

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media 5th Anniversary: PERFORMANCE

Op. ∞ (opus infinity)

2008.12.20 Sat. 19:00 / 12.21. Sun. 14:00 start

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A



A crossover between dance, media technology and live cello performance: Japanese premiere of an experimental performance exploring the relationship between sound and the human body

"Op. ∞", an experimental dance piece created in collaboration between artists from Germany, France and Japan, is shown as part of YCAM's fifth anniversary program.

With Richard Siegal, reputed as a "dancer with amazing physical ability" in William Forsythe's (then) Ballet Frankfurt, and Eric-Maria Couturier, solo cellist for the contemporary classical chamber orchestra "Ensemble Intercontemporain", two world-leading artists have teamed up with researchers from the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM), to explore possible new connections between sound, technology and the human body.

The piece is performed by two dancers and a cellist. Based on an "IF/THEN" system originally developed by Richard Siegal, both protagonists will approach the relationship between body and sound in a particularly scientific and at once artistic way.

The performance in Yamaguchi will be the first and only occasion the piece is staged in Japan. Look forward to experiencing an amalgamation of physical expression and technology that will be another landmark in YCAM's continued pursuit of cutting-edge artistic expression.



"Op. 8"

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[Participating artists]**Richard Siegal**

(choreographer, dancer / The Bakery; former member of Ballet Frankfurt)

Eric-Maria Couturier (solo cellist / Ensemble Intercontemporain)**Kenneth Flak** (dancer)**Aki Ito** (composer)

*Please inquire for detailed artist profiles if needed.

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Organizer: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion
 Support: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education, Goethe-Institut Japan, Ambassade de France
 Co-Sponsor: The Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal 2008
 Cooperation: Institut franco-japonais du Kyushu
 Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

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Forsythe-approved dancer meets top cellist from the realm of contemporary classical music for an exceptional collaboration



Richard Siegal

Choreographer / Dancer

Member of the Ballet Frankfurt from 1997 until the Ballet's dissolution in 2004, under the radical choreographic leadership of William Forsythe. In annual surveys in 1998, 2000 and 2003, he was selected "the most outstanding dancer" by critics from the German dance magazine "ballettanz". His choreographed pieces were staged three times by the Ballet Frankfurt.

Founded "The Bakery", specializing in research and production related to contemporary performing arts, in 2002. Has been collaborating with numerous artists from diverse artistic fields.

Eric-Maria Couturier

Cellist / Ensemble Intercontemporain soliste

Soloist for the "Ensemble Intercontemporain" chamber orchestra established by Pierre Boulez, the grand maestro of contemporary classical music. Entered the Conservatoire de Paris, one of the top-level national music academies in France, after passing the entrance exam with the highest score. Has been giving concerts in all parts of the world, and established himself as a crucial performer at all of Boulez's concerts thanks to his highly appreciated skills. Next to the above-mentioned orchestra, he is actively involved also in the Ensemble Multilatéral, a contemporary classical orchestra for young composers and performers, as well as in the Smash ensemble and Carpediem.



Stage performance revolving around the "IF/THEN" system's focus on the link between body and gesture

This piece was conceived using the "IF/THEN" open-source system in order to create an interactive relationship between sounds, visuals, and body movements.

The "IF/THEN" system is a game with simple rules and gestures, following such basic principles as, "If you do X, then I do Y" or "If I do Y, then you can do either Z or N." Each gesture of one of the performers limits the other's reaction to a predefined set of gestures, so that the performance progresses like a dialogue. In concrete terms, the dancer hears the musician's sound, and the musician perceives the dancers' movements, while a third (visual) layer that emerges at once out of this conversation provides the two artists with hints regarding the next step.

The implementation of this system reflects the piece's rather scientific approach to the mutual connection between the human body and sound, resulting in a new type of performing arts originating from dancers' and a cellist's movements, and the sounds they trigger.

Event data

Dance performance

"Op. ∞" (opus infinity)

2008.12.20 Sat, 19:00 12.21 Sun, 14:00 (the venue opens 30 minutes prior to each performance) [Duration: approx. 1 hour]

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Studio A

*The performance on 12.21 will be followed by a talk session with both artists.

(Admission is free for visitors who present a ticket stub for one of the performances.)

Participating artists

Richard Siegal (choreographer, dancer / The Bakery; former member of Ballet Frankfurt), Eric-Maria Couturier (solo cellist / Ensemble Intercontemporain), Kenneth Flak (dancer). *Please inquire for detailed artist profiles if needed.

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Ticket information

Tickets available from 10.5 Sun

[Admission] -Advanced tickets ¥2,000; "any" members & special discounts ¥1,700

-Tickets at the door ¥2,300

-Set ticket with "meet the artist" (12.5 Fri - 12.7 Sun) ¥3,300;

"any" members & special discount ¥3,000 (available until 12.4 Thu)

**meet the artist 2008- Yamaguchi Shiei P* is a performance in a central shopping area by theater director Akira Takayama (Port B) and media artist/creator Kohji Setoh (flow).

[Japanese only]

*The set ticket is only available by phone or direct reservation at the ticket counter.

Online <http://www.ycfcf.or.jp/> (open 24 hours, user registration required. Japanese only)

Phone YCAM ticket information desk
+81-83-920-6111 (10:00-19:00 closed on Tuesdays or on Wednesdays in case Tuesday is a public holiday)

- Special discount A special discount is available for children under 18 and seniors over 65, as well as for handicapped persons and one accompanying care person each. Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted.
- Childcare service This service is available for children aged six months or older.
Times: From 30 minutes prior to the performance until 30 minutes after the performance
Fees: ¥500 for one child; ¥300 per child for two or more children
Application: Applications must be made one week prior to the event at the latest via the ticket information desk.
- Wheelchairs Please contact the venue for information

Related events

Workshop

2008.12.22 Mon. 11:00-14:00 Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Studio A (Admission free, no reservation required)

Introducing "Op. ∞", an experimental project involving a number of artists across different artistic genres, and explaining the particular system used in the performance.

"YCAM Chat - How to have ten times more fun at performing arts events" Vol. 6

2008.12.17 Wed. 14:00 Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Foyer (Admission free, no reservation required)

Series of lectures in a relaxed, coffee klatsch style setting with YCAM's theatre staff members, designed to introduce methods of appreciating performing arts with more enjoyment. This next installment focuses on Eric-Maria Couturier's cello concert, and the relationship between music and performing arts.

Special film screenings

2008.12.12 Fri. - 14 Sun. Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Studio C Admission: ¥1,000 (two films)

"Boulez-Répons" (1985, 43 min. / Directed by Robert Cahen)

Footage of six soloists performing the piece of the same title by Pierre Boulez, filmed by video artist, filmmaker, musician and musique concrete ("concrete music"; a style of avant-garde music that relies on recorded sounds, including natural environmental sounds and other noises that are not inherently musical) composer, Robert Cahen.

"Goendama" (2008, 72 min. / DVD / Directed by Masayasu Eguchi, starring Izumi Yamada, Eric-Maria Couturier)



山口情報芸術センター
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

Hours: 10:00-22:00

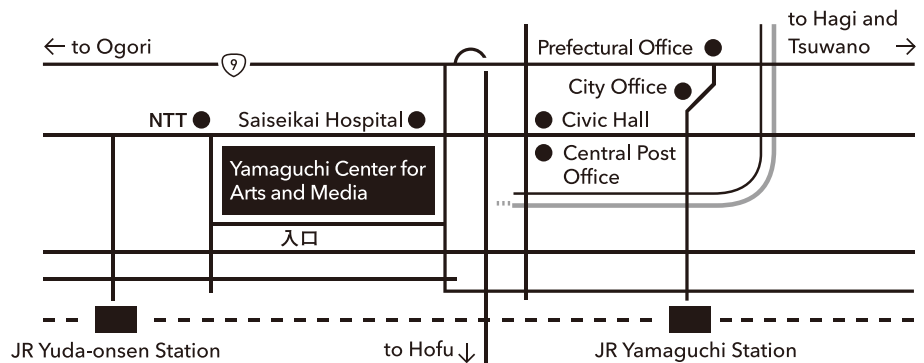
Closed: Tuesday (If Tuesday is a holiday, then Wednesday),
Winter holiday season (December 29 - January 3)

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Tel: +81-83-901-2222 Fax: +81-83-901-2216

<http://www.ycam.jp/>

information@ycam.jp



by airplane:

- 1 hour 30 minutes from Haneda Airport (Tokyo) to Yamaguchi Ube Airport
- 30 minutes from Yamaguchi Ube Airport to Shin-Yamaguchi station by shuttle bus
- by Shinkansen Line (train) • from Tokyo to Shin-Yamaguchi; 4 hours 28 minutes
- from Shin-Osaka to Shin-Yamaguchi; 1 hours 57 minutes
- from Hiroshima to Shin-Yamaguchi; 33 minutes
- from Hakata to Shin-Yamaguchi; 37 minutes

from Shin-Yamaguchi station to YCAM:

- by Taxi;
about 30 minutes (about ¥3,000)
- by JR Yamaguchi line;
18 minutes to Yuda Onsen station and 20 minutes walk
20 minutes to Yamaguchi station and 20 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi
- by JR Yamaguchi line (Yamaguchi liner);
10 minutes to Yuda Onsen station and 20 minutes walk
13 minutes to Yamaguchi station and 20 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi

tourist / hotel information

Yamaguchi City Tourist Association

Yamaguchi Station (second floor)

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