



NEW  
NATIONAL  
THEATRE  
TOKYO

# NTT

NEW NATIONAL  
THEATRE, TOKYO

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# THE HEART OF PERFORMING ARTS IN JAPAN

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The New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT) is Japan's first and foremost national theatre for the contemporary performing arts. Since the doors of our world-class, state-of-the-art theatre opened in 1997, we have staged an incredible array of productions, totaling more than 700.

The performance season runs from October to July of each year. In

a single season, we offer some 300 performances. Each of our three divisions (opera, drama and ballet & dance) has its own artistic director who is responsible for the high-standard performances our audiences have come to expect.

Meanwhile, nearly 350 young artists graduated from our training courses in opera, ballet and drama, and can be seen frequently at the NNTT and

other prestigious theatres throughout the world. With the aim of fostering an appreciation for the performing arts, the NNTT also provides several programmes for youth throughout Japan.

Moving forward, we will continue our endeavours to ever increase the caliber of our productions, and we will continue to stand as a symbol of the rich cultural offerings of Japan, both on the domestic and international stage.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NNTT

Apr 1966	The bill to construct a new national theatre passes.
May 1980	The site at Honmachi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, is selected.
May 1986	Architect Takahiko Yanagisawa is selected by competition.
Aug 1992	Construction of the theatre begins.
Apr 1995	The theatre is officially named the New National Theatre, Tokyo.
May 26, 1997	The completion ceremony of New National Theatre, Tokyo is held.
Oct 10, 1997	New National Theatre, Tokyo opens with a performance of <i>Takeru</i> .
Apr 1998	NNT Opera Studio opens.
Apr 2001	NNT Ballet School opens.
Apr 2005	NNT Drama Studio opens.
Oct 2007	NNTT celebrates its 10th anniversary.
Oct 2017	NNTT celebrates its 20th anniversary.



*Opera • Ballet • Dance • Drama*



The New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT) is Japan's only national theatre dedicated to the performing arts of opera, ballet, dance and drama. Since its inception in the autumn of 1997, the NNTT has produced and staged world-class performances, and has come to occupy a familiar and much-loved place among the people of Japan.

The NNTT comprises the Opera Palace, Playhouse and The Pit, each of which uniquely contributes to an annual total of about 280 stage performances to the delight of approx. 220,000 theatregoers, including many from overseas. Furthermore, by providing other performing arts groups with a performance venue, the NNTT contributes to the development of the stage arts in Japan, such performances numbering around 340 a year, and attended by over 240,000 people.\*

The NNTT values its connections with communities. As a theatre, it is our role to bring our performances to the younger generation, thus providing youth with opportunities to encounter the outstanding performing arts. We are also tasked with bringing the performing arts to Japan's localities, and collaborating with other theatres, both in and outside of Japan, in joint productions. To these ends we are proactive and moving ever forward. In recent years, international cultural exchange has reached new heights, and as such the NNTT's importance has increasingly grown as a base in Japan for furthering the reach of such cultural endeavours. Furthermore, so that people may enjoy the multiple aspects of the performing arts, the NNTT holds exhibitions, drawing on its archived materials, stage sets, costumes and more.

Training personnel involved in the performing arts is an equally important mission, and the NNTT with its three performance venues of opera, ballet and drama provides training with breadth for those who will take these arts forward into the future.

The NNTT is Japan's foremost national theatre, and as such it strives to work to create, promote and disseminate performing arts of high achievement for the public in a way that inspires and moves audiences. In doing so it strives to be a full and enriching presence, and to this end we look to your continued support and partnership.

\*Based on the NNTT's FY2018 results.

**OZAKI Motoki**

**PRESIDENT**

**NEW NATIONAL THEATRE FOUNDATION**

# OPERA

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# OPERA

Throughout the years, The New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT) has produced high-caliber and groundbreaking operas that have cemented the theatre's status within the international performing arts community.

NNTT was the first opera house in Japan designed specifically to stage opera and ballet. The theatre allows for outstanding technical capabilities, and the operas have garnered high acclaim from theatregoers and critics alike. While opera can be seen as intimidating for the uninitiated, we feel we have made real contributions towards making opera more accessible in our goal to expand its fan base.

The New National Theatre Opera (NNTT Opera) has built a repertoire from classical masterpieces to contemporary works. In addition, we



are proud to showcase operas created by homegrown Japanese composers. NNTT has also produced new operas commissioned from Japanese composers. Our efforts in this regard have paid dividends, for which we are humbly proud.

Directors and designers, responsible for the visual elements of opera, draw on those human resources from around the world that are best suited to the work being performed. In this

way they ensure an ongoing run of world-class productions. Conductors and leading performers are also chosen from the pool of international artists, combining them with domestic artists, to imbue works with new life to excite audiences.

Recently, the commissioned work *Asters*, which premiered in 2019, has received accolades both at home and abroad as a new opera that made its way from the NNTT to around the

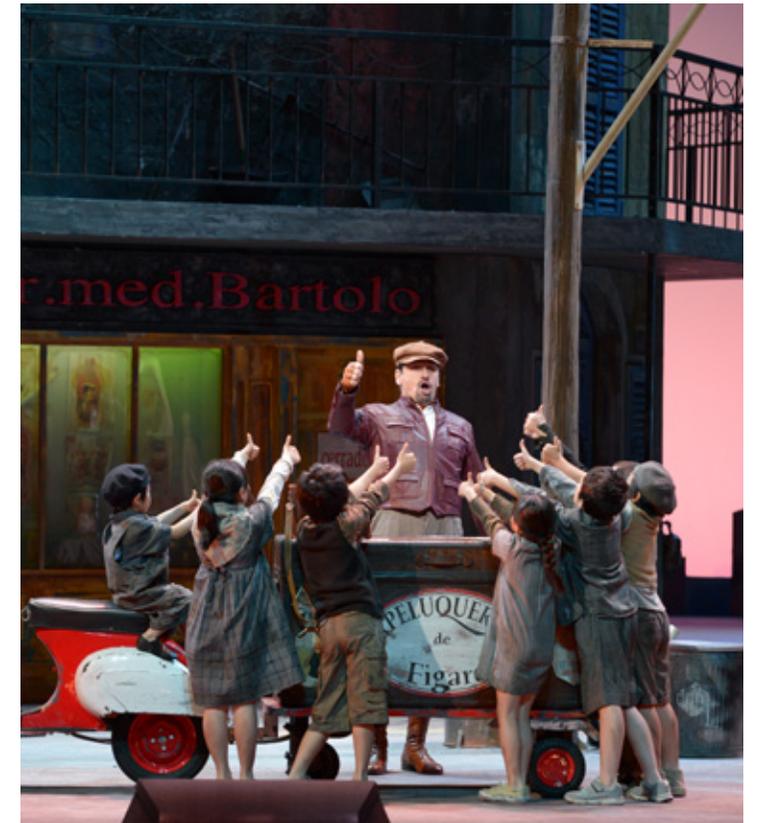
world. Also, in the same year, productions of works such as *Turandot* made opera headlines worldwide, securing the NNTT's international status.

A top-quality chorus is essential to opera productions, and the reliable, high-caliber performance of the New National Theatre Chorus allows us to deliver quality operas time and time again. Members of the chorus are publicly recruited, and selected after rigorous screening. Possessing high vocal skills and outstanding performing ability, they are roundly praised both domestically and internationally by those in the music world.

The NNTT Opera is also making concerted efforts to grow the fan base for opera by presenting productions as part of our Educational Programme for High School Students and through other endeavours.

Moving forward, we will continue to deliver the very best in opera, with the aim of pleasing the most committed fans, and also sharing the joys of opera with the wider public.

“ I want our world premieres to be opportunities to send our message ‘from Tokyo to the world’ ”



## ONO Kazushi

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
OPERA

It is my pleasure to introduce the New National Theatre, Tokyo under my direction from the 2018/2019 season. Our Theatre boasts a presence as one of Asia's leading opera venues, and we have maintained our international influence through showcasing

numerous world premieres and new operas. As Artistic Director, I look forward to developing our pursuits with even greater energy.

To achieve this, I aim to utilise my global network to invite the world's best directors, conductors, stage designers, dancers, artists and singers to gather at our Theatre and inject our creations with vitality, transforming our Theatre into a space that will present us with much to consider as 21st century inhabitants. I would like to promote the use of cutting-edge Japanese visual technology to recreate traditional works, and work with other Asian countries to co-produce operas in a pan-Pacific alliance. I want to ensure that our world premieres are opportunities to send our message “from Tokyo to the world”.

I believe that the potential of opera as a means of expression is going to become increasingly meaningful in terms of global-scale human connections. And I am positive that the NNTT will play a significant role as we enter this era.

# BALLET & DANCE

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# BALLET & DANCE



On October 24, 1997, the curtain went up on *The Sleeping Beauty* at The New National Theatre, Tokyo. It was our inaugural ballet performance, and in the ensuing decades the Ballet & Dance productions of Japan's only national theatre for ballet have become renowned for graceful renditions of timeless classics and visionary contemporary compositions.

The Opera Palace boasts a built-in orchestra pit and four stages to meet the needs of various genres,

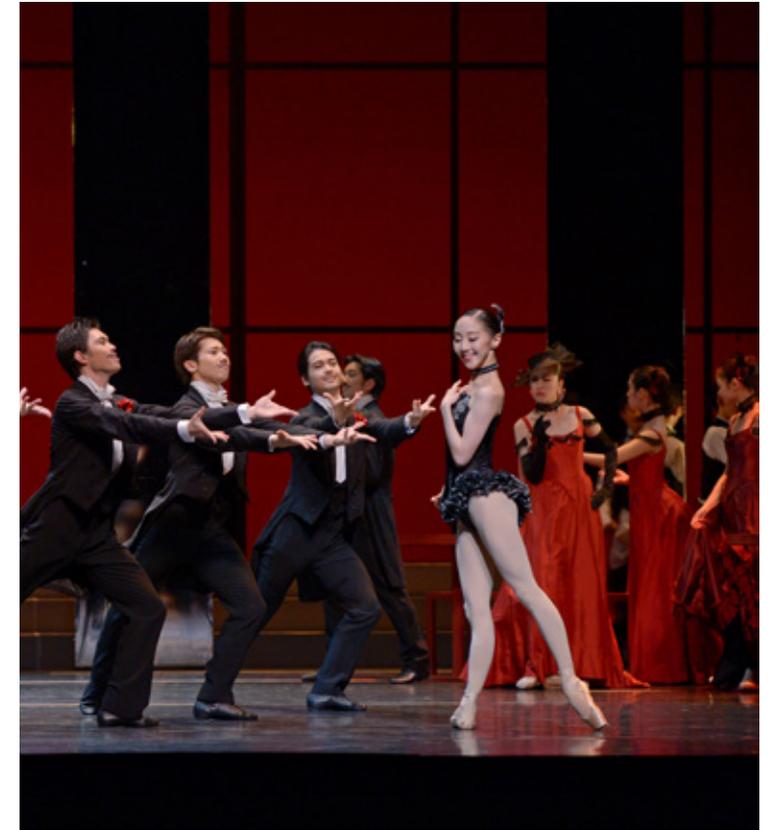
and has become a locus of grand, multi-act ballet productions. The resident company of the theatre is the National Ballet of Japan, formed at the same time as the theatre was opened. The Company continues to present performances of world-class quality to the ongoing delight of ballet fans and critics alike.

All ages can meaningfully watch the performances, from young children to the elderly. We therefore work to spread the appeal of ballet both in Tokyo and throughout Japan. Every Christmas, we perform

“  
We aim to give as many people as possible the opportunity to discover the magic of ballet  
”

such pieces as *The Nutcracker* and *the Mouse King* and *Cinderella* which can be enjoyed by the whole family. We also stage the Ballet for Children in order for youngsters to be able to experience ballet for the first time.

Dance enables freer expression of the body, readily facilitating experimentation and creation at will. Our Playhouse and The Pit are designed to foster collaborations between contemporary artists in music, digital art and dance. The results have been stunning, and the future is rich with potential.



BALLET & DANCE



**YOSHIDA Miyako**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
BALLET & DANCE

The National Ballet of Japan (NBJ) has made remarkable progress since it was founded in 1997 and we are proud of our wide-ranging repertoire,

encompassing 19th century classical ballet, 20th century masterpieces and recent works by contemporary choreographers. I believe that we are what we are today purely as a result of my predecessors' strong belief in the company and our dancers' incredible hard work. As Artistic Director, I believe that it is my mission to guide the company to develop further, utilizing my international experience, whilst respecting our legacy.

The focus of our forthcoming program is on classical ballet, which I believe is essential for the company to maintain high standards of performance. Fine contemporary works are also important, and we plan to present a wide-ranging lineup of pieces which will showcase our dancers' versatility. At the same time, we will continue to seek out opportunities for creating new works to add to the New National Theatre's

rich repertoire. The NBJ also aims to discover and nurture the choreographic talent of our dancers, as part of an ongoing project, and we believe that the inclusion of works created through this process in our future performance lineup is vital to ensuring its success.

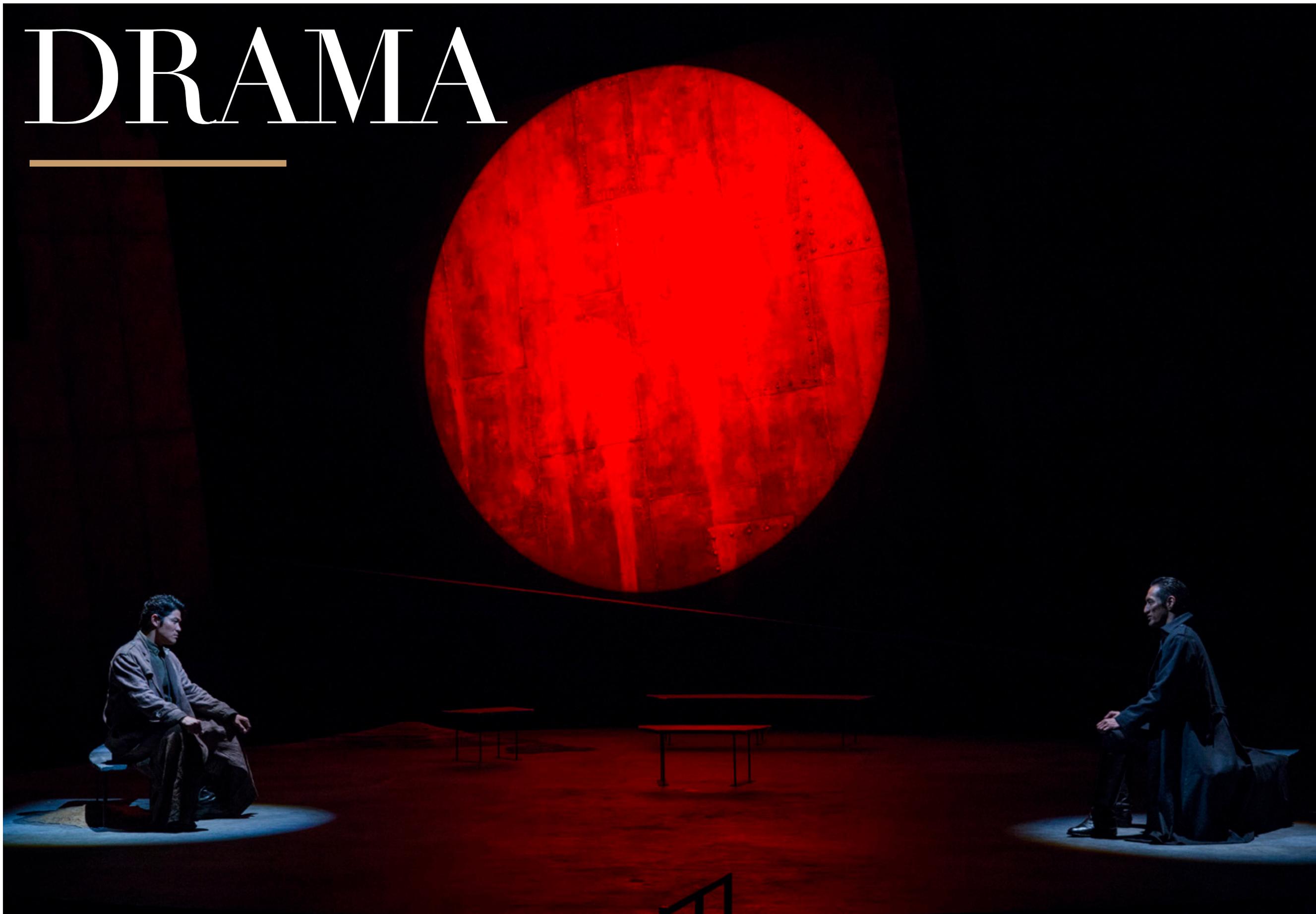
We also wish to create opportunities for charitable activities through ballet, such as educational outreach programs and charity performances. Our goal is to become worthy of being the only ballet company affiliated to the national theatre in Japan.

Finally, we aim to continue to grow and cultivate our audience, giving as many people as possible the opportunity to discover the magic of ballet.

Thank you for your continued support.

# DRAMA

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# DRAMA

There is a line in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in which the tragic Danish prince opines, "the purpose of playing... is, to hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature, to show... the very age and body of the time his form and pressure."

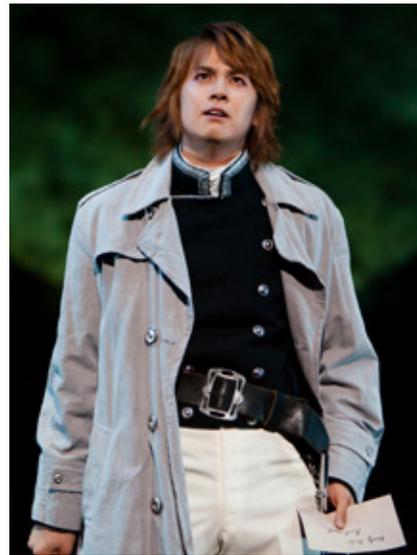
Every year the New National Theatre, Tokyo mounts an ambitious and diverse programme, shaped by the creative vision of our Artistic Director, that holds up that proverbial mirror to our world today, and takes audiences on a journey that hopefully shines a ray of enlightenment.

In developing the line-up, the dramas are chosen without favoring those of any nation. The selection features new works commissioned from gifted playwrights in addi-

tion to timeless classics. Our shows feature a broad range of talent, produced by acclaimed veterans of the industry. The performers cast in our productions are plucked from the world of contemporary theatre as well as the realm of Japan's traditional performing arts and dance.

Ogawa Eriko, the Artistic Director of Drama, has also introduced the audition programme and development projects to experiment with and develop drama systems.

We often take productions to other playhouses across Japan to deliver the magic of theatre to a wider audience. Meanwhile, we're also working to foster international exchange. A shining example has been our joint productions with theatre companies from South Korea.



Join us as we explore the diverse world of drama with all its magic, dreams and emotions

We have commissioned new works from gifted playwrights from several countries, and mounted dramas in joint productions with directors and actors from overseas.

Many productions have enjoyed public and critical acclaim, and have been recognised with prominent theatre awards over the years. In the Kinokuniya Theatre Awards, Yomiuri Theatre Awards, and Asahi Performing Arts Awards, the New National Theatre, Tokyo has been honoured both in the Group and Grand Prix categories, while a number of directors, production staff, and actors involved in our productions have received individual awards as well.



**OGAWA Eriko**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
DRAMA

As I join the New National Theatre, Tokyo as the Artistic Director of Drama, I am excited to share my passion for drama with a wide audience.

I am delighted for the opportunity to present a variety of works,

from innovative new pieces to classics. We will continue to stage productions suitable for children and adults alike, and tour throughout Japan.

One of my pillars is to push the boundaries of experimentation and pioneer innovation. Through a creative process, involving all players, we will cultivate understanding and imagination that will translate with rich, groundbreaking performances.

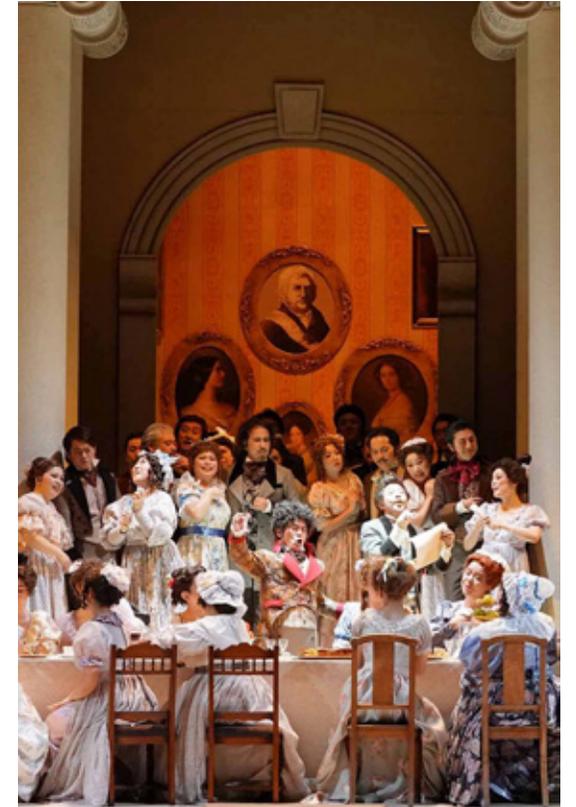
I will actively collaborate with creators from Japan and abroad. Through cultural exchanges we can develop the theatre further and enhance drama's impact on society.

While drama is said to be reflection of the times, the basic form has not changed from 2,000 years ago. As one who has the privilege to devote my life to drama, I will strive to produce the best works, without neglecting what this theatre has achieved in the past, and share the enriching world of drama with as many people as possible.

# NEW NATIONAL THEATRE CHORUS

The New National Theatre Chorus (NNT Chorus) has been a vital element of the Theatre's history. Inaugurated in the 1998/1999 season, the Chorus performs in several operas every season, playing a significant role in the success of each production.

The members comprising the NNT Chorus are rigorously selected. Numbering over 100, each member is characterized by top-level vocal ability and outstanding performing skills. The Chorus' superb ensemble, under the direction of the chorus master, has garnered accolades both domestically and internationally.



The Chorus' superb ensemble has garnered accolades both domestically and internationally



The NNT Chorus is actively involved in joint performances with the NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. Their numerous collaborations with overseas orchestras most recently included a 2016 performance with the Berliner Philharmoniker conducted by Simon Rattle.

In addition, the Chorus actively participates in educational projects for schoolchildren throughout Japan. This wide-ranging variety of activities only grows in scope every year.

# THE NATIONAL BALLET OF JAPAN



The National Ballet of Japan (NBJ), the first resident ballet company in Japan, launched in conjunction with the opening of the New National Theatre, Tokyo in 1997. The NBJ's repertoire is broad in scope, embracing classics such as *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*; 20th century works

by choreographers such as Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Roland Petit and Kenneth MacMillan; as well as works by contemporary choreographers such as David Bintley, Nacho Duato and Christopher Wheeldon. The NBJ also commissions world-class choreographers to create original pieces for its repertoire.

The NBJ was awarded an Asahi

Performing Arts Award in 2004 for its production of *Raymonda*. The company made its overseas debut in 2008 at the Kennedy Center in the United States, followed by an invitation to the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre in 2009, where it performed *La Dame aux Camélias*. The NBJ is highly rated internationally both for its much-praised soloists and corps de ballet.

“  
The NBJ is the  
first resident  
ballet company  
in Japan  
”



The NBJ's first two artistic directors, Shimada Hiroshi and Maki Asami, contributed greatly to ballet in Japan. Famous contemporary British choreographer David Bintley was appointed as Artistic Director from the 2010/2011 season. The company's repertoire was expanded even further under Bintley, and in 2011 the NBJ premiered the full-length ballet *The Prince of the Pagodas*, choreographed by Bintley.

Following this, the NBJ was led by



Ohara Noriko, who became Artistic Director in 2014, and continued performances of classic and dramatic ballet at an even higher standard than before. Christopher Wheeldon's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*® is the largest scale production undertaken by the NBJ, and was staged as an international collaborative project. The NBJ

has achieved success in this and many other new productions.

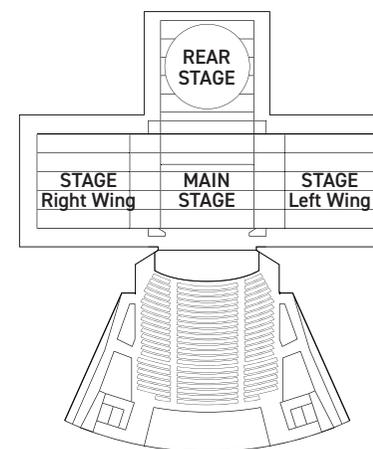
Currently, since the beginning of the 2020/2021 season, the Artistic Director is Yoshida Miyako, who was active in the United Kingdom for many years as a principal dancer. With this appointment, the NBJ is setting its sights on ever greater achievements.





# OPERA PALACE

Experience the majesty of opera and ballet in a theatre that ranks among the world's finest



## Floor Plan

- SEATING CAPACITY** Total: 1,814  
First Floor: 868 (includes 8 wheelchair spaces)  
Second Floor: 354  
Third Floor: 292  
Fourth Floor: 300
- REVERB TIME** 1.4-1.6 seconds (with a full house)
- STAGE** Four stages  
Proscenium opening: 16.38 × 12.5 m (H×W)  
Portal opening: 14.6-18.8 × 0.5-14.0 m (W×H)
- MAIN STAGE** Stage lifts: 18.2 × 3.64 m (×5)  
Elevation range: +4.5 to -15.7 m  
Heights: 30.5 m from stage level to grid | -15.7 m from stage level to understage level
- WING STAGES** Scenery wagons: 18.2 × 3.64 m (×5 for each wing)
- REAR STAGE** Sliding stage: 18.2 × 18.2 m, turntable: 16.38 m across
- ORCHESTRA PIT** Area: 147 m<sup>2</sup>  
Elevation range: 0 to -2.65 m  
Accommodates four-section orchestra (up to 120 members)

OPERA PALACE

Experience the majesty of opera and ballet in a theatre that ranks among the world's finest. The main opera house is called the Opera Palace (a name chosen by the public) and is a proscenium arch theatre containing four stage areas of the same size: the main stage visible to the audience, a rear stage and left and right wings.

This structure was established according to European theatre architectural standards set specifically

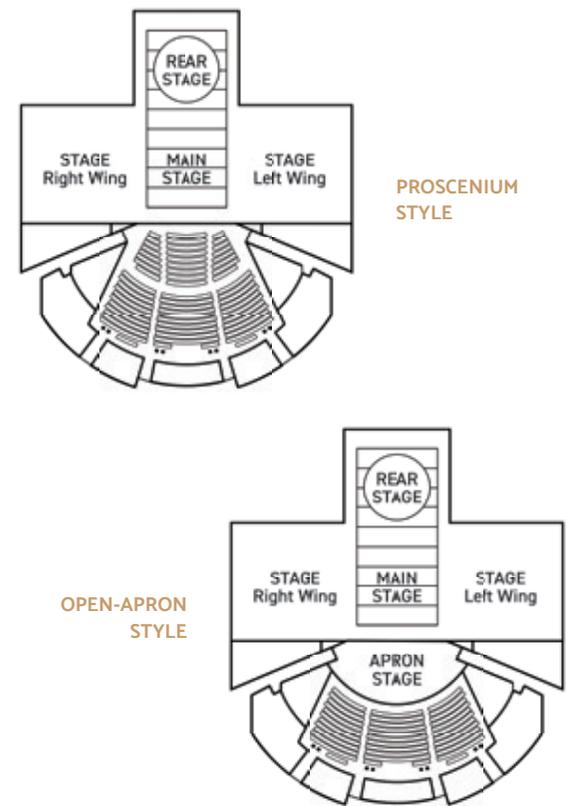
for opera and ballet productions with large-scale scenery and to accommodate different productions to be presented every night. The orchestra pit has the space for a full 120-person orchestra.

The walls and ceilings of the seating area are covered in thick panels of oak to provide ideal acoustics for the unamplified singing voice. The theatre itself in effect acts as a musical instrument. The house employs continuous 20-seat rows with no aisle down the

centre to enhance the audience's focus on the stage. The three levels of balconies encircling the arena are positioned so that the sound of enthusiastic applause envelops the theatre, true to the epithet, Opera Palace.

The Opera Palace also boasts a magnificent foyer, whose features include ceiling-to-floor windows and stately columns. Here, guests can take a moment to let their excitement build, enjoy the interval, or savour the afterglow of a fine performance.





“ This versatile theatre can be configured in two ways: proscenium or open-apron ”

## Floor Plan

<b>SEATING CAPACITY</b>	With proscenium arch: Total: 1,038 First Floor: 851 Second Floor: 187
	With open stage: Total: 1,010 First Floor: 851 Second Floor: 249 (includes 8 wheelchair spaces)
<b>REVERB TIME</b>	1.0–1.3 seconds (with a full house)
<b>STAGE</b>	Four stages Proscenium opening: 16.8 × 9 m (H×W)
<b>MAIN STAGE</b>	Stage lifts: 14.58 × 3.64 m (×2), 14.58 × 7.27 (×1) Elevation range: +4.5 to -15.7 m Height: 21.3 m from stage level to grid   -15.7 m from stage level to understage level
<b>STAGE LEFT WING</b>	Sliding stage: 14.58 × 14.58 m
<b>REAR STAGE</b>	Sliding stage: 14.58 × 14.58 m Turntable: 12.74 m across
<b>FORE-STAGE</b>	Convertible, elevation range: +0.5 to -4.50 m

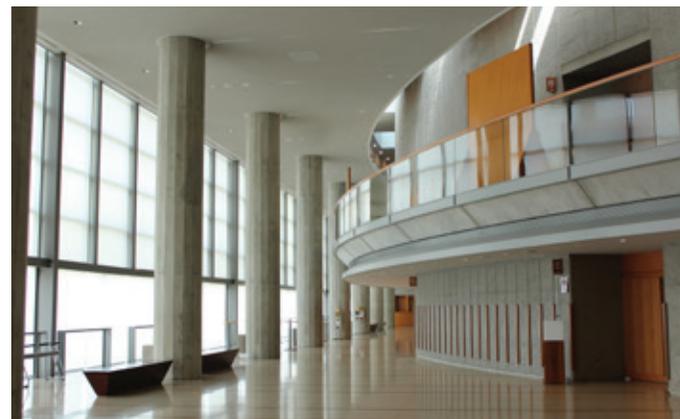
PLAYHOUSE

# PLAYHOUSE

The Playhouse can be configured in two ways: a proscenium style divided into four sections, or an open-apron stage protruding partway into the auditorium. The versatile theatre can be adapted to the diverse direction styles of contemporary performing arts and showcases various kinds of performances, principally drama and dance. Even the seating can be rearranged to give the audience the impression

of a different space catered for each production.

There are four equally sized stages, and the apron stage at the front of the stage can be converted to serve as an orchestra pit for opera and ballet productions. The house features a maximum of 24 seats per row and a distance of only 25 metres between the furthest row on the balcony and the stage, creating an intimate space that delivers the true-to-life expression of the performers straight to the audience.



# THE PIT

“  
A stage so close,  
you’ll hear the actors breathe  
”

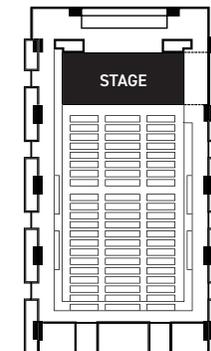
A stage so close, you’ll hear the actors breathe. A space so flexible, anything is possible. The Pit is an open-space theatre designed to give the director’s imagination free rein. It features a movable floor for both the stage and seating areas. With the ability to move vertically, this floor creates precisely the right layout for any staging. The versatile venue transforms freely from

a traditional end stage to a thrust stage with the stage centre extending into the auditorium. It can also transform from a centre stage with seating both in front of and behind the stage to an arena stage with seats surrounding the stage on all sides. The balconies along the walls can accommodate seating to offer the audience a special bird’s-eye view of the compact stage. Depending on the layout, the house can hold a maximum of 468 seats.

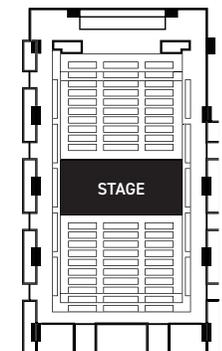


## Floor Plan

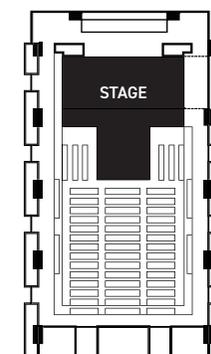
<b>SEATING CAPACITY</b>	Maximum of 468 (depends on the stage layout and depth)
<b>REVERB TIME</b>	0.8–1.0 seconds (with a full house)
<b>FLAT AREA</b>	27.6 × 16.6 m, height of 10 m
<b>MOVABLE FLOOR</b>	25.5 × 12.7 m
<b>SUBSTAGE</b>	8.7 × 3.3 m (includes a stage lift and opening for moving sets in and out)



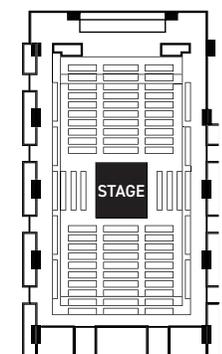
END STAGE



CENTRE STAGE



THRUST STAGE



ARENA STAGE

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



The New National Theatre, Tokyo stages dance, drama and operatic productions through joint projects with arts organizations overseas. Through such international exchange, we share the culture of Japan and build bridges between countries.

In 2009, at the invitation of the Bolshoi Theatre, the National Ballet of Japan performed *La Dame aux Camélias* in Moscow. The production, a major triumph for the company, was the first time a full-scale ballet by a Japanese choreographer had been performed at the illustrious theatre. Following this achievement, two members of the National Ballet of Japan appeared as guest dancers with the Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2013 and 2014.

In contemporary dance, the NNTT presented Moriyama Kaiji's *Yoroboshi* and Hirayama Motoko's *Rite of Spring*

at the 17th Istanbul International Music Festival in 2010. Both were well-received by local audiences and served as a testament to the calibre of NNTT productions.

In 2018, the NBJ became the first ballet troupe in Asia to perform *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*®, which was a co-production with the Australian Ballet.

In drama, the NNTT has developed productions in collaboration with actors from Korea. *Yakiniku Dragon* was staged at both the NNTT and the Seoul Arts Center in 2008 and again in 2011, picking up numerous theatrical awards as well as public and critical acclaim. The collaboration with Korea was realized again in 2013 with the play *Hot Spring in Asia*. The play, with its thematic exploration of the relationship between Korea and Japan, also served to promote greater cultural exchange

and mutual understanding between the two countries.

The opera *Wozzeck* was staged as a joint production with Germany's renowned Bayerische Staatsoper. The opera premiered in Munich in 2008 and was presented at the NNTT in 2009. Also, in cooperation with the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, the NNTT presented a concert version of Verdi's *Aida* in both Tokyo and Beijing in 2012.

In 2017, we premiered *Lucia di Lammermoor*, a co-production with the Opéra de Monte-Carlo. This opera showed in Monaco in 2019. The co-production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* between the Salzburg Easter Festival, the Semperoper Dresden and the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan was premiered in 2019 in Salzburg followed by the Dresden premiere, and staging in Tokyo is also being considered for 2021.

# REGIONAL TOURS



One of the central goals of the New National Theatre, Tokyo is to bring the magic of today's performing arts to audiences across the country. We stage carefully selected operas, ballets, dance works and dramas at theatres

and other cultural venues throughout Japan that showcase the amazing artistry offered by the NNTT's performers and directors. This programme also gives us an opportunity to build deeper relationships with local theatres and arts organizations.



## OPERA

In 2008, we began offering our Educational Programme for High School Students in Kansai. The programme has been hugely popular and has provided students in Kansai area with the opportunity to experience real opera. We presented a performance of *Tosca* in Otsu in 2018, and *Turandot* in Otsu and Sapporo in 2019. Meanwhile, the New National Theatre Chorus performs at elementary schools and with various orchestras as part of a programme administered by the Agency for Cultural Affairs aimed at promoting the arts among young people.

## BALLET

The National Ballet of Japan frequently travels the country to share classical works such as *The Nutcracker* and *the Mouse King* in Ueda, Otsu and Sapporo. We have also performed a production of *Cinderella* in Toyama and Otsu, *Swan Lake* in Sapporo and *Aladdin* in Toyama. And we regularly present ballet programmes for children at venues across the country. Children are able to attend ballet workshops led by soloist dancers of NBJ, a one-of-a-kind experience that will certainly embed an early appreciation for dance, arts and culture.

## DANCE

Our dance troupe develops works at the grassroots level in collaboration with local theatres. Both series – *Dance of Air*, performed in Toyama and Nagano, and *Zone*, produced in Niigata – generate a great deal of excitement among fans of contemporary dance. Among the many dance numbers performed, the NNTT dancers are proud to have staged productions of *Circus* in Nishinomiya, and the breathtaking dance piece *NINJA* in Iwaki, Kitagami, Mito, Otsu, Tottori, Kitakyushu, and Matsumoto.

## DRAMA

NNTT theatrical productions are performed at venues across Japan throughout the year. We brought playwright and director Horai Ryuta's *Morning Disappearance* to Nishinomiya, Toyohashi and Shingu (Fukuoka). We also presented Anton Chekhov's timeless classic *The Seagull* in Nishinomiya and Toyohashi. This exposure to world-class theatre will enrich lives, and deliver our love for theatre to all parts of Japan.

# YOUNG ARTISTS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Training the next generation of performing artists is a core function of the NNTT. The Young Artists Training Programme launched with the opening of the Opera Studio in 1998. With the addition of the Ballet School in 2001 and the Drama Studio in 2005, full-time training is conducted to foster the opera

singers, ballet dancers and actors of tomorrow. In each division, faculty of the highest standard provide a comprehensive curriculum of instruction in specialized techniques, extensive knowledge and cultural refinement. We also provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their skills on stage.



## OPERA STUDIO Training to global standards

The Opera Studio is dedicated to nurturing opera singers to reach world-stage standards. Under the direction of Nagai Kazuko, a group of experienced, top-class instructors have designed a curriculum that consistently achieves these global

standards. Students are trained in vocalisation and acting and receive lectures and practical instruction in the diverse intellectual requirements of an opera singer. They also take classes in foreign languages essential to understanding and performing



operatic lyrics. All graduates to date have performed not only at the New National Theatre, Tokyo, but have also made their debut at opera houses around the world, and are pursuing careers at opera companies both at home and abroad.

## BALLET SCHOOL Developing world-class ballet dancers

The Ballet School, led by Maki Asami, conducts a broad range of training essentials to foster versatile dancers who can perform in both classical and contemporary styles. Starting with lessons in classical ballet, the curriculum extends to character dance, contemporary dance and basic dramatic training. Lectures in ballet and music, ballet history, anatomy, etiquette, notation and art history provide the knowledge and cultivation required of a professional dancer, while salons offer the chance to interact with artists in various fields. Students perform in productions of the National Ballet of Japan and have increasing opportunities to participate in events at international ballet schools abroad. Graduates become fully apparent in the professional world where they play the leading roles in the National Ballet of Japan and other ballet companies across the globe.



## DRAMA STUDIO Fostering stage actors of the next generation

The Drama Studio seeks to foster stage actors with a command of clearly enunciated verbal Japanese and a supple and powerful physique to lead the next generation in dramatic arts.

Led by Miyata Keiko, a team of directors working in and outside Japan and specialists in drama education have developed a comprehensive and practical curriculum combining basic training essentials

to an actor such as voice, movement, singing, acting, and Japanese and Western dance, with recitals, recitation and production on stage.

During the three-year course, students attend classes held at the studios in Nishi-Shinjuku as well as at the rehearsal room of the NNTT. Graduates perform in productions of the New National Theatre, Tokyo, and numerous other theatres in Japan.

“ Training the next generation of artists is a core function ”



**NAGAI Kazuko**  
DIRECTOR  
OPERA STUDIO



**MAKI Asami**  
DIRECTOR  
BALLET SCHOOL



**MIYATA Keiko**  
DIRECTOR  
DRAMA STUDIO

# PERFORMANCES FOR THE YOUTH



Each year, the New National Theatre, Tokyo offers Performances for Young People, a programme aimed at giving young audiences the opportunity to experience the best in performing arts. The programme has been praised for its role in introducing a new generation to the joys and magic of the arts, and for ultimately helping to create a new generation of theatregoers.



## BALLET FOR CHILDREN

Our Ballet for Children productions are the ideal opportunity for kids to experience the art of ballet with their parents. While based on well-loved tales, the choreography and performance times are adapted to be more accessible for the little ones. The performances also include narration to make the storyline easier for children to understand, allowing them to experience the magic of *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake* and other classic tales.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

For many audience members, this programme is their first exposure to opera, and we want them to experience the real thing. Thus, operas such as *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly* are presented in their entirety and are the same in every respect as our regular NNTT productions, in terms of production, scenery and costume. Each opera is performed in its original language with Japanese surtitles and feature a cast of extraordinary singers supported by live orchestra.



## DANCE AND DRAMA FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

An appreciation for the arts from an early age has a positive impact on literacy and communication skills, and ultimately confidence. Introduce your children to dance and drama through NNTT's imaginative and joyous shows, such as Moriya Kaiji's dance performance *Circus*, developed specifically for the whole family to enjoy.

# INFORMATION CENTRE

The Information Centre collects and preserves a broad range of information and material relating to contemporary performing arts and makes it available to the general public.

In the reading room of the fifth floor of the New National Theatre, Tokyo complex, guests can read books on the contemporary perform-

ing arts, browse materials on theatre technology, and examine musical scores, production programmes and play scripts. Its collection now comprises approximately 70,000 volumes. Meanwhile, in the video booths and the video theatre, guests can view video footage from nearly 500 of the NNTT performances and other contents.

The Information Centre also hosts talks, screenings and other events at the NNTT. On the third floor gallery is a collection of stage costumes. Furthermore, the Information Centre produces a wide offering of other content related to the theatre and our productions, making it available both in printed form and on the NNTT website.



INFORMATION CENTRE



# STAGE SET & DESIGN CENTRE

In addition to world-class dancers, singers and actors, the New National Theatre, Tokyo is proud of the hard-working set designers, carpenters, costume designers and more who create transformative sets and wardrobe that allow us to deliver magical performances day in and day out.

The Stage Set & Design Centre in Chiba was established to maintain and manage elements of scenic design, such as sets and costumes, used in performances at the Theatre, and to support the development of a repertory system. The adjacent art workshop is where the production and repair of sets and props takes place.

The archives building showcases permanent and themed exhibitions of material relating to scenic design, such as scale models, costumes and props. Guests can also view staged events such as concerts and viewings of video recordings of NNTT performances on a large, 250cm (100-inch) screen.



Location: 1-1044, Toyosatodai, Choshi-shi, Chiba

# EVENTS & TALKS

The New National Theatre, Tokyo hosts a variety of events designed to transform each NNTT production into a multifaceted experience.



## OPERA

Opera fans have a chance to enhance their opera experience by directly engaging with conductors, producers, technicians and other experts involved in the creative process prior to opening night. In the past, conductors have played sections of arias on piano to help audiences better understand a piece. Set designers have explained how they digitally augmented a performance. The NNTT lecture concerts are also highly acclaimed, where Ono Kazushi, the Artistic Director of Opera, illuminates the enduring appeal of opera - accompanying musical excerpts performed by singers.

## EXHIBITION AT THE FOYER

In addition, we organize special exhibits in connection with NNTT productions. These include timelines of important events in the lives of the composers, writers and choreographers, plus other related information and photographs. Our hope is that theatergoers gain an even deeper appreciation for the works presented here at the NNTT.

## BALLET & DANCE

Contemporary dance performances often have themes and messages not obviously apparent, and as such audience members are often treated to an after-performance talk with choreographers and dancers who are happy to share the philosophy and themes behind the piece, as developed from their unique point of view. And of course after our annual Christmas performance of *The Nutcracker*, all of the principle dancers greet audience members in the foyer immediately after the performance while still in costume in order to wish all a Merry Christmas.

## DRAMA

The regular series of talks and events gives theatergoers the chance to learn more about upcoming productions at the NNTT from the professionals directly involved in the creative process. In addition to talk sessions and lectures delivered by scholars, directors and translators, the series has also offered free dramatic readings and theatre workshops. Meanwhile, in our Theatre Talk series, the audience is invited to linger after the performance to listen to actors, directors and other practitioners discuss the behind-the-scenes effort required to bring the production to stage.

EVENTS & TALKS

# PATRONAGE AND SUPPORT

To produce the best theatre experiences, time and space are required for preeminent artists from Japan and beyond to convene and organically blend their artistic talents to create transcendent performances. To continue our tradition of producing outstanding performing arts, monetary support is of utmost importance.

The New National Theatre, Tokyo's basic financial means is provided by Government Subsidy. In order for the Theatre to fully thrive and maintain our high standard of performances – or undertake training for new generations – we must solicit the understanding and financial support of members from the public.

A tiered membership program was established to help encourage support and promote awareness of the entire range of our activities. The NNTT oversees a range of fundraising efforts and solicits sponsorship in a variety of forms, one example of which is our Special Corporate Support Group programme.



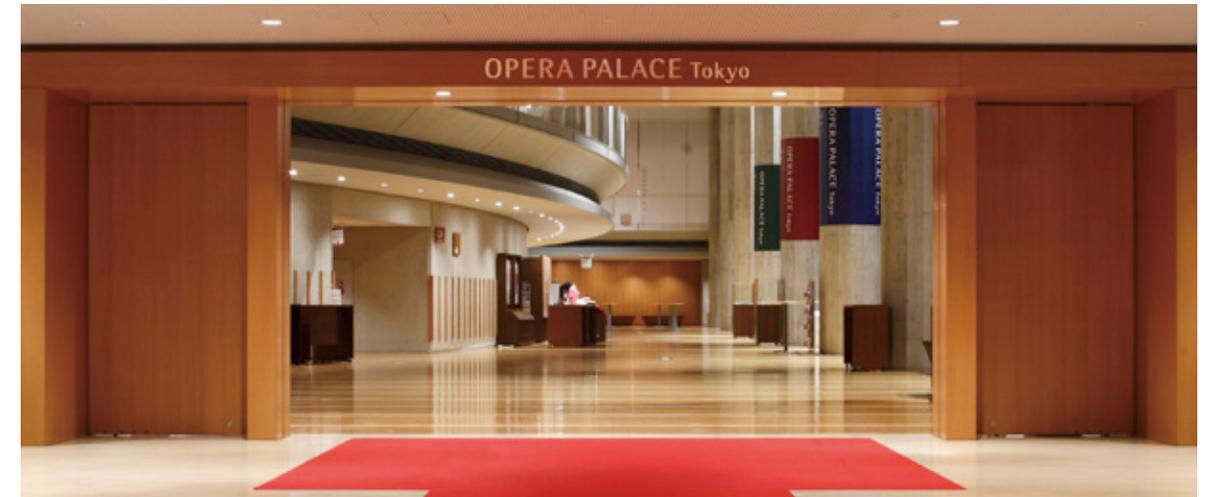
## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

- Private donation: become an individual- or corporate-supporting member of the Theatre.
- Smaller online donations.

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

- Special Corporate Supporters Group: support the main productions of the New National Theatre, Tokyo throughout the season.
- Programme Corporate Sponsors: support a specific genre of performance – Opera, Ballet, Dance, or Drama – throughout the season.
- Performance Corporate Sponsors: support a particular production, training programme, or specific project.

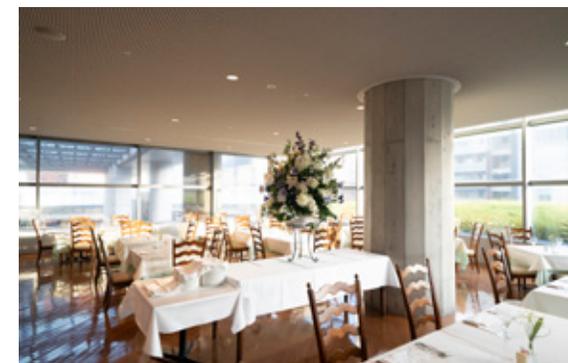
# GUEST SERVICES



In addition to maintaining the high quality of our performances, we endeavour to ensure the quality of the theatregoing experience. The New National Theatre, Tokyo is dedicated to making a day at the theatre an enriching, memorable experience.

## DINING & SHOPPING

We provide a range of options in terms of food, drink, and shopping. Menu items served at our refreshment counters are specially themed to match the productions currently playing, as is the NNTT original merchandise available at the theatre shop.



Maestro is a restaurant on the 3F of the theatre where you can enjoy authentic Italian cuisine. There is a pre- and after-theatre menu, whether you wish to dine before or following a performance. Also, at times there is even a special intermission menu, depending on the performance.

## BABYSITTING & ASSISTANCE

We have a kids' room (Do-Re-Mi), where parents can leave small children in the capable hands of our caring staff while they enjoy a show.

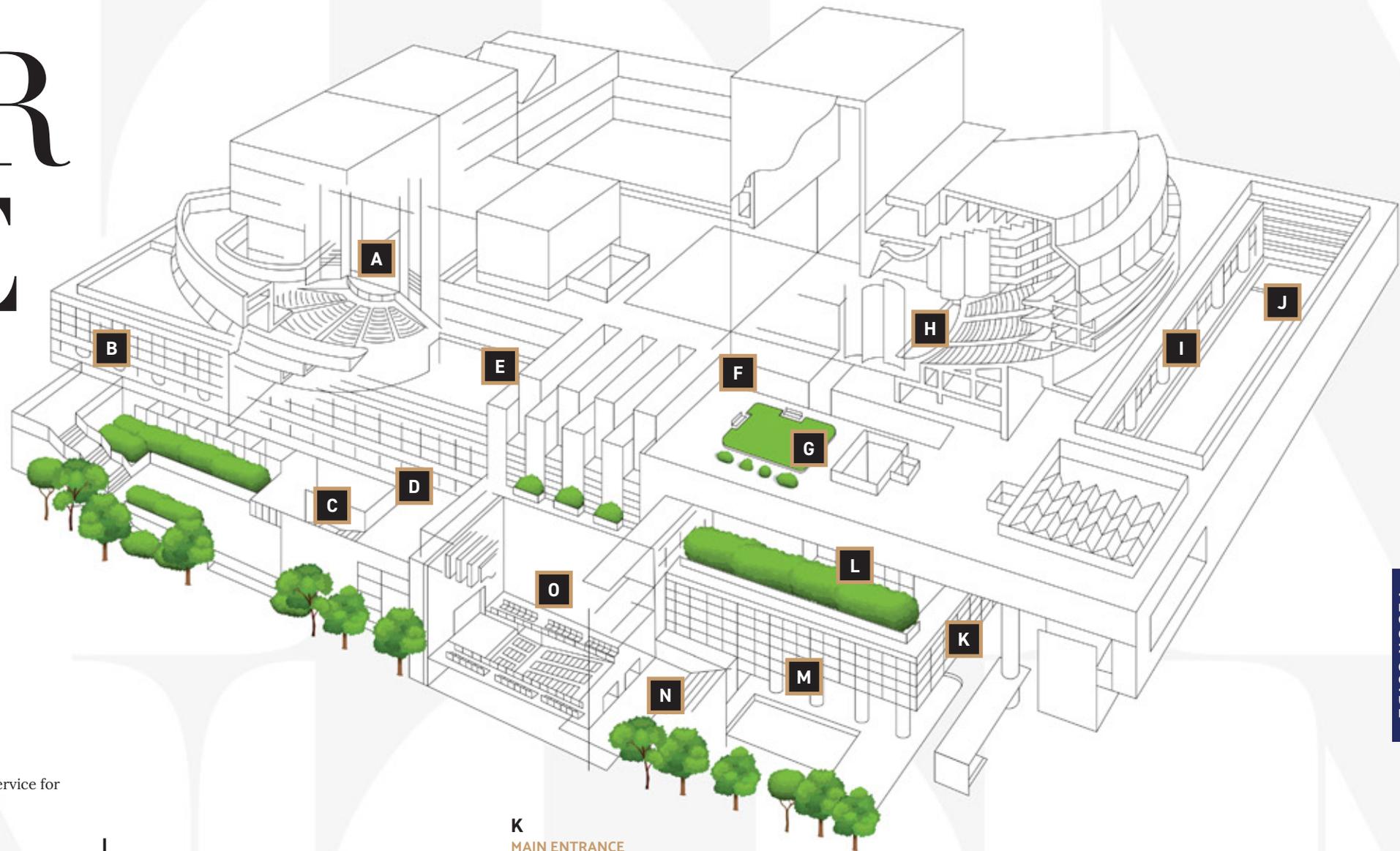


Also, in each of our theatres, staff is on hand to guide those needing special assistance, such as the elderly, persons in wheelchairs, or those with service dogs, and to provide kids cushions when needed. Additionally, the foyer is furnished with chairs and tables, where guests can relax.

We actively solicit opinions and suggestions from our guests on how we can enhance the theatregoing experience here at the NNTT. Each member of our staff is part of a concerted effort aimed at making your visit to the New National Theatre, Tokyo the very best it can be.

# FLOOR GUIDE

There is a lot more to the New National Theatre, Tokyo than meets the eye. Our facilities include 19 large and small rehearsal rooms on floor B2. The NNTT also has facilities for our training programmes and other projects where production activities take place. The Information Centre is a place where visitors, researchers and others in the performing arts can come to study and find information covering the wide spectrum of the performing arts.



**A**  
**PLAYHOUSE**  
As either a proscenium- or open-style theatre, this world-class, versatile theatre can be adapted to accommodate our diverse genres of performing arts.

**B**  
**PLAYHOUSE: FOYER**  
This expansive foyer with its distinctive row of round columns is a perfect place to discuss the day's performance. Refreshments are available.

**C**  
**REHEARSAL FLOOR**  
Rehearsal facilities are located in the basement on floor B2. There are 19 rehearsal rooms, including two large rooms for opera, two rooms for drama, a ballet rehearsal room, and a number of studios.

**D**  
**MEETING POINT**  
Entering through the ground-floor sub-entrance, visitors are greeted by a display of leaflets providing information about productions at our theatre and other theatres throughout Tokyo.

**E**  
**KIDS ROOM: DO-RE-MI**  
The NNTT offers a nursery service for patrons with children.

**F**  
**INFORMATION CENTRE**  
Visitors to the fifth-floor Information Centre can view multimedia presentations, browse our collection of reference books and programmes from past performances and watch video footage of NNTT productions.

**G**  
**ROOFTOP GARDEN**  
The NNTT maintains a rooftop garden; a space for our visitors to relax.

**H**  
**OPERA PALACE**  
Ranking among the world's finest, the Opera Palace is a proscenium arch theatre designed according to European architectural standards.

**I**  
**OPERA PALACE: FOYER**  
The Opera Palace foyer features majestic columns, a full-length wall of glass, balconies on each floor, and refreshment stations.

**J**  
**TERRACE GARDEN**  
The Opera Palace foyer opens onto the Terrace Garden, a lovely space to relax during the interval.

**J**  
**POND**  
Looking out from the Opera Palace foyer, visitors are treated to a soothing view of a crystal-clear pool. Another pond is located in front of The Pit.

**K**  
**MAIN ENTRANCE**  
Your theatre experience begins at the Main Entrance. Convenient, accommodating and welcoming, our goal is to ensure a pleasurable experience from the moment you step through our doors.

**K**  
**GALLERY**  
Costumes are on display along the upper walls of the promenade leading from the main entrance to the Playhouse.

**L**  
**MAESTRO RESTAURANT**  
This Italian restaurant is located on the third floor. On performance days, guests can enjoy special preparations before and after the show.

**M**  
**BOX OFFICE & GENERAL INFORMATION DESK**  
Located in the main entrance area. The Box Office sells tickets and provides information about productions. The General Information Desk provides information about NNTT facilities.

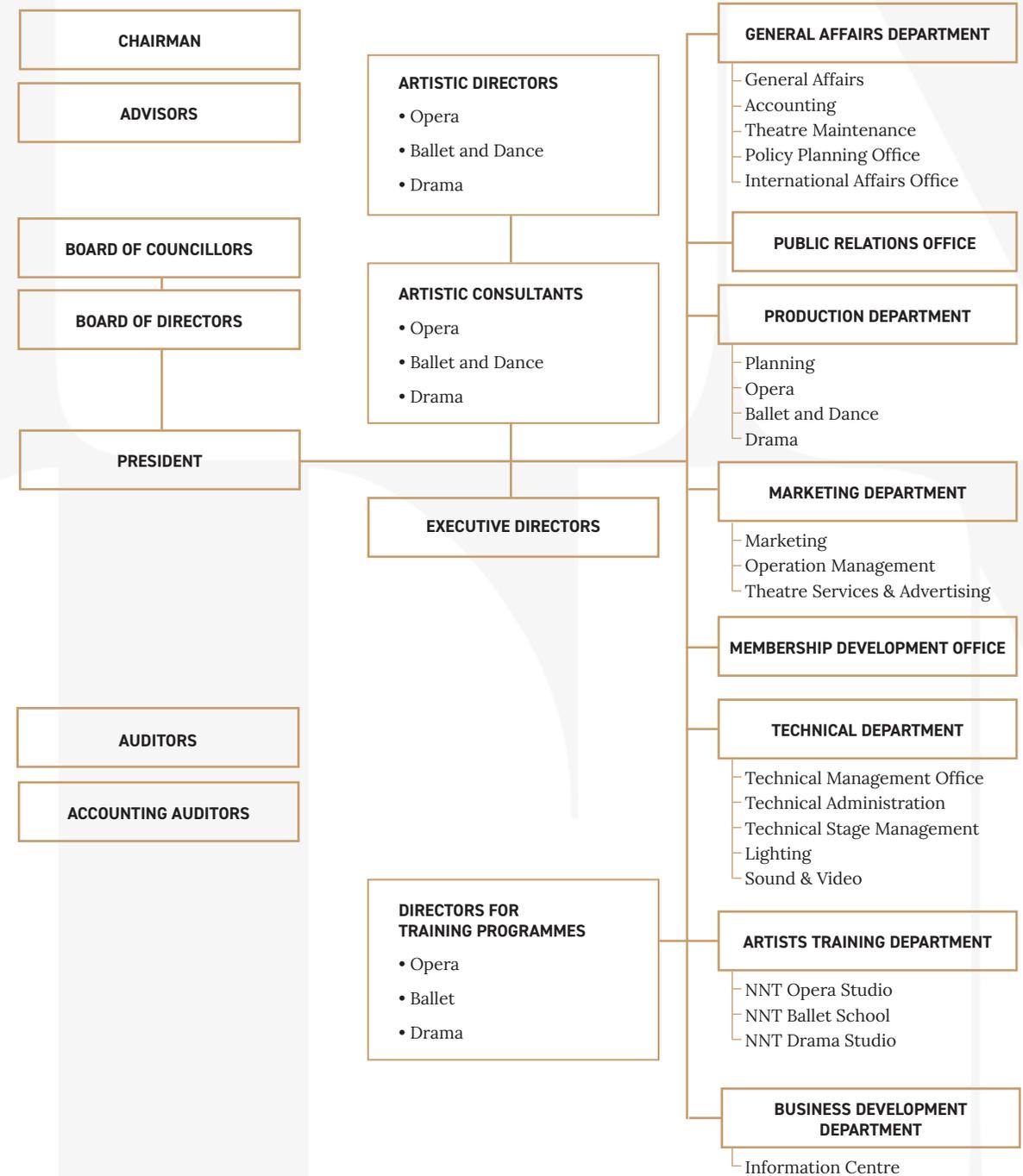
**M**  
**THEATRE SHOP**  
Located in the main entrance area. Items for sale include theatre-themed goods.

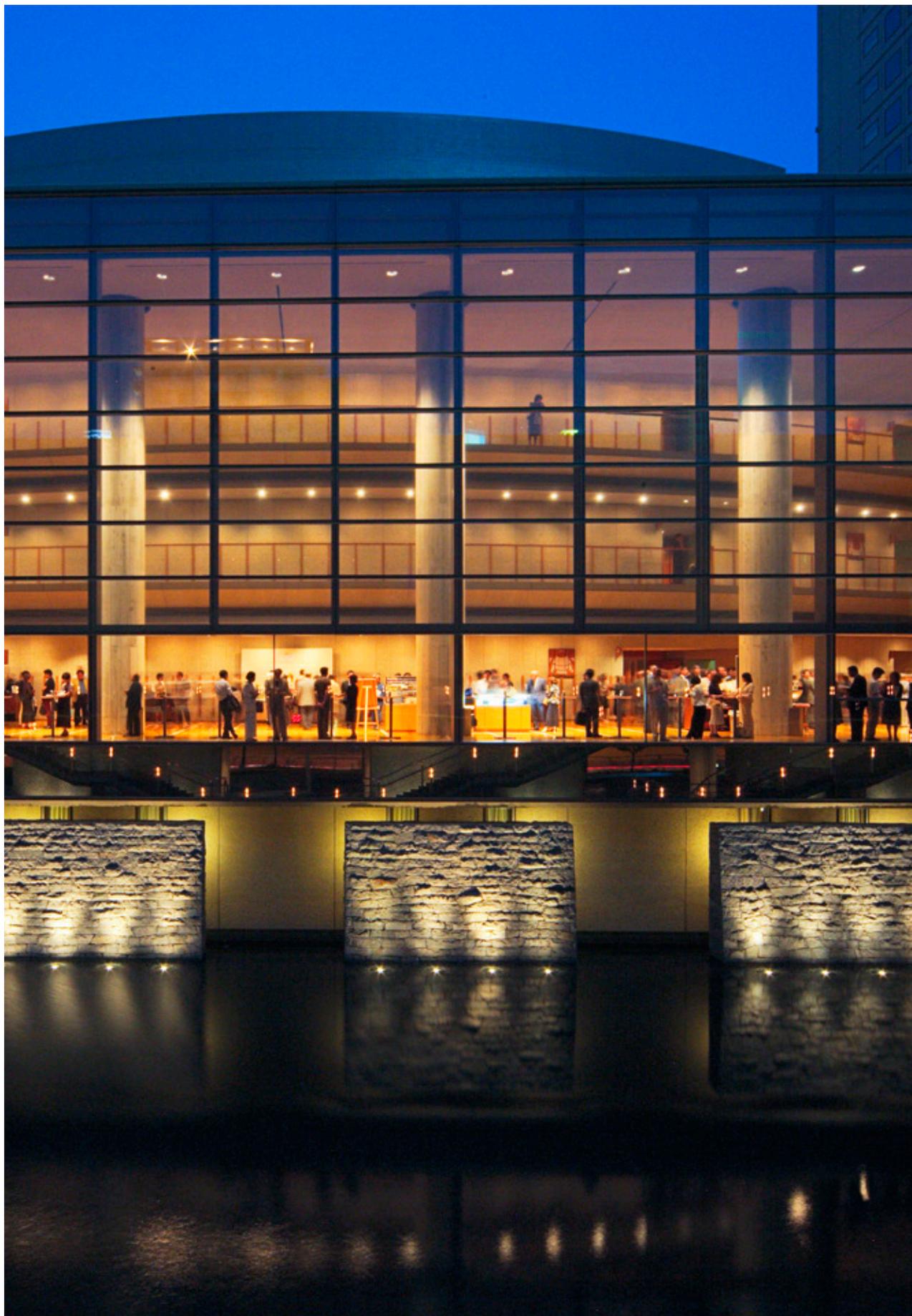
**N**  
**THE PIT: FOYER**  
From this cozy foyer, visitors can look through glass window out onto a pond. Refreshments are available.

**O**  
**THE PIT**  
The versatile stage configuration of this open-space theatre is able to realize different shapes and functions to accommodate the needs of our diverse range of contemporary performing arts.



# MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION





# TICKET PURCHASES

## BOX OFFICE

**Tel:** 03-5352-9999 (10am-6pm)

**Ticket window:** 1F Box Office (10am-6pm)

Open all year-round, except for New Year holidays and days the theatre is closed.

## ONLINE BOX OFFICE

[www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/tickets](http://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/tickets)

Tickets are also available through Ticket Pia, e+, Lawson Ticket, JTB, Kinki Nippon Tourist, Nippon Travel Agency, and Tobu Top Tours.

## GROUP SALES

We can offer group rates for groups of 10 or more.

**Email:** [opera09@nntt.jac.go.jp](mailto:opera09@nntt.jac.go.jp)

# CLUB The Atre (NNTT Membership)

CLUB The Atre was created for those with a passion for the performing arts. Club membership offers the following benefits:

- 1) Priority booking, and a member's discount,
- 2) Access to information on NNTT productions (via the The Atre newsletter and the NNTT website) available only to members, and
- 3) Access to our awards programme and invitations to attend special members-only events.

For applications and inquiries, please contact:

**Box Office:** 03-5352-9999 (10am-6pm)

**CLUB The Atre website:** [www.nntt.jac.go.jp/atre](http://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/atre)

# GETTING TO THE NNTT

**BY TRAIN:** The NNTT is just a minute's walk from Hatsudai Station on the Keio New Line (extension of Toei Shinjuku Line).

**BY CAR:** The NNTT is located at the intersection of Yamate Dori and Koshu Kaido. This is near the Shinjuku exit and Hatsudai exit off Route 4 (Metropolitan Expressway), and Nakano-Chojabashi exit of the Central Circular Route (Metropolitan Expressway).

**BY BUS:** There are stops near Hatsudai Station on the Toei Bus and Keio Bus lines.

1-1 Hon-machi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0071  
03-5351-3011  
(from outside Japan: +81-3-5351-3011)  
[www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english](http://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english)



# BUILDING INFORMATION

**LOT AREA:** 28,688 m<sup>2</sup>

**BUILDING FOOTPRINT:** 19,489 m<sup>2</sup>

**FLOOR SPACE:** 69,474 m<sup>2</sup>

**FLOORS:** 4 underground, 5 above ground

**HEIGHT:** Highest point: 40.9 m, deepest point: 30.7 m

**ARCHITECT:** Takahiko Yanagisawa + TAK Architects INC.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

NISHIMURA Tsugio (Studio BB), KATO Hajime, SAEGUSA Chikashi / TERASHI Masahiko (Opera performances), SETO Hidemi (Ballet performances), SHIKAMA Takashi (Ballet & Dance performances), HOSONO Shinji / MIYAGAWA Maiko / YAKOU Masahiko (Drama performances)

