

**Commemorating 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Japan-Türkiye Diplomatic Relations  
Sankai Juku Performance in Türkiye**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Türkiye diplomatic relations, the Japan Foundation (JF) will organize performances by the Butoh company Sankai Juku at the largest performing arts festival in Türkiye, the Istanbul Theatre Festival.

Sankai Juku will perform “Utsushi” as the festival. This masterpiece is directed, choreographed, and designed by Ushio Amagatsu, the founder of Sankai Juku himself (first performed in 2008).

Prior to the Sankai Juku performances, JF sent Kae Ishimoto, a curator at Hijikata Tatsumi Archive in Keio University Art Center and a Butoh dancer herself, to Istanbul, as a lecturer. On October 17, she gave a lecture on Butoh and hold a screening of the films of Butoh works from the Hijikata Tatsumi Archive.

We hope that through this project, Turkish audiences, and professionals of performing arts will have a chance to deepen their interest and their understanding of Butoh, an artform from Japan which has spread worldwide.



Date and time : Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25, 2024 8pm

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Venue : Zorlu PSM Turkcell Sahnesi

Program : “Utsushi”

Information : [Utsushi \(iksv.org\)](https://www.iksv.org)

Ticket : [UTSUSHI | Zorlu PSM Turkcell Sahnesi | İKSV Tiyatro Biletleri - PASSO](https://www.iksv.org)

Organizer : Japan Foundation (JF) ,İstanbul Kültür Sanat Vakfı (İKSV)  
Consulate-General of Japan in Istanbul

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**Profile****Sankai Juku**

Sankai Juku is a butoh company founded in 1975 by its leader, Ushio Amagatsu, which began touring abroad in 1980, performing in over 700 cities in 48 countries around the world, including Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania. Currently based mainly in France and Japan, the company continues to present a new work approximately once every two years.

In addition to directing and choreographing, Amagatsu also comprehensively has designed the space and costumes for his works. Amagatsu has consistently considered Butoh as a “dialogue with gravity,” and has received high acclaim for his approach to the universal inner nature of human beings, such as “birth” and “death.” In 2002, they received the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production for their London performance of “Hibiki.” In 2013, they received the Japan Foundation Award.

• Official website: [HOME | Sankai Juku](#)



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**Kae ISHIMOTO**

Kae Ishimoto was born into a family line that perpetuates the traditional Japanese dance, *Nihon buyo*. She began learning the traditional Japanese dance from the age of three, jazz dance from the age of four, and has since trained in modern, contemporary, and butoh dance. Since 2002, she has been working with Yukio Waguri, one of the direct disciples of Tatsumi Hijikata. She began her career as Butoh dancer under Waguri's guidance and has worked with Natsu Nakajima, Yoshito Ohno, Moe Yamamoto and Minako Seki, among others. In 2011, she performed her solo “Transformation Girl”, choreographed by Waguri using the Hijikata method of butoh, in 8 countries in Asia and Europe. She has been invited to perform in various festivals in 21 countries in Asia, Europe and the US, such as Bangkok Fringe festival, Butoh Festival in Barcelona.

As the director of “Perspectives On Hijikata Research Collective (POHRC)”, with Rosa van Hensbergen, she has organized intensive workshops and events in Japan and UK for 11 years, and has been invited as a Butoh teacher to 14 countries and regions such as Hong Kong, Indonesia and Mexico. She teaches Hijikata's Butoh-fu (Butoh Notation System) not only as theory in the academic research, but also as practice for dancers and performers.

Since 2020, she is the curator of Hijikata Tatsumi Archive in the Keio University Art Center.



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**Istanbul Theatre Festival**

The Istanbul Theatre Festival is an international theater festival operated by a nonprofit organization, the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts. In 1973, on the fiftieth anniversary of the republic, the Istanbul Festival was started as an international cultural event. It later split into separate events and from this, emerged the Istanbul Theatre Festival in 1989. The Istanbul Theatre Festival is currently held every autumn, showcasing a range of theater and dance from Türkiye and around the world.

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