
Choreography: Marius PETIPA/ Alexandr GORSKY
Production: Alexei FADEECHEV
Set & Costume: Vyacheslav OKUNEV
Lighting: KAJI Kozo
Conductor: Alexei BAKLAN
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND ©
5, 6, 7, 13, 14 June 2020
Music: Joby TALBOT
Choreography: Christopher WHEELDON
Set & Costume: Bob CROWLEY
Scenario: Nicholas WRIGHT
Lighting: Natasha KATZ
Projection: Jon DRISCOLL and Gemma CARRINGTON
Puppetry: Toby OLIE
Magic Consultant: Paul KIEVE
Conductor: Nathan BROCK / TOMITA Misato
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
Co-Production with The Australian Ballet
NNTT DANCE 2019/2020 SEASON AT A GLANCE
--------- 3 Productions in Total ---------

Nakamura Megumi “BEETHOVEN SONATA”
30 November, 1 December 2019
Choreography: NAKAMURA Megumi
Music: Ludwig van BEETHOVEN
Lighting: ADACHI Hisashi
Set Design: SEYAMA Yoko
Costume: YAMADA Izumi
Music Advisor: NOZAWA Mica
Sound: UCHIDA Makoto
Performance: SHUTO Yasuyuki
The National Ballet of Japan

DANCE TO THE FUTURE 2020
NBJ Choreographic Group
27, 28, 29 March 2020 [New Production]
Choreography and Performance:
   The National Ballet of Japan
Advisor: ENDO Yasuyuki

Onodera Shuji Company derashinera
“ALICE’S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND”
20, 21, 26, 27, 28 June 2020
Direction & Choreography: ONODERA Shuji
Music Advisor: IKEDA Nobu
Sound: KURONO Hisashi
Lighting: YOSHIMOTO Yukiko
Set Designer: ISHIGURO Takeshi
Costume: IMAMURA Azusa
Text: YAMAGUCHI Akane
Performance: Company Derashinera
NORIKO OHARA, Artistic Director of the National Ballet of Japan

Noriko OHARA trained under Tachibana Akiko from the age of four, and after graduating from the Tachibana Ballet Academy, she entered the Tachibana Ballet. In 1956, at the age 18, she joined the then newly founded Asami Maki Ballet Tokyo as a Principal Dancer. In 1971, she moved to New York to further her professional training and in 1974, she relocated to London to join New London Ballet, and from there accepted an invitation from Dame Beryl Grey to join London Festival Ballet (now English National Ballet). After one season with London Festival Ballet, she was invited by Peter Darrell, Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, to join the company as Principal Dancer. This was an association that lasted more than 20 years. With the Scottish Ballet, she danced all the major roles in the classical repertoire including “Swan Lake”, “Nutcracker”, “Coppelia”, “Giselle” and “La Sylphide”. She also performed new works created by Peter Darrell including “Cheri”, “Cinderella”, “Carmen” and “Tales of Hoffmann”, as well as works by John Cranko, Jiri Kylian, Robert North, Jack Carter and Andre Prokovsky.

In 1999, she became Ballet Mistress of New National Theatre Ballet (now National Ballet of Japan), and from 2010 she worked closely with David Bintley as Assistant Director of Ballet. In September 2014, she assumed office as the theatre’s Artistic Director of Ballet & Dance.

Introducing Principal Dancers of the National Ballet of Japan

Yudai FUKUOKA  Shun IZAWA  Kosuke OKUMURA  Hideo SUGANO

Miwa MOTOJIMA  Ayako ONO  Yui YONEZAWA
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.