

OKADA Toshiki's theater company, chelfitsch, will perform with a local ensemble at the Seoul Performing Arts Festival!

The performance in Seoul is to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-ROK relations

The Japan Foundation (JF) will present the work "Metamorphosis of a Living Room" by the Japanese theater company, chelfitsch, at the Seoul Performing Arts Festival (SPAF) in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK). This performance is being put on to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-ROK relations.

The work is a collaboration between the playwright OKADA Toshiki and composer FUJIKURA Dai. The theatre company, chelfitsch, are constantly evolving their methodology based around a unique relationship between words and the body, and in this work, they present a new way of relating words and sounds by juxtaposing theatrical and musical performances on the stage.

"Metamorphosis of a Living Room" originated from a commission from Vienna Art Week, which is one of Austria's largest international festivals, and began production in 2021 as part of JF's International Creations in Performing Arts Program, during which there was a performance of the work in progress. The world premiere of this work was in 2023, accompanied by a European tour, followed by performances in Tokyo in 2024, and then in Kobe and Aichi in 2025.

For the performance in Seoul, local ensemble SYMPHONIC ARMONIA will be performing the music in collaboration with the actors of chelfitsch.

The Seoul Performing Arts Festival (SPAF) is a leading international performing arts festival in Korea that has been held every autumn since 2001. In 2022, CHOI Seok Kyu was appointed as the festival's artistic director. Choi Seok Kyu has worked hard to promote networking among those involved in the performing arts in Asia, including organizing the Asian Producers' Platform (APP), a program to build a network of producers in the Asian region.

We hope that this performance at Korea's leading international performing arts festival will lead to further cultural exchanges between Japan and Korea.



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Performance outline

Performance	chelfitsch&Dai Fujikura with SYMPHONIC ARMONIA "Metamorphosis of a Living Room"
Cast	Izumi Aoyagi, Chieko Asakura, Riki Ishikura, Mariko Kawasaki, Makoto Yazawa, Manami Watanabe Music : SYMPHONIC ARMONIA
Schedule	Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 19:00 Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 19:00
Duration	80 minutes
Language	Japanese
Subtitles	English, Korean
Venue	Daehakro Arts Theater Grand Theater
Website	http://spaf.or.kr/2025_eng/program/program_view08.php
Organizer	The Japan Foundation (JF) , Seoul Performing Arts Festival (SPAF)



The work-in-progress from the 2021 International Creations in Performing Arts Project can be viewed on JF's online performing arts streaming site, "STAGE BEYOND BORDERS."

⇒ <https://stagebb.jpif.go.jp/en/stage/work-in-progress-for-music-theatre-production>

The September 2024 performance in Tokyo is available to watch on "THEATRE FOR ALL."

⇒ <https://theatreforall.net/movie/metamorphosis/>

Performance details

⇒ <https://chelfitsch.net/en/activity/2025/07/2025seoul.html>

*The following week, on Saturday, November 8, and Sunday, November 9, chelfitsch's "Eraser Mountain" will be performed at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea in Seoul.

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Artist Profile

chelfitsch

The theater company chelfitsch was founded in 1997 by Toshiki Okada, who writes and directs all of its productions. It attracts keen attention as a troupe in the vanguard of contemporary theater because of its constant exploration of method based on the relationship between speech and physical movements.

The company made its debut abroad in 2007, when it performed "Five Days in March" at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels, Belgium. It has produced commissioned works such as "Grand and Floor" (2013) by Kunstenfestivaldesarts, "Super Premium Soft Double Vanilla Rich" (2017) by Theater der Welt 2014 (Germany), "NEW ILLUSION" (2022) by Ob/Scene Festival, "Metamorphosis of a Living Room" (2023) by Wiener Festwochen (Austria), and co-produced works with theaters and festivals. It has been invited to and performed works in more than 90 cities around the world.

Recently, Toshiki Okada, together with Shimpei Yamada, a stage and video designer, has begun to develop EIZO-Theater, a new type of theater that is an attempt to transform display space into theatrical space by the effects that projected images have on human sensibility. They have presented the exhibitions "Beach, Eyelids, and Curtains" (2018), "The Landscape, the World, and Accidents: Everything That Happens Outside of This Room" (2020) and the theatrical performance "NEW-ILLUSION" (2022) as EIZO-Theater.

The troupe has proactively collaborated with musicians and artists. It collaborated with the artist Teppei Kaneuji in the production of "Eraser Mountain" (2019) and "Eraser Forest" (2020), which probe for a new relationship between objects and human beings based on the concept of departure from anthropocentrism. It premiered a new music theatre "Metamorphosis of a Living Room", collaborated with the composer Dai Fujikura, in Wiener Festwochen in May 2023. In 2021, it launched a workshop with people whose native language is not Japanese and premiered "The Window of Spaceship 'In-Between'" in August 2023.

Toshiki Okada

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Playwright, director, and novelist Toshiki Okada began gaining recognition in 1997 when he founded the theatre company chelfitsch, creating works that explore the unique relationship between language and the body. In 2007, he made his international debut with <Five Days in March> at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels.

Since then, he has presented work in over 90 cities across Asia, Europe, North and South America. Since 2016, he has regularly collaborated with national and public theatres in Germany, continuing to premiere new works. Two of his notable productions <The Vacuum Cleaner> (2020, Münchner Kammerspiele) and <Doughnuts> (2022, Thalia Theater Hamburg) were both selected as part of the 10 Remarkable Productions by the Berliner

Theatertreffen, receiving critical acclaim.

He received the 27th Yomiuri Theater Awards Selection Committee Special Prize for his work, <Pratthana - A Portrait of Possession>, a stage adaptation of a contemporary Thai novel featuring Thai actors. His work <Unfulfilled Ghost and Monster - ZAHA / TSURUGA> (KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theater), which utilises the narrative structure of noh(能), won the Yomiuri Prize for Literature (Play/Scenario Award) and the Tsuruya Namboku Drama Award. In 2021, he directed the opera <Yuzuru(夕鶴)> (All Japan Opera Co-Production Project), expanding his artistic scope.

Also active as a novelist, he published <The End of the Moment We Had> in 2007, which won the 2nd Kenzaburō Prize. In 2022, he received the 35th Mishima Yukio Prize and the 64th Kumanichi Literary Award for his novel <Broccoli Revolution> (Shinchōsha), solidifying his position as a prominent writer in the literary world.

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Dai Fujikura

Dai Fujikura is a London-based composer that was born in Osaka, Japan in 1977. He moved to the UK at fifteen and studied under Sir George Benjamin.

In 2020, Fujikura's opera "A Dream of Armageddon," based on H.G. Wells' story of the same name, premiered at the New National Theatre Tokyo and was widely acclaimed. That same year, his Fourth Piano Concerto, "Akiko's Piano," commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing and was released by Sony Music. His work "Entwine" has been performed by orchestras including the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln and the New York Philharmonic. His orchestral work "Wavering World" was commissioned by the Seattle Symphony and performed by other notable orchestras around the globe.



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His music theatre piece "Metamorphosis of a Living Room," in collaboration with theatre director Toshiki Okada, was staged in several cities. Fujikura has presented three operas: "SOLARIS" (2015), co-commissioned by several European opera houses; "The Gold-Bug" (2018), commissioned by Theatre Basel; and "A Dream of Armageddon" commissioned by New National Theatre Tokyo (2020). His collaborations span various genres, working with artists like Ryuichi Sakamoto and David Sylvian. For the film "Mitsubachi to Enrai" (LISTEN TO THE UNIVERSE), he composed "Spring and Asura." Fujikura has composed for traditional Japanese instruments as well as European period instruments. Since 2017 he has been the Artistic Director of the Born Creative Festival at Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. He also curated concerts at La Folle Journée au Japon in 2016 and 2019. His music has been recorded on labels such as NMC, Kairos, Sony Music, and Fujikura's own record label, Minabel Records. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Ivor Novello Award and the Silver Lion from the Venice Biennale.

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【About the Japan Foundation】

The Japan Foundation is an incorporated administrative agency that promotes "arts and cultural exchange," "Japanese-language education," and "Japanese studies and global dialogue" based on its mission of "Cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world."

It conducts activities on a global basis through its 26 overseas offices in 25 countries as well as its suborganizations and branches in Japan, working closely with partners such as Japanese diplomatic missions, Japanese-language education institutions, and cultural exchange institutions around the world.

In Korea, the Japan Foundation work on arts and cultural exchange projects, Japanese-language education support projects, and Japanese studies projects through the Japan Foundation, Seoul.

Official website of the Japan Foundation: <https://jpf.go.jp/e/>

Official website of the Japan Foundation Seoul: <https://www.jpf.or.kr/index/>



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