



Dance Box

Press Release 2014.1.17

KOBE-Asia Contemporary Dance Festival #03

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PRESS RELEASE

(17th January, 2014 updated)



February 1st (sat) – March 2nd (sun), 2014

“My Home is Shivering and Changing.”

(or is it Me and my Body Wriggling?)

Organized by NPO DANCE BOX

Inquires | NPO DANCE BOX

Kubo-cho 6-1 Asuta Kunizuka 4 (4F), Nagata-ku, Kobe City zip 653-0041

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WEB | http://www.db-dancebox.org/07_arc/03_sp/14_kacdf03/

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Art Theatre dB KOBE | mail@db-dancebox.org (Production Manager: Fumi Yokobori)



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KOBE-Asia Contemporary Dance Festival #03

The Asia Contemporary Dance Festival, organized by NPO Dance Box, was first established in Osaka in 2001. In 2009 the venue was moved to Kobe and the event renamed the “Kobe-Asia Contemporary Dance Festival”. From the beginning, the festival has continued to present various artists from Japan and other Asian countries/regions, aiming to reflect current Asian values which weave a diverse and dynamic web of relations.

This year, the festival invites Yuya Tsukahara (the founder of contact Gonzo) as the festival program director. With the program theme “My home is shivering and changing (or is it me and my body wriggling?)”, Tsukahara will direct four performance programs and one group exhibition for the festival. All the performances will be newly created by the participating artists from various disciplines including dance, theatre, visual arts, music, media arts etc.

In this era of international mobility, artists venture across borders and interact with each other regardless of their disciplines or backgrounds. We believe that the new productions created for the festival will represent the dynamism and diversity of contemporary Asian expressions. We hope all of you will enjoy the festival!!

KOBE-Asia Contemporary Dance Festival #03

Presented by NPO DANCE BOX

About NPO DANCE BOX:

In 1996, the Dance Box Executive Committee was launched with its offices in TORII Hall, Namba Sennichimae, Osaka. In August 2002, it obtained a non-profit corporation status. The following October, “Art Theatre dB” was established as part of the Shinsekai Arts Park in Festival Gate, an amusement park complex in Shinsekai, Osaka. The theatre, constructed under the public sector and operated by the private sector, played a major role as one of Japan’s largest theatres to focus on contemporary dance, and served as the birthplace of many new artists and dance pieces. In July 2007, the theatre was closed due to the closure of Festival Gate, and in April 2009, its offices were relocated to Shin Nagata, Kobe, where Art Theatre dB Kobe was launched in collaboration with Kobe City (under the same scheme as Osaka Art Theatre dB). Since then, NPO Dance Box has been producing / organizing dance productions, artist-in-residences, conferences, workshops, lectures, and other various dance events.

【Tickets Information】

Advanced tickets:

- adult 3,000yen / youth(up to 25) & physically-challenged 2,500yen
- Nagataku citizen 2,000yen (advanced only)
- A+B programs ticket: 5,000 yen (advanced only)

Day tickets:

- adult 3,300yen / youth(up to 25) & physically-challenged 2,800yen

Tickets Reservation: NPO Dance Box Office TEL:078-646-7044

Online reservations ([http://www/db-dancebox.org](http://www.db-dancebox.org))

※For updated information, check the festival website

K-ACDF official website: http://www.db-dancebox.org/07_arc/03_sp/14_kacdf03/

【Credits】

Organized by NPO DANCE BOX

Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal 2013, Kobe city, Society for Administration of Remuneration for Audio Home Recording (sarah), Fukurake Foundation

Under the auspices of Kobe city, Nagata-ku, Kobe Shinbunsha, Radio Kansai, Sun Television, NHK Kobe, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Osaka

Cooperated by Ishinha, Mizuma Art Gallery, PANTALOON, Mimiyamamishin

Co-organized by Art Area B-1 (Osaka University + NPO DANCE BOX + Keihan Electric Railway Co.,Ltd.)

Program Director: Yuya Tsukahara

NPO Dance Box Staff: Iku Ootani, Aya, Fumi Yokobori, Sachie Tanaka, Jyuri Nishioka, Yui Shimomura

Public Relation: Aya Aoshima, Aiko Oizumi / Design: Takuya Matsumi / Illustration: Mikajiri /

Web Design: Hajime Uchiyama / Translation: Aya Aoshima, Mami Katsuya, Michael Whittle /

Stage Manager: Kazuhi Ota / Lighting: Asako Miura / Sound: Bunsho Nishikawa

【Program Concept】

“My Home is Shivering and Changing.” (or is it Me and my Body Wriggling?)

This is a festival dealing with the interaction between technology and philosophy (or thought / ideology). By ascertaining “simple questions” which occur in our daily lives, the participating artists will create new performance sessions. The “Simple questions” that I intended here are, for example, the ordinary things which you can find in your room. These things seem to be nothing special in our lives, however, a vast amount of time and incidents are wriggling in behind of them. If we focus on these facts in behind, our common sense might be shaken. This is a festival for the realization of those facts.

Yuya Tsukahara (Festival Program Director)



Yuya Tsukahara: dancer, choreographer, and the founder of contact Gonzo, was born in Kyoto in 1979, and lives and works in Osaka. He received his MA from the Kwansai Gakuin University, Graduate School of Humanities Aesthetics and Art Studies. In 2002, Tsukahara first became involved with NPO Dance Box as a volunteer member and later started working as administration staff. In 2006, Tsukahara, along with Masaru Kakio, formed the performance unit contact Gonzo.

The unit started performing in parks or on the streets, creating an original performance style which improvised physical contact to explore what they term “the philosophy of pain and technique of contact.” As a member of contact Gonzo, Tsukahara has participated in performances at MoMA (New York), PANORAMA Festival (Rio de Janeiro), and many other dance festivals in Europe. Besides performances, he and his group also joined several contemporary art exhibitions such as “ROPPONGI CROSSING” in Tokyo, “Kaza Ana: another Form of Conceptualism from Asia” (The National Museum of Art, 2010), Osaka and YCAM 10th Anniversary in Yamaguchi.

【Program Line-up/ Schedule】**—Performance—**

Leading figures and cutting-edge artists from various disciplines of the Asian dance, music, theater and the visual art scenes have been invited to participate in the festival. For the performance program, twelve artists will participate and create four new productions. Artists will interact / communicate with each other through their creative process, regardless their genres, and the festival expects to show new / creative Asian expression through their new works. All of the performances will be presented as World premieres.

- A program | Feb. 15 (sat) 19:00/16 (sun) 17:00 /17 (mon) 20:00

[Toshiki Okada (director/writer)×Tomoko Soda (artist)×Pichet Klunchun (dancer/choreographer)]

[contact Gonzo (performance group)×Skychurch (hardcore band)×Yusuke Nishimitsu (artist/photographer)]

- B program | Feb. 21 (fri) 20:00 /22 (sat) 17:00 /23 (sun) 17:00

[Masaru Kakio (dancer/choreographer)×Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba (artist)×Yukichi Matsumoto (director)]

[Animal Pop Family (dancer)×QUICK (dancer/choreographer)×DJ \$HIN (DJ)]

Venue: Art Theatre dB KOBE

Kubo-cho 6-1 Asuta Kunizuka 4 (4F), Nagata-ku, Kobe City zip 653-0041

TEL:078-646-7044 / FAX:078-646-7045 HP: <http://www.db-dancebox.org>

※ no intermission, 2 performances will be presented without a break.

※ A tickets reception opens 45mints before/ the doors open 20min before a performance starts.

—Exhibition—

In addition to the performance programs, the festival will present a group exhibition in order to introduce individual artist and their art works. Besides the artists participating in the performance programs, Choy Ka-fai and dot architects have also been invited to the group show.

Periods: Feb. 1(Sat) – Mar. 2(Sun) 12:00-19:00 (admission free) ※Closed on Monday

Exhibiting Artists :

Mararu Kakio (dancer/choreographer) / contact Gonzo (performance group) /

Jun Nguyen- Hatsushiba (artist) / Tomoko Soda (artist) / dot architects (architect) /

Choy Ka Fai (artist) / Yusuke Nishimitsu (artist/photographer)

Venue: Art area B1-Keihan Railways, Naniwabashi station

Nakanoshima1-1-1 Keihan Railways Naniwabashi station B1F, Kita-ku, Osaka City

TEL: 06-6226-4006 / HP: <http://artarea-b1.jp>

【Artists' Profile】

A Program [Toshiki Okada×Tomoko Soda×Pichet Klunchun]



Toshiki Okada (writer, director / from Kumamoto, Japan)

Born in Yokohama in 1973, Okada formed the theater company chelfitsch in 1997. Since then he has written and directed all of the company's productions, practicing a distinctive methodology for creating plays, and has come to be known for his use of hyper-colloquial Japanese and unique choreography. His works have received numerous awards including the 49th Kishida Drama Award and the Toyota Choreography Award in 2005. As a writer, his novel "The End of the Special Time We Were Allowed" received the Kenzaburo Oe Prize in 2007. In recent years, he has widely drawn attention not only from the theater and the contemporary dance scene, but also from those in fine arts and literature. He has been invited to many art centers, museums and festivals, including the Nam June Paik Art Center (Seoul), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), and the KUNSTEN FESTIVAL DES ARTS (Brussels). His works have been translated into many languages and published abroad.



Tomoko Soda (artist / from Osaka, Japan)

Born in Osaka in 1972, Tomoko Soda creates solid fabric artworks using her original and unique method. She describes her works as "Objects unsuitable for the Pig-headed".

Soda started exhibiting her works in Osaka and Kyoto in 1999, and in 2007, won the Award of Spiral Encouragement from the Spiral Independent Creators Festival, Tokyo. Currently, Soda organizes workshops "Exercises not to make it, workshops to forgot how to use" at her studio Mimiyama Mishin in Osaka.

Photo: Kiyotoshi Takashima



Pichet Klunchun (dancer, choreographer / from Bangkok, Thailand)

Pichet Klunchun bridges the gap between traditional Thai Classical Dance language and contemporary sensibility, while keeping the heart and wisdom of the convention. He earned domestic notoriety for his efforts in contemporizing the Thai Classical Mask Dance "Khon". He participated to several intercultural performing arts programs as an international dancer-choreographer in North America, Asia and Europe. With his international working experience and desire to establish a professional standard, he founded the *Pichet Klunchun Dance Company* in 2004, in order to create pure art performance and to train young-blood professional dancers with strong Thai classical dance backgrounds. In 2012, he was awarded "Chevalier of the French Arts and Literature Order" by the French Ministry of Culture.

photo: Nattapol Meechart

A program [contact Gonzo×Skychurch × Yusuke Nishimitsu]



contact Gonzo (performance group / from Osaka, Japan)

contact Gonzo is a collective from Osaka, Japan, that combines contact improvisation references with Hunter S. Thompson's gonzo aesthetics. They disperse and occupy public buildings, theaters, museums and alleys around the world, with performances that may appear to be either an exchange of slaps or a sophisticated dance. Besides being a company, contact Gonzo is also the name of the method developed by Masaru Kakio and Yuya Tsukahara, starting in 2006. As well as urban interventions, they also create installations, video and photographic works. In recent years contact Gonzo became the focus of increasing attention in both the performing arts and contemporary art scenes that led to participation in international exhibitions, arts festivals and International Dance Festivals around the World. Currently contact Gonzo consists of five members with different backgrounds, they are: Masakazu Kobayashi, Takuya Matsumi, Yu Kanai, Keigo Mikajiri and Yuya Tsukahara.



Skychurch (hardcore band / From Manila, Philippines)

Skychurch was originally formed as Electric Skychurch by the three brothers, Rommel V. dela Cruz (guitar / vocal), Russell V. dela Cruz, (bass / lead vocal), and Robert V. dela Cruz (drummer/vocal), with Jhun Siscar (guitar) later joining the band. The band performed in various gigs in the Philippines and other Asian countries and is known as one of the pioneers of Filipino Metal music. They also took part in the RJ Junior Jam Band Contest and won the 1st Prize. In 1996, their album "Urge of the Human Device" was nominated in Awit awards and in the NU Rock Awards of the year. Upon the release of the album, the band changed their name to SKYCHURCH. In 2000, the band released an album called "Unaware, Unwarned". Russell received the award for the Bassist of the Year in the 2001 NU Rock Awards. Skychurch made its mark as being the first Filipino Metal band to be given a Record deal under a Major Label. Currently, the band members are busy teaching as musical instructors in the Philippine Franchise of the School of Rock.



Yusuke Nishimitsu (photographer, artist / from Tokyo, Japan)

Born in Wakayama in 1976, Nishimitsu's works often consist of various photographic images such as animals, city views or landscapes. By exhibiting these images together, he tries to represent a moment / incident which occurred simultaneously. Solo exhibitions include: New Games (AD&A gallery, Osaka), "I forgot but I can see. I remember but I can't see" (2011 / touring exhibition: Kyoto, Osaka and Fukuoka), and "Around the mound" (2012 / Nadiff window gallery / Tokyo). Besides photographic works, he started a music rebel "approach" and formed the artist unit "Hajimeten" in 2010, collaborating with young visual artists and photographers. He also participated in the Kunisakihantou Art Project in 2013.

B Program [Masaru Kakio×Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba× Yukichi Matsumoto]



Masaru Kakio (dancer, choreographer / from Osaka, Japan)

Born in 1973, Kakio was inspired by the paintings of Jackson Pollock and photographs of Kazuo Ohno, and started to practice contemporary dance. He has been participating in Ensemble Sonne, organized by Toshiko Oka, as a guest dancer since 2004. In 2006, he founded the performance group contact Gonzo with Yuya Tsukahara and actively performed in the group. He left contact Gonzo in 2009 and started his carrier as a solo / freelance dancer and choreographer. He has been involved in many performances and art projects including "The pursuit of new possibility project" collaborating with Osamu Jareo and Hyslom (2011~current), "Perspective play for City" (Ishinha, 2012) as well as various others.



Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba

(visual artist / from Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam)

Born in 1968 to a Japanese mother and Vietnamese father, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba spent his childhood in Japan before moving to the USA for his education. He now works and lives in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. His work "Memorial Project", started in 2001, addresses issues such as the boat people and social minorities, and helped to establish his name in the international contemporary art scene.

Nguyen-Hatsushiba has exhibited in numerous international triennials and biennials including Venice, Istanbul, Sydney and Yokohama.

"The Master and the Slave: Inujima Monogatari" 2013 single channel video installation Courtesy: the artist / Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo

His on-going project "Breathing is Free: 12,756.3" is an attempt to physically experience the World refugee crisis by running the diameter of the earth, some 12,756.3 km. His most recent work from 2013, "The Master and the Slave: Inujima Monogatari" was filmed on Inujima island in Okayama.



Yukichi Matsumoto (director / from Osaka, Japan)

Born in 1946, Yukichi Matsumoto studied fine arts at Osaka University of Education. In 1970 he founded the theater company ISHINHA and developed a new open air performance style called "Jan Jan Opera" for his 1991 work "Shonen Gai" (Boys' Town). In 2011, he started his "Landscape" series that highlights the intriguing interaction between the bodies of actors with their surrounding landscape. Beyond local shores, Matsumoto has extended his reach to audiences in Oceania, Europe and Latin America with his recent performances. He is best known for his works "Sakashima", "Kokyuu-kikai" (Breathing Machine), and "MAREBITO". "Kokyuu-kikai" took place on Lake Biwa while "MAREBITO" overlooked the archipelago of the Seto Inland Sea. He has won several prizes such as the 20 year Minister of Education Award for Fine Arts and the 8th Asahi Performing Arts Award Artist Award (for "Breathing machine" in 2009), as well as the 2011 Medal with Purple Ribbon.

B program [Animal Pop Family×QUICK×DJ \$HIN]



Animal Pop Family (dance group / from Indonesia)

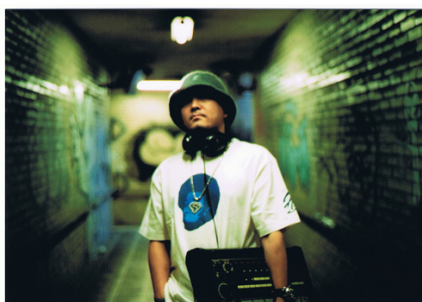
Animal Pop is a dance style, created by Jecko Siompo, a Jakarta-based contemporary dancer-choreographer, and is a hybrid of Papua traditional dance and hip-hop. Recently, the dance style became very popular in Jakarta, Indonesia and dancers who perform this style are called the "Animal Pop Family".



Koji Tsujimura/ Oska Canvas 2013「MuDA特区」

QUICK (dancer, choreographer, director of MuDA / from Kyoto, Japan)

Born in Kyoto in 1982, QUICK started dancing based on the breakdance style in 1997, and formed the breakdance team "ichigeki" in 1998. His achievements include the 2nd place and Best Show in "Battle of the Year-Final, 2005" (Germany). He won several awards, and has been invited to various events as guest dancer both domestically and internationally. In 2007, he started the dance community "e-dance", with the stage director Shigemi Iida, who was an assistant to Kazuo Ono. QUICK acted as a performer and chief choreographer for all pieces performed by e-dance. In 2009, 4 pieces in 6 cities were released with local dancers in the "e-dance Spain & Italy Tour." In 2010, He established the performance group "MuDa", and as a director, he choreographs and produces all pieces for the group.



DJ \$HIN (DJ / from Osaka, Japan)

Recognized as a leading pioneer of the Japanese DJ scene, DJ \$HIN first started breakdancing at the age 10, which led to an interest in DJing. He started actively performing as a professional DJ at dance clubs and regularly participated in DJ competitions. Having won the West Japan Championship 4 times, he participated in the DMC World DJ championships, representing Japan in 1999. Currently he is expanding his career as an instructor and producer to develop young talented DJs, and in 2013, released his full album with the credits "Shing02 + DJ\$HIN".

Exhibiting Artists :

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Jun Nguyen- Hatsushiba (artist) / Tomoko Soda (artist) / dot architects (architect) /

Choy Ka Fai (artist) / usuke Nishimitsu (artist/photographer)



Choy Ka Fai (artist, performance maker, speculative designer / from Singapore)

Choy Ka Fai is inspired by the histories and theorizations that together contain the uncertainties of the future. His research springs from a desire to understand the conditioning of the human body, its intangible memories and the forces shaping its expressions. These factors converge into complex articulations at the intersection of art, design and technology. Ka Fai graduated in Design Interaction from the Royal College of Art London, under a National Arts Council (Singapore) Overseas Scholarship, and was conferred the Singapore Young Artist Award in 2010. His work has been presented internationally, notably at Festival Tokyo (2011), Singapore Arts Festival (2012) and Tanz Im August (2013). www.ka5.info



dot architects (architect unit / from Osaka, Japan)

Formed by Toshikatsu Ienari and Takeshi Akashiro in 2004, dot architects are based in Kitakagaya, Osaka, and work not only in the design / planning of architecture, but also in construction management, and the planning / organizing of various art projects.

【Inquires】

※ For updated information, check the festival website

K-ACDF official website: http://www.db-dancebox.org/07_arc/03_sp/14_kacdf03/

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– about the festival/programs: Fumi Yokobori (Production Manager, NPO DANCE BOX)

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