

Namstrops (Japan / Contemporary dance company)

Namstrops んまっつーポス

Japan / Contemporary dance company



Souhei

Aki

Taka

Name of company
Namstrops

Choreographer
Akifumi TOYOFUKU
Souhei MINOWA
Takafumi KODAMA
Rumiko Takahashi

<About us>

Formed in 2006, "Namstrops" has ever since tried to develop their own theory of "creating new value by thinking upside down" through practice. The company name "Namstrops" is therefore "sportsman" read backwards. Their unique creative style of "the physical education of contemporary art" (named by Prof. Rumiko Takahashi) also drew attention from various overseas festivals. The company has so far visited and presented their creations in as many as 40 cities in 12 countries from Asia also to US and Europe including Estonia, Romania, Germany, and Croatia. Also, back in Japan they have expanded their unique performance style of "experiential performance activities" that attempts to exhibit "physical education" (the idea of nurturing the body) in various modern art museums throughout the country such as the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa and the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, etc.) Rumiko Takahashi is former Associate Professor at the Dept. of Education, the University of Miyazaki, and presently the visiting professor at the Center for the Industry-UniversityCommunity Cooperation).

Recognized for their reproducible activities trying to realize the “leave-no-one-behind” world, one of the Sustainable Development Goals from the UN Summit in 2015, Namstrops received the KIDS DESIGN AWARD for three successive years. Also, pursuing the possibility of a special theater for the contemporary dance which is not publicly-run but general public, they opened the CandY Theater in Miyazaki City in March 2019, which is doublefunctioned as a gymnasium for the preschool children during the day and as a theater for the contemporary dance during the night and weekends.

Their other noteworthy activities include:

- Art expression experiments contributing to the cultivation of juvenile students of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (2013~2017)
- Registered artist for the Artist Dispatching project of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (2014~present)
- Toyofuku participated in the up-and-coming artist overseas training system of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (2015)
- The Japan Foundation regional leader and youth exchange assistance program (2015)
- The Agency for Cultural Affairs international art exchange support operations (2016)
- Won the Kids Design Award (2017 and 2018: The Kids Design Association President Award, 2019: The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Award)
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology EDU-Port Japan Support Project (2017 and 2018~present)
- The contemporary performing arts creation outreach activities of the Arts and Culture Promotion Fund (2018)
- Performed at Iwaki City Art Museum for “Mika Ninagawa Exhibition ~ between fiction and reality~” , “Museum Start A. I. U. E. N. O” at Tokyo Metropolitan Museum (2019)



Performance

Please try to face our dancing without any preconceived ideas.

For the time being, try these three:

- ① View the dance like it's not a sport.
- ② Watch it like it's not dancing.
- ③ Think about your childhood, to which you can never go back.



『 KU-SO- OLYMPICS 』 (60 minutes)
First performance : 2019 Hong Kong

<Photo>

IAC 國際綜藝合家歡

International Arts Carnival 2019

Hong Kong Cultural Centre (香港文化中心劇場)



『Grasshopper』 (60 minutes)
Namstrops×Unlock Dancing Plaza
First performance : 2019
Children and Youth Theatre Kirakira International Dance Center Miyazaki
(The target date for completion is 2019.2)



『APPLAUSE!!』＜拍手し展＞
(40 minutes)

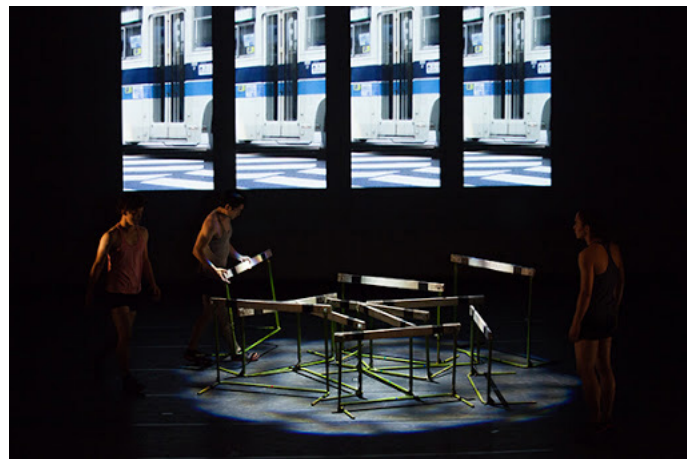
First performance : 2018
Sakamoto Zenzo Musium of Art



『A Short, Thick Rainbow』 (30 minutes)
First performance : 2017 Hong Kong
＜Photo＞

「8F Platform X – A Decade of Creativity」





『Hurdle』

(long version 40 minutes)

(short version 15 minutes)

First performance : 2012

Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse

「Yokohama Dance Collection 2012」

< ↑ Photo >

Kitakyusyu Performing Art Center

< ← Photo >

「Busan International Dance Festival 2017」



『Lizard Lake』 (20 minutes)
 First performance : 2015
 「Fukuoka Dance Fringe Festival」

< ↑ Photo >

Kumamoto Prefectural Museum of Art

< ← Photo >

Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse

「Yokohama Dance Collection 2018」



『GITO』 (20 minutes)

First performance : 2011 「CONNECTvol.4」 (Osaka)

<Photo>「Ninagawa Mika 虚構と現実の間に」
(Iwaki City Art Museum)



『ACTION GAME WITH PHYSICAL SENSATION』 (20 minutes)

First performance : 2012

「Fukuoka Dance Fringe Festival」

<Photo>

KIRISIMA OPEN-AIR museum (2018)



『THE INCH-HIGH SAMURAI』

(long version 70 minutes)

(middle version 40 minutes)

(short version 15 minutes)

First performance : 2011

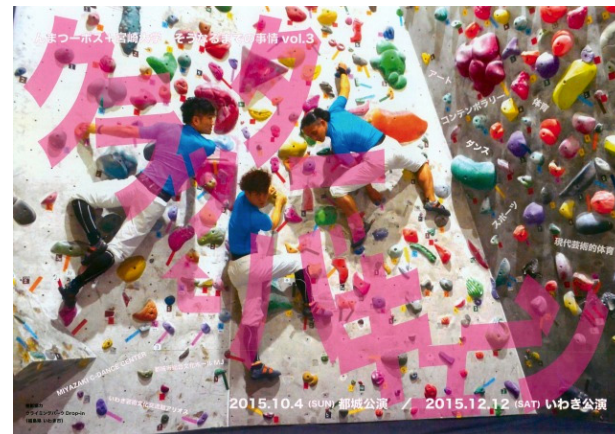
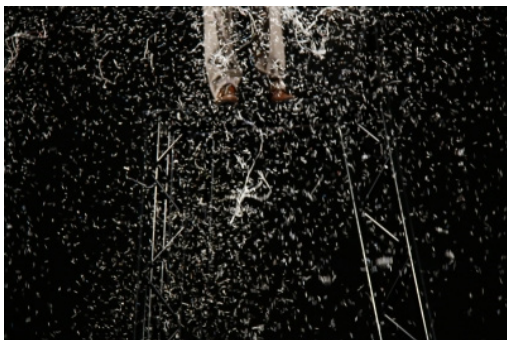
Medikit Arts Center (Miyazaki)

< ↑ Photo >

Gong Theater for Children and Youth

< ← Photo >

「Sibiu International Theatre Festival 2014」



『Clutter ←Bakyun』

(70 minutes)

First performance : 2015

Miyakonojyo ART & CULTURE (Miyazaki)

< ↑ Photo >

Miyakonojyo ART & CULTURE (Miyazaki)

< ← Photo >

Iwaki Performing Art Center

Workshop

The dance-unit, Namstrops 's approach is based on "the project-based Learning of Ploblem Solving for Creative dance " offered by Chiyoe Matsumoto, professor emeritus of Ochanomizu University, after the method of "Contemporary Artistic Physical Education" and "expression physical education" by Professor Rumiko Takahash (dance education). As its name represents, Namstrops, a reverse reading of sportsman, is not only the name of our company but also the name of the method and philosophy of our activity which is a combination of sports, art and education.



Thus, we present our original workshop called the physical expressions - workshop, that is created by Namstrops, the only contemporary dance company using the method of gymnastic dance in Japanese School. First, we offer a dance-study program for all Japanese students in Physical Education classes in Japan and dance-study materials of that. Second, let's enjoy the physical expressions workshop which has been practiced by Namstrops based on the school program above.



Rumiko Takahashi
dance education

The "Pay Attention! Dance!" series incorporates mechanics that enable children with different values and from different backgrounds to have fun expressing themselves within a limited amount of time (lesson time, units, etc.). This complex educational material uses a range of mechanics that allow any educator to quickly and easily create opportunities for children to be creative.

The "Pay Attention! Dance!" series is intended to foster skills that the children of the next generation will need to cope with the changes of the times, such as

- ★ dynamic communication (the ability to cooperate with others)
- ★ imitation (observation)
- ★ imagination
- ★ self expression
- ★ creativity



"Spy from a Hot Country"
(90 minutes)

for both kids (For ages 5 and up) and adults



In particular, "Spy from a Hot Country", a magical dance teaching material that turns children who are unable to take a first step into the world of physical expression into choreographers in just 45 minutes.

"Spy from a Hot Country" is the teaching material this workshop series is designed by. Even now, 12 years later, it's an example of creative dance much loved by children and adults.



"Night Zoo"
(90 minutes)

for both kids (For ages 5 and up) and adults



In particular,"Night Zoo" is an educational material designed for children to be able to start talking about their bodies.

The teaching material called "Night Zoo", which enters after the imitation of the top pro dance scene (photo) , is a teaching material for dance which allows for an experience by which to feel the atmosphere, and finish dancing within 45 minutes.



"TORU - TORARE"
(120 minutes)

for both kids (For ages 5 and up) and adults

～Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum (2019.12)～





"Da Da Da Da - Da"
(120 minutes)

for both kids (For ages 5 and up) and adults



This is very popular workshop at school in Japan which is a combination of 7 steps to make a 3 minutes short video within 90 minutes' workshop, such as **①**dancing, **②**creating choreography, **③**video shooting, **④**editing, **⑤**watching, **⑥**being excited together, and **⑦**disbanding the group in the end. Dadadada is a Japanese Onomatopia, a sound of stepping.



"The olympic has begun"
(90 minutes)

for both kids (For ages 6 and up) and adults

～21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art Kanazawa (2016.5)～



igoku fes 2018
iwaki performing arts center



"Get on your dancing shoes?"
(120 minutes)

for both children (For ages 12 and up) and adults
Photo : jacksonville university Fine Arts Theatre & Dance



"I RO HA SU"
(90 minutes)

for both children (For ages 6 and up) and adults

Photo : Junior High School of Ochanomizu University



2017 年度受賞作品：現代芸術的体育からの復興（キッズデザイン賞／復興支援、復興支援デザイン部門）

2018 年度受賞作品：子どものカラダとアートをつなぐプロジェクト「カラダがよろこぶ美術館」（キッズデザイン協議会会長賞）

2019 年度受賞作品：昼は保育園、夜と週末は劇場！透明体育館きらきら／国際こども・せいねん劇場みやざき（経済産業大臣賞）



KIDS
DESIGN
AWARD
2019



この「透明体育館きらきら／国際こども・せいねん劇場みやざき」は、名前からもわかるように、体育館と劇場という二つの顔（実は三つの顔）を持つ施設です。

しかも、振付家・ダンサーのんまつーポスがデザインした劇場です。

日中は、保育園の子どもたちが、安全に運動遊びを楽しみ、親や地域の大人は外からいつでもその様子を参観することができる劇場のような体育館（一つ目の顔）ですが、週末や夜は、国内外の新進気鋭の振付家の作品が上演される、体育館のような劇場（二つ目の顔）にTRANSFORMします。

上演される作品は、本格的なコンテンポラリーダンスなのに、小さな子どもが楽しめる作品です。さらにこの施設には、三つ目の顔、小さなギャラリーがあります。その空間には、誰もが立ち止まって考えたい現代美術の作品が展示されます。

最後に、何故、透明体育館なのかというと、宮崎らしく「ハウス」の中ですくすく育つ子どもたちをイメージしてもらいたかったからです。

このように、この劇場は、子どもたちの感性や創造性を豊かに育てながら、自らも日々成長し価値を高める劇場になります。

ロゴ：松尾 由佳 (Nica)

ユニフォーム：カネイチヨウコ (kakapo)



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