

Experimental performances exploring the future of Butoh go ONLINE

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND

Press Release #2

“TRU Online” lineup announced!



TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND (TRU), part of Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13 organised by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), is a dance festival run by NPO Dance Archive Network. With a focus on Tokyo's underground spaces and former *angura* [underground] culture, the “TRU Online” program is brought online in conjunction with the “TRU Exhibition” program that has been running since 1 April, for a period of around 5 months from April to August 2021.

This press release reveals the lineup for the “TRU Online” program.

“TRU Online” Highlights

- **Takao KAWAGUCHI Selection: Un Certain Regard**
Artists with various backgrounds showcase “Butoh” from different perspectives.
- **Ueno/Ikenohata Live Talks: Butoh Sunakku**
Talks with artists are streamed live.
- **Using Tokyo's Underground Spaces**
Keisei Electric Railway's Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station and Shibuya River culvert are turned into performance venues.

Dates 24 April–15 August 2021

Available online from the day of release until 15 August*

*The live “Butoh Sunakku” talk series will only be available until 18:00 JST [UTC +9] the next day

Access Register via the official website to receive a URL for “TRU Online” by email.

Registration requires only an email address, and gives access to the full online program for free.

Registration: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/ticket.html>

For the “TRU Exhibition” program, which has been running since 1 April, please refer to the press release issued on 22 March 2021.

<http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/pdf/TRUpresEN210322.pdf>

Programs for July onwards will be announced at a later date.

1. Performance Lineup

Takao KAWAGUCHI Selection: **Un Certain Regard**

Butoh, which began in Japan in the 1960s, has influenced many artists across borders and genres. For this series, performer Takao KAWAGUCHI—known for his bold foray into the world of Butoh with *About Kazuo Ohno*—has commissioned artists who have been inspired by the experimental spirit of this dance form. A program of rich performances that transcend the boundaries of dance/theatre/music/film and art, this series aims to explore what “Butoh” is and what it may become.

This program is filmed at the Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station, a historic underground station built in the 1930s by Keisei Electric Railway and designated an “architectural structure of historic value” by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which has been transformed into a space for avant-garde experimentation.

In cooperation with Keisei Electric Railway

Yuki KOBAYASHI—*Ice Cream Torch / Ceremony* **World Premiere**

Release date: 8 May 19:30 [UTC +9]

The latest in Yuki KOBAYASHI’s *Life of Athletics* series, which critically approaches the authoritative framework of sports competitions. Symbolically using a song from the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, he tackles issues that are prevalent in the world of sports such as sexism, and the contradictions in commercialising amateur athletes.



Ice Cream Torch / Relay

Takao KAWAGUCHI—*Minotaur Disco* **World Premiere**

Release date: 15 May 19:30 [UTC +9]

In this piece directed by Takao KAWAGUCHI, the stage manager for Kazuo OHNO’s premiere of *Admiring La Argentina* and long time Butoh dancer Daisuke YOSHIMOTO meets the younger Naoyuki SAKAI, a contemporary dancer instinctively drawn to Butoh.

Performers: Daisuke YOSHIMOTO, Naoyuki SAKAI

Film & edit: Akihiro SUZUKI



Photo by Rokka Aiso

Pechika SATOH—*The Butterfly Dream* **World Premiere**

Release date: 5 June 19:30 [UTC +9]

Pechika SATOH, whose performances explore the relationship between body and objects, performs her latest solo dance. Rotating between worlds above and below ground looking through a fish tank that she carries, this work transforms the relationship between up, down, inside and out.

Sound: Hayato MOCHIZUKI



The Butterfly Dream, above ground –Big Fountains in Ueno Park–

Kim ITOH + Tokyo Reiwa Underground Dancers **World Premiere**

—*Paradise Underground*

Release date: 12 June 19:30 [UTC +9]

Kim ITOH, who studied under Butoh dancer Anzu FURUKAWA and is now one of the leaders of the Japanese contemporary dance scene, performs in wild rapture with saxophonist Kazutoki UMEZU and 11 other dancers. An absurd performance that incorporates elements of the 1970s–80s underground dance scene.

Performers: AYUMI, Makiko IZU, Sho ITO, Minasu KAI, KEKE, Ken SHINOHARA, Shew SUZUKI, JUNKO, Wakana NEMOTO, MAHA, Seina YOSHIDA, Kim ITOH

Music performance: Kazutoki UMEZU



Photo by Masabumi Kaura

Yasunori IKUNISHI

—The Standing Sticks: May Only I Live Long

World Premiere

Release date: 13 June 19:30 [UTC +9]

Known for directing unique works with a focus on sound and space, Yasunori IKUNISHI adapts texts written by Tatsumi HIJIKATA into a theatrical piece. Words taken from *Yameru Maihime* and *The Compassionate Soul Bird Comes To Unfurl Its Rustling Skeletal Wings* are spoken by the performers, their voices resonating in the underground space.

Performers: Kiyoshi HASHIMOTO (Brunoproduce, y/n), Manabu TOMITA

Lighting & set: Go OGOMA



Photo by Mio Iwata

Tomomi TANABE—OWAN **New Adaptation**

Release date: 19 June 19:30 [UTC +9]

After her encounter with Tatsumi HIJIKATA, Tomomi TANABE studied under Kunishi KAMIRYOU and Masahide OMORI. The camera in this piece captures microscopic Butoh movements in close-up, creating a unique filmic experience that feels akin to staring.



Photo by Keichi TAMAI

River LIN—This might be Gutai (tentative title) **Japan Premiere**

Release date to be announced on the website

River LIN's latest work, produced in collaboration with Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab, explores the history of Gutai and Butoh—two artistic worlds that never crossed paths despite growing out of the same era. In lieu of coming to Japan in person due to COVID-19, River presents a special 5-minute performance along with a lecture, live online from Taipei. He will also show a film digest of his performances in Taipei from 2020.

Co-producer: Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab



Dancing with Gutai Art Manifesto 1956 (2020)

Naoto IINA + Takao KAWAGUCHI + Mikiko KAWAMURA + Dai MATSUOKA—THREE **World Premiere**

Release date: 22 May 19:30 [UTC +9]

Tatsumi HIJIKATA, Kazuo OHNO, Yoshito OHNO—The fateful encounter of these three dancers became a catalyst to the rise of Butoh. In this compilation of performances filmed in the Former Hakubutsukan Dobutsuen Station, Mikiko KAWAMURA reenacts Tatsumi HIJIKATA's *Hosotan* (Story of Smallpox), Takao KAWAGUCHI reconstructs Kazuo OHNO's *Admiring La Argentina*, and Dai MATSUOKA recreates Yoshito OHNO's *Hijikata Sansho*. Three 3D hologram displays and about 50 illustrations from the *Online Timeline: Butoh Incidents* exhibition will be shown at the same time, exploring the possibilities of dance archives from multiple perspectives.



Photos by Naoto Iina, Nachiro Yoshida, Eri Kawamura

Developed by: Naoto IINA

Performed by: Takao KAWAGUCHI, Mikiko KAWAMURA, Dai MATSUOKA

Online Symposium: *Butoh Diaspora*

Release date: 23 May 22:00 [UTC +9]

High profile Japanese Butoh dancers now based in different parts of the world come together in this online symposium to discuss the current affairs of Butoh around the world. Tadashi ENDO will be joining from Göttingen (Germany), Oguri from Los Angeles (USA), Yuko KASEKI from Berlin (Germany), Atsushi TAKENOUCHI from Tuscany (Italy), Toshi TANAKA from Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Yumi UMIUMARE from Melbourne (Australia). A unique opportunity to see how different cultures perceive Butoh, from the people who are out there today.

Guests: Tadashi ENDO, Oguri, Yuko KASEKI, Atsushi TAKENOUCHI, Toshi TANAKA, Yumi UMIUMARE

Host: Dai MATSUOKA



Previous Release Updates

For details about previously announced programs, please refer to the press release issued on 22 March 2021: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/pdf/TRUpresEN210322.pdf>

- **Eiko Otake Solo Project—*A Body in Places***

Release date: 24 April 19:30 *A Body in Tokyo** + *A Body in Fukushima*

Release date: 25 April 19:30 *A Body with Fukushima**

*These titles have changed.

- **Takao Kawaguchi—*About Kazuo Ohno*** Release date: 27 June 19:30



Photo by Tatsuhiko Nakagawa



Photo by Dajana Lothert

2. "Butoh Sunakku" Talks *Please do not attend these recordings in person.

For the duration of the festival, a "BUTOH Sunakku" is being established in and near some Japanese snack bars (known as "sunakku") in the Ueno/Ikenohata area of Tokyo. As part of the program, artists are invited to give live talks about their works in an "Aftershow" talk on the same day their performance goes online.

Also featured as part of this series are talks on the "TRU Exhibition" program, which has been running since 1 April, and two "World Edition" talks, which invite English and Chinese speakers to discuss some of the performances from the TRU Online program. Viewers are invited to explore the possibilities of an online festival through this varied program of multiple perspectives.

This live series is brought online by the non-profit organisation LAND FES, who run a performance festival of the same name in which viewers experience dance and music performances while walking outdoors.

In cooperation with Arts and Snack Executive Committee, Ikenohata Fujii and Tokyo Cultural Heritage Alliance.



BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow

Aftershow talks with the artists streamed live in Japanese on the same day their performance goes online. Artists are invited to talk about the concepts behind their work, their creation process, and their relationship with Butoh. Some of these talks, labelled "Kazuko Night", will be hosted by artistic director Takao KAWAGUCHI playing the role of a Japanese snack bar "mama".



BUTOH Sunakku—TRU Exhibition (Talk + BUTOH Exhibition Dance)

This series of talks invites experts and artists to hold in-depth discussions in Japanese about the "TRU Exhibition" works. Tune in to find out how these exhibitions came about, what the highlights are, and get some extra pointers on how to get the most out of these pieces. During these talks, a Butoh dancer from Japan will be invited to perform a "Butoh Exhibition Dance", with the aim of creating a new style of event where talks are conducted in a Butoh-inspired atmosphere.



BUTOH Sunakku—World Edition

Live discussions that aim to share the values of TRU in English and Chinese in a casual atmosphere from in front of the Ikenohata Fujii store in Ueno/Ikenohata, Tokyo. An international program designed for viewers living abroad.

3. TRU Online Schedule

New videos uploaded every weekend from 24 April to the end of June.

(~15 Aug) Available on demand from the day of release until 15 August.

(~18:00 next day) Available from the time of release until 18:00 JST [UTC +9] the next day.

 LIVE

Live talks from our "BUTOH Sunakku" in Ueno/Ikenohata.

*The "BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow" series will be shown live directly after the streamed performance ends.

	PERFORMANCES (available until 15 Aug)	TALKS
24 April 19:30 [UTC +9]	30min *This title has changed. Eiko Otake—A Body in Tokyo* + A Body in Fukushima	Interview (~15 Aug) 30min Guests: Eiko Otake, Takao Kawaguchi
25 April 19:30 [UTC +9]	30min *This title has changed. Eiko Otake—A Body with Fukushima*	Interview (~15 Aug) 30min Guests: Eiko Otake, Toshio Mizohata, Dai Matsuoka
30 April 20:00 EST 1 May 9:00 JST		BUTOH Sunakku—World Edition (~18:00 next day) 45min  English Talk: About Eiko Otake's A Body with Fukushima  Guests: Dr. Joseph Gasho Amato, Greg Dovorak and Mai Honda
2 May 19:30 [UTC +9]		BUTOH Sunakku—TRU Exhibition (~18:00 next day) 70min  Online Timeline: Butoh Incidents Guests: Takao Norikoshi, Yo Ishihara, Toshio Mizohata, Naoto Iina  Performance: Tenko Ima
8 May 19:30 [UTC +9]	Un Certain Regard 15min Yuki Kobayashi—Ice Cream Torch / Ceremony	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min   Guest: Yuki Kobayashi Host: Takao Kawaguchi
9 May 19:30 [UTC +9]		BUTOH Sunakku—TRU Exhibition (~18:00 next day) 70min  William Klein Exhibition: GINZA 1961—Starring: The City + Walking AR Experience: Dance Happening—Today  Guests: Yuri Mitsuda, Toshio Mizohata, Naoto Iina Performance: Bishop Yamada
15 May 19:30 [UTC +9]	Un Certain Regard 40min Takao Kawaguchi—Minotaur Disco	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min  Guests: Daisuke Yoshimoto, Akihiro Suzuki, Takao Kawaguchi
16 May 19:30 BJT [UTC+8] 20:30 JST [UTC +9]		BUTOH Sunakku—World Edition (~18:00 next day) 45min  Chinese Talk: About Takao Kawaguchi's Minotaur Disco  Guests: Zhang Ying, and others
22 May 19:30 [UTC +9]	40min Naoto Iina + Takao Kawaguchi + Mikiko Kawamura + Dai Matsuoka—THREE	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min  Guests: Naoto Iina, Takao Kawaguchi, Mikiko Kawamura, Dai Matsuoka
23 May 22:00 [UTC +9]		Symposium (~15 Aug) 90min  Online Symposium: Butoh Diaspora Guests: Tadashi Endo, Oguri, Yuko Kaseki, Atsushi Takenouchi, Toshi Tanaka, Yumi Umiumare Host: Dai Matsuoka
5 June 19:30 [UTC +9]	Un Certain Regard 40min Pechika Satoh—The Butterfly Dream	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min   Guest: Pechika Satoh Host: Takao Kawaguchi
12 June 19:30 [UTC +9]	Un Certain Regard 60min Kim Itoh + Tokyo Reiwa Underground Dancers—Paradise Underground	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min  Guests: Kim Itoh, Dai Matsuoka, and others
13 June 19:30 [UTC +9]	Un Certain Regard 50min Yasunori Ikunishi—The Standing Sticks: May Only I Live Long	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min  Guests: Yasunori Ikunishi, Kiyoshi Hashimoto, Manabu Tomita, Dai Matsuoka
19 June 19:30 [UTC +9]	Un Certain Regard 40min Tomomi Tanabe—OWAN	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min   Guest: Tomomi Tanabe Host: Takao Kawaguchi
27 June 19:30 [UTC +9]	120min Takao Kawaguchi—About Kazuo Ohno	BUTOH Sunakku—Aftershow (~18:00 next day) 45min  Guests: Takao Kawaguchi, and others
Release date TBA	River Lin—This might be Gutai (tentative title)	

*All times are approximate.

*Please note that this lineup and their times are subject to change.

4. TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND Details

Dates 1 April–15 August 2021
Venues Online, various locations in Tokyo
Admission Free (registration required for the online program)
Online Program Registration: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/english/ticket.html>

Featured Artists Naoto IINA, Yasunori IKUNISHI, Kim ITOH, Tadashi ENDO, Oguri, Eiko OTAKE, Yuko KASEKI, Takao KAWAGUCHI, Mikiko KAWAMURA, William KLEIN, Yuki KOBAYASHI, Naoyuki SAKAI, Pechika SATOH, Atsushi TAKENOUCHI, Toshi TANAKA, Tomomi TANABE, HAUS, Dai MATSUOKA, Yumi UMIUMARE, Daisuke YOSHIMOTO, River LIN and more...

Curatorial Team Artistic Director: Takao KAWAGUCHI (Performer)
 Curators: Naoto IINA (Film Maker, Director - Dance and Media Japan)
 Dai MATSUOKA (Butoh Dancer - LAND FES)
 Producer: Toshio MIZOHATA (Director - NPO Dance Archive Network)

Staff Managing Director: Yurika KUREMIYA Project Assistant: Mai HONDA
 Public Relations: Yuko NISHIYAMA (Dance Press Tokyo)
 Technical Team: Roshi (Sunagumi), Noriyuki MORI (balance.inc.DESIGN), Takashi KAWACHI, Noriaki CODA, Naohiro YOSHIDA
 Film Production: NPO LAND FES Publicity Text & Edit: Tamaki HARADA, Mari NAKAYAMA (Cawaii Factory)
 Graphic Design: Nobutaka KITAKAZE (Young Soul) Website Design: Miku MATSUOKA (Young Soul)
 Translation: Mai HONDA, ZHANG Ying, LEE Jane Photography: Tatsuhiko NAKAGAWA, Tzvasa WADA

Organisers Tokyo Metropolitan Government
 Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)



Planning and Production NPO Dance Archive Network

Sponsored by: BNP Paribas Group

In cooperation with:

Kazuo Ohno Dance Studio; Butoh Laboratory, Japan; Keio University Art Center; FILMS PARIS NEW YORK;
 Dance and Media Japan; NPO LAND FES; Yusuke Suzuki Design Office Inc.; HAUS Co. Ltd.; Sasaki Architecture;
 Canta Co. Ltd; Keisei Electric Railway; Shuto Metropolitan Expressway Company Limited; Arts and Snack Executive Committee;
 Ikenohata Fujii; Tokyo Cultural Heritage Alliance; SAISON Foundation; Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab; Sony Marketing
 Inc.; Sega Sammy Arts Foundation



Public Relations Cooperation: dance press tokyo

Official Website: <http://www.tokyorealunderground.net/>

Facebook: @DanceArchiveNetwork **Twitter:** @dance_archive **Instagram:** @dancearchivenetwork

What is Butoh?

An avant-garde performance-based art originating in post-war Japan. Although it has roots in 1920s German modern dance, it was a groundbreaking form that shook Western dance concepts. *Kinjiki (Forbidden Colours)* by Tatsumi HUIKATA in 1959 is often cited as the first Butoh performance, and since the 1970s it has become increasingly well known internationally. There are now Butoh festivals all over the world, and it has even become featured in school classes and textbooks.

About Dance Archive Network

Dance Archive Network (DAN) is a non-profit organisation that conserves the artistic assets and knowledge of Kazuo OHNO and Yoshito OHNO, and promotes the significance of dance archives and international networks. The aim is to contribute to the legacy and promotion of dance culture by collecting and saving documentation, and organising current works inspired by them. DAN is also currently working towards the development of a new, 3D technology-based archive.

Official website: <http://www.dance-archive.net/>

About Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL is an initiative that unfolds a variety of cultural programs in the run-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Tokyo, promoting its appeal as a city of arts and culture.

Official Website: <https://tokyotokyofestival.jp/en/>

About Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo sought a wide range of creative and innovative ideas from the public for projects that would become the core of the cultural programs for the Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL. From a total of 2,436 project proposals submitted from within Japan and overseas, 13 were selected for implementation. The 13 projects are collectively named "Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13", and are being implemented in sequence.

Official Website: <https://ttf-koubo.jp/en/>

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