

**A Decade of Indonesia–Japan Performing Arts Exchange
Reaches a New Milestone**
***King Lear* by SCOT to Be Staged in Indonesia**
Indonesian Actor Takes On the Title Role

In September 2026, the Japan Foundation (JF) will present *King Lear* by Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT), the company led by director SUZUKI Tadashi, in Indonesia as part of the “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0.”

The production is an international co-production with Indonesian actors in principal roles, and the performance will be accompanied by workshops for the next generation of local artists. Together, these activities aim to deepen mutual cultural understanding between Indonesia and Japan and to develop the next generation of talent who will lead exchanges between the two countries.

The project has come about as the fruit of many years of exchange and collaboration between SCOT, which JF has supported since the days of its Asia Center, and the Indonesian cultural organization Bumi Purnati Indonesia.

With JF’s support, SCOT and Bumi Purnati spent three years from 2015 creating *Dionysus*, an Indonesia–Japan co-production that premiered in both countries in 2018.

It has since been performed on international stages, including the Singapore International Festival of Arts and the Theatre Olympics. Thirteen of the fifteen performers in *Dionysus* were Indonesian actors, and a second co-production, *Electra*, was created in 2021. Several of the leading roles in both *Dionysus* and *Electra* were played by Indonesian actors, each performing in the language of their home region and drawing on its cultural background, an approach that won wide praise as a new model for international co-production.

Since 2015, Indonesian actors selected by Restu I. Kusumaningrum, artistic director and producer of Bumi Purnati, have regularly participated in the SCOT Summer Season and in training in the Suzuki Method of Actor Training in Toga, creating work alongside Japanese actors season after season. The 2023 staging of *Dionysus* in Jakarta drew a strong response, with more than 99% of audience members reporting satisfaction. Building on that success, Kusumaningrum proposed a new international co-production, which has resulted in the present production of *King Lear*.





Left: *King Lear* (quadrilingual version). Right: Indonesian actor Jamaluddin Latif as *King Lear*, with SAITO Maki (SCOT) as the Nurse.

Both photos courtesy of SCOT

King Lear, which SCOT premiered in 1984, is one of the company's signature works and has been performed repeatedly in Japan and abroad, including at the Theatre Olympics. In this production, the title role goes to Indonesian actor Jamaluddin Latif, who has continued to train in the Suzuki Method of Actor Training. He was chosen for the role as an actor representing a new generation, following the passing of the German actor Götz Argus, who had played it in SCOT's *King Lear* for many years. This international production co-starring not only actors from Indonesia and Japan but also American, Russian, Italian, Korean, Chilean and Chinese actors who have mastered the Suzuki Method will breathe fresh life into Shakespeare's masterpiece.

Through the performances and the workshops, JF aims to introduce audiences and performing arts professionals in Indonesia to the fruits of many years of international co-production by Indonesian and Japanese artists, and to contribute to the further development of performing arts exchange between ASEAN and Japan.

Description

Project title: FY2026 WA Project 2.0 Hosted Performances (Indonesia): Performances of SCOT's *King Lear* and Workshops

Presented by: The Japan Foundation and Bumi Purnati Indonesia

Schedule: Wednesday, September 16, and Thursday, September 17, 2026 (local time)

*Workshops to be held on Thursday, September 17, only

Venue: Jakarta Art Building (GEDUNG KESENIAN JAKARTA)

Produced by: Suzuki Company of Toga and Bumi Purnati Indonesia

Profile of SUZUKI Tadashi



Founder and director of the Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT), chairman of the Toga Cultural Foundation. SUZUKI founded SCOT in 1966.

In 1976, he relocated his company to the village of Toga in Toyama Prefecture before establishing Japan's first international theatre festival, the Toga Festival, in 1982. SUZUKI has staged plays and worked on co-productions all over the world in addition to creating the Suzuki Method of Actor Training, a system which is now used to train actors at theatre companies and schools worldwide including the Moscow Art Theatre, The Juilliard School in New York, and the Central Academy of Drama in China.

SUZUKI also serves as an international committee member for the Theatre Olympics. He is a founding member of the BeSeTo Festival (jointly organized by leading theatre professionals from Japan, China, and South Korea). His major directorial works include *Dionysus*, *King Lear*, and *Greetings from the Edge of the Earth I, II & III*. Published works include *Engeki to wa nani ka* [What Theatre is] (Iwanami Shoten, Publishers) and *Culture is the Body* (Theatre Communications Group).

<https://www.scot-suzukicompany.com/>

Profile of Restu I. Kusumaningrum



Born in 1965, Restu Imansari Kusumaningrum is an independent producer, artistic director and performer. She has an extensive background both in Indonesia and abroad in her two major life-long fields of study: dance theatre performance and landscape architecture. In 1999, Kusumaningrum co-founded the Bali Purnati Center for the Arts as an international non-profit cultural foundation.

As a producer, she has collaborated with Robert Wilson to create a new staging of the Indonesian epic *La Galigo*. She is also known for overseeing the Japan-Indonesia co-production of Suzuki Tadashi's *Dionysus* and *Electra*. Restu is a recipient of the "Ordine della Stella d'Italia" from the Italian Government for her role in promoting cultural and social ties between Italy and Indonesia in 2014; and in 2019, the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture accorded her the Culture Award for her role as a Creator, Pioneer and Innovator in Jakarta.

<https://www.balipurnati.com> <https://www.bumipurnati.com>

About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation is an incorporated administrative agency whose mission is "Cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world." Through arts and cultural exchange, Japanese-language education overseas, and Japanese studies and global partnerships programs, it promotes people-to-people exchange around the world, working toward a richer international community built on mutual understanding and trust.

Since 2024, JF has been carrying out the "Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation:

Press inquiries: The Japan Foundation, Branding and Communication Dept.
Public Relations Div. Fukushima (Mr.), Kumakura (Ms.)
Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6075 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044 / E-mail: press@jpf.go.jp

WA Project 2.0,” a comprehensive ten-year people-to-people exchange initiative with ASEAN and other Asian countries, founded on mutual recognition of one another’s values.

Built around two pillars — NIHONGO Partners and Two-way Intellectual and Cultural Exchange — the project seeks to strengthen multi-layered human networks through genuine person-to-person connection and to build enduring relationships of trust between Japan and the countries and regions it covers.

This project is carried out as part of the “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0.”

◆ NIHONGO Partners

JF dispatches people to lower and upper secondary schools and similar institutions in Asia to serve as partners for local Japanese-language teachers and their students, assisting in the classroom and introducing Japanese culture.

◆ Two-way Intellectual and Cultural Exchange

By creating opportunities for collaboration grounded in mutual understanding, these programs foster strong bonds among individuals and develop next-generation talent who will serve as bridges with the world.

The official website of the “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0” (<https://asiawa.jpf.go.jp/en/>) features articles and videos on the initiative’s activities to date. We invite you to visit.