

**Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]: Dance Performance****Grupo de Rua "H3"****Direction, Choreography: Bruno Beltrão**

November 14 (Sat), 2009 start 19:00 \*Venue opens 30 minutes prior to the start

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Venue: Studio A

**Next-generation Hip Hop Dance from Brazil****Highlighting the overwhelming energy and tension of the human body**

From the streets of Brazil right into the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] comes the Grupo de Rua, one of the hottest and most talked-about dance companies on the planet these days, to present their new piece "H3".

Taking hip hop, a movement that keeps affecting dance, music, art, fashion and other aspects of cultural and social life, and catapulting it to the level of performing arts, "H3" is an ambitious piece that introduces a fresh current to the realm of dance.

Witness nine trained street dancers as they knock down stylistic stereotypes with breathtaking speed and energy, to make way for novel forms of expression that unfold in an impressive demonstration of flexibility and potential.



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**Ticket Information** \*Tickets available from October 10

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】¥2,300

"any" members &amp; special discounts ¥1,800 / Under 26 ¥1,500

【Tickets at the door】¥2,800

Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]  
Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion,  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
Supported by: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education,  
Embassy of Brazil

**INQUIRY**

Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM]

Public Relations: Fumi Hirota, Aya Tatsumura

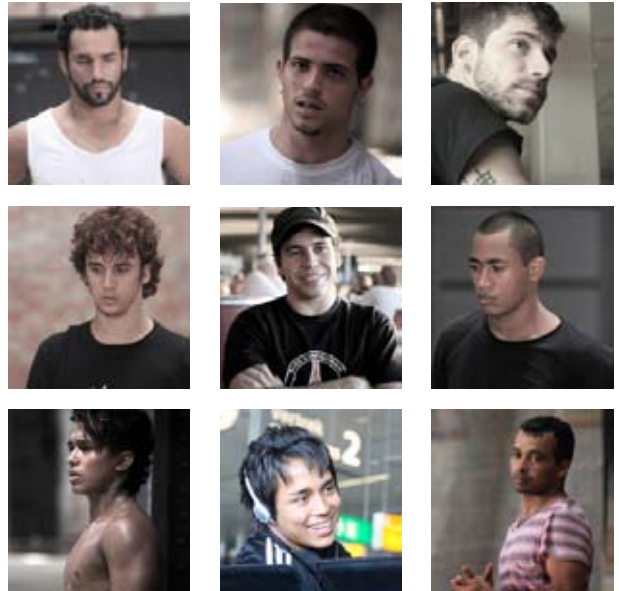
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## "H3"

### Hip hop' s high-flying crusade from the street into the theatre

Since emerging in New York in the early 1970s, hip hop culture has been exerting a strong influence on dance, music, art, fashion, and other cultural and social aspects. Dance as one facet of the hip hop phenomenon has been conquering the world while leaving its marks on several other dance styles, and has evolved into an art form in its own right that enjoys popularity on various levels today, with professional dancers participating in contests, and countless young people practicing and performing on the street also here in Japan.

"H3", an attempt to bring innovation to hip hop as a contemporary performing art, has been presented to great acclaim at festivals and theatres. The ambitious idea to elevate hip hop to the level of performing arts resulted in a display of overwhelmingly energetic physical power.



© Grupo de Rua

## Bruno Beltrão (Choreographer, dancer)

### A choreographer and his revolution of hip hop 30 years after zero hour

Born and raised in the outskirts of a Brazilian town, Bruno Beltrão first encountered street dance as a teenager. After enrolling at the university of Rio de Janeiro to study dance and philosophy, he began to produce works that gradually liberated him from the rules and conventions of hip hop, and eventually unveiled the piece "H3" at the Kunsten Festival des Arts in Belgium in 2008. Following its predecessor, "H2", it is on a continuously successful tour around major festivals around the world. 30 years young, Beltrão is definitely one choreographer to watch when it comes to breathing new life into the current hip hop and performing arts scenes.



©TELMO KEIM

#### Bruno Beltrão (Choreographer, dancer)

Born in Niteroi in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1979. Started to take street dance lessons in '93, and established the "Grupo de Rua" in '96. Following appearances at competitions and other events, in 2001 he made his debut in the contemporary dance scene with the duo dance piece "Do Poppingao Pop ou Vice-Versa". His accomplishments in liberating street dance from the oft-imitated patterns and the supremacy of technique in contemporary dance marked a turning point in his work as a choreographer, and his company eventually made their breakthrough when they were featured at the "Rencontres choréographiques internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis" festival in France in 2002. "H2", unveiled in 2005, and "H3" following in '08, both received high acclaim around the world. While pursuing his choreographic ideas, Beltrão is actively engaged in various social activities, as well as in endeavors aiming to popularize and elaborate street dance.

## Highlights

### Trained bodies in simple settings

The simple stage set includes not much more than lighting to add subtle nuances to the dancers' movements against the acoustic backdrop of environmental noises and silence replacing the original hip hop and R&B music. The additional sounds of the nine street-trained dancers' steps add to an atmosphere that is pregnant with a sense of tension that both street and theatre settings share. A delicately sophisticated choreography, made possible thanks to the performers' physical abilities and characteristic features, is one of the attractions of this spectacle highlighting the explosive energy set free in the generation of truly innovative physical expression.



© Bruno Beltrão

### Thought-out overall composition over individual skills

The rules of hip hop, originally a competitive "dance battle" format, include a display of personal skills while avoiding body contact with the opponents as a stylistic element. Rather than focusing on individual performing skills, this piece follows a general concept and composition that demands from the dancers to move constantly on the brink of collision in a rather aggressive approach to contact that ultimately never happens. Speed, dynamism and speculation are the pillars of a construction that aims to explore the uncharted territory between the street and the theatre.



© SCUMECK

### A new art form born on suburban streets

Hip hop has grown into a global cultural movement. The style that once was a communication tool – not excluding elements of protest – for young people living in the downtown areas of big cities has matured into a means of self-expression for suburban youths. The Grupo de Rua, a company based in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, seek to demolish stereotypes in artistic expression in order to establish their own original methods, suggesting an analytical approach to the obliterating flow of mainstream trends.

**This performance at Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] marks the eighth installment in an ongoing series of stage productions realized in collaboration with internationally active contemporary playwrights, directors and choreographers since 2005.**

- 2005 **"Yotsuya Ghost Story"** directed by Jossi Wieler  
**"Bones in pages"** choreography and performed by Saburo Teshigawara
- 2006 **"Emilia Galotti"** directed by Micheal Thalheimer, Deutsches Theater  
**"The Andersen Project ~ A Modern Fairy-Tale ~"**  
 written and directed by Robert Lepage
- 2007 **"Variation sur la mort"**  
 written by Jon Fosse / directed and lighting by Antoine Caubet
- 2008 **"Angel of Death"** directed and choreography by Jan Fabre
- 2009 **"Text to Speech"** choreography and scenography by Gilles Jobin

## Special film screenings

In connection with the performance of "H3", an "'80s bible" kind of movie, and a comedy looking behind the scenes of the hip hop industry's ongoing prosperity will be shown as a basic introduction to hip hop culture.

### November 6 (Fri) - 8(sun), 2009

Venue: Studio C Admission free

#### "WILD STYLE"

1982 / 105min  
America / DVD

Directed by: Charlie Ahearn  
Cast: Lee George, Kuinonesu



#### "DEATH OF A DYNASTY"

DEATH OF A DYNASTY  
2005 / 91min / America

Directed by: Dame Dash  
Cast: Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Jay-Z



#### Event data

### Grupo de Rua "H3"

Direction, Choreography: Bruno Beltrão

### November 14 (Sat), 2009 start 19:00

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#### Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Venue: Studio A

Direction, Choreography: Bruno Beltrão

With: Grupo de Rua

Co-production: Grupo de Rua, Festival d'automne à Paris,  
La Ferme du Buisson - Scène nationale de Marne-la-Vallée,  
Le Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, International Arts Festival/Salamanca  
2008 - Junta de Castilla y León, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Hebbel am Ufer

Art Direction: Ryo Sugi (scenery of design)

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Under 26 ¥1,500

【Tickets at the door】¥2,800

**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)

**Online:**

**<http://www.ycfcp.or.jp/>**

(open 24 hours, user registration required. Japanese only)

#### ■ Special discount

A special discount is available for 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

