

“STAGE BEYOND BORDERS”—Cross-Border Online Distribution of Outstanding Japanese Stage Performances to Start in February

Online Distribution of 18 Stage Performances with Multilingual Subtitles

From February 2021, the Japan Foundation (JF) will start the project “STAGE BEYOND BORDERS—Selection of Japanese Performances,” which presents 18 outstanding Japanese stage performances online for people throughout the world who are seeking opportunities to enjoy Japanese stage performances amid the spread of COVID-19.

More than a year has passed since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, theater festivals worldwide have been canceled, artists have lost their performing venues and people can no longer visit theaters like in the past. At the same time, however, an increase in virtual interactions via the Internet has also created more opportunities for sharing moving experiences and excitement in real time with people in distant locations.

Performing arts is one of the earliest forms of entertainment that through strangers and various environments stirs the imagination about ongoing stories and provides hopes and hints about the real world. The Japan Foundation’s online project “STAGE BEYOND BORDERS—Selection of Japanese Performances” is expected to encourage hope for all people who enjoy performing arts by presenting outstanding Japanese stage performances beyond borders in multiple languages.

The Japan Foundation hopes to cultivate new fan bases for performing arts and also approach theater professionals in order to hold performances at overseas theaters once interactions among people are allowed to resume.

The 18 works distributed through this project span the three genres of contemporary theater, dance performance and traditional performing arts. These performances have multilingual subtitles in around five languages and can be viewed free of charge on the Japan Foundation’s official YouTube channel. In addition, new limited release performances exclusively for this project will also be available for viewing. Currently, we are releasing a trailer video that provides an overall picture of this project.

Press inquiries :

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Description

Project title: STAGE BEYOND BORDERS –Selection of Japanese Performances

Organizer: The Japan Foundation (JF)

Project schedule: Sequential distribution from February 2021

Venue: The Japan Foundation official YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thejapanfoundation>

* From March 2021 (scheduled), a Web page dedicated for this project will be publicly accessible.

Distributed content (planned):

<Contemporary Theater>

Shizuoka Performing Arts Center (SPAC), ICHIHARA Satoko, IWAI Hideto, OKADA Toshiki, TANINO Kuro, 2.5D musical

<Dance Performances>

Dairakudakan, Dumb Type, etc.

<Traditional Performing Arts>

Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki, Bunraku

* In the traditional performing arts series, we present digest versions of actual stage performances with accompanying commentary to explain the appeal of traditional performing arts to overseas audiences in plain language.

Subtitles: English, French, Russian, Spanish, etc.

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