

PRESS RELEASE

Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV) + Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)
Joint-Production Project Vol. 1

Study of Live works BANETO
New Dance Performance (Production-in-residence + Performance)
“Runnin’ ChorDrive”

Date and Time: Saturday, July 24; the curtain rises at 14:30
Venue: Studio A, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV) in Yamaguchi Prefecture + Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM) start a joint-production project to support innovative and artistic activities as a program to foster international art creation, which will be dispatched from Yamaguchi.

For its first project, a Tokyo-based young dance performance group “Study of Live works BANETO” (hereafter BANETO) is invited to stay in Yamaguchi for artist-in-residence, and their new work is to be performed on July 24.

“BANETO” is a young artist group featuring production and performance of works incorporating dance, music and images. They have pursued new expressions of performing arts on stage, working out their own ideas rather than accepting conventional views, such as free-thinking bodily expressions, space creation, and collaboration with music. In 2000, “BANETO” won Rencontres choregraphique internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis (Bagnole), so-called a gateway to success in the world dance scene. As a young promising dance group, they are not only performing in Japan and abroad, but also expanding their activities to artist-in-residence projects and workshop-style classes at elementary schools. Additionally, each member of the group is also working individually as a choreographer, dancer, and

musician, taking part in other organizations' activities as a guest. The areas and forms of their artworks are really diverse and varied.

Now a new art creation program starts as a joint project between Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV) and Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM). "BANETO," a guest artist group, stays at Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV) to put their work composition to the test, and after moving to YCAM, they produce and perform their new work at the Studio A (theater). This first original joint-project between Yamaguchi Prefecture and Yamaguchi City will draw public attention to see how Yamaguchi will inspire the group to produce their new work, and how they make use of the latest media technologies for image, sound, and interactivity, provided at YCAM.

Artist profile

Study of Live works BANETO

In December 1996, members led by Chiba University students founded a company to produce and perform their works. They gave their performances on the street and gallery space occasionally. In December 1998, the company was renamed "Study of Live works BANETO," and since then, it has produced "live works" in a broad sense, incorporating dance, music, and images. To date, they performed in twenty-five cities in nine countries, including La Batie Festival de Geneve (Switzerland, 2000) Julidans Festival (the Netherlands, 2001), JADE International Dance Festival (Japan, 2002), and TRANSART (Italy, 2002). In 2000, the company was awarded Prix d'Auteur du Conseil general de la Seine-Saint-Denis 2000.

Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV)

AIAV opened in 1998 as a center furnished with the facilities needed for an artist-in-residence program. The program "trans-" is to support experimental activities in art mainly by young artists. In the program, which is not limited to production-in-residence, collaborations of different kinds, such as workshop, symposium, and live performance are encouraged. As the

title of the program shows, the activities are expected to go beyond the fixed ideas and framework.

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

YCAM that opened in November 2003 is a complex having three studios of different sizes, production and study room, and city library. As a new base for cultural information dispatch through media technologies, it promotes creative activities crossing over the genres of image, sound, and bodily expression. YCAM InterLab (a media laboratory well-equipped with different information processing devices) and technical staff, who always stay alert, support the production and exploration in artistic expressions of invited artists. Also, educational activity such as workshop and collaboration with artists is one of the major programs.

Overview

Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV) + Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM) Joint-Production Project Vol. 1

Study of Live works BANETO

Newly produced dance performance “Runnin’ ChorDrive”

Date and Time: Saturday, July 24; the curtain rises at 14:30

Venue: Studio A, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

7-7, Nakazono-cho, Yamaguchi city, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Fee (unreserved seats only): ¥1,000 (no discount available)

Members of “Akiyoshidai Friends Net” and “any” are invited.

Tickets: Reservation and sale start on Sunday, June 27

Reservation call for YCAM tickets: Tel: 083-920-6111; 10:00 to 19:00 (except for closed days of YCAM)

Sponsor and organizer: Yamaguchi foundation for cultural promotion, Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV), and Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

Co-sponsor: Japan Foundation for Regional Art-Activities

Cooperation: Yamaguchi prefecture, Yamaguchi prefecture board of education, Yamaguchi City, Board of Education of Yamaguchi City, Shuho town, Shuho town board of education, Mito town, Mito town board of education, Mine city, Mine city board of education

Cooperation in production: HIWOOD

Project and Production: Akiyoshidai International Art Village (AIAV), Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM), and Study of Live works BANETO

Creation / Study of Live works BANETO

Yusuke AWAZU (musician)

Mariko OKAMOTO (dancer, choreographer)

Mayu SASAJIMA (dancer, costume designer)

Tsuyoshi SHIRAI (dancer, choreographer)

Masaaki TAKAKURA (film director)

Katsuyuki MURAKAMI (director)

Maki MORISHITA (dancer, choreographer)

Kohei NEGIYAMA (creation manager)

Technical direction / YCAM InterLab, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Access to YCAM:

From JR Shin-Yamaguchi Station

--20 min. walk or 5 min. by taxi from Yuda Onsen station, JR Yamaguchi Line

--20 min. walk or 10 min. by bus (either Nakazono-cho or Saiseikai Byoin-mae bus stop) or 5 min. by taxi from Yamaguchi Station, JR Yamaguchi Line

--25 min. by Bocho bus (Nakazono-cho bus stop)

By car

--30 min. ride from Hofu Higashi IC on the Sanyo Highway

--15 min. ride from Ogori IC on Kyushu/Chugoku Highway

For information, please contact

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