



2016 国際児童・青少年演劇フェスティバルおきなわ

ricca ricca* festa



りっかりっか*フェスタ

ricca ricca*festa (International Theater Festival OKINAWA for Young Audiences) is an annual summer performing arts festival for children and young people as well as for grown-ups in Japan. The festival presents diverse range of theatre, dance, puppetry, physical theatre, circus and interdisciplinary works from Japan, Asia and all over the world and also produces various international collaborative projects.



Tokyo

← NAHA (Okinawa)

FESTIVAL HISTORY

The first **International Theater Festival OKINAWA for Young Audiences** took place in 1994, organised jointly by several towns in the middle part of Okinawa Island. After the first edition, small scale festivals were organised in the same towns. In 2005, the festival made a fresh start with its venue focused just in Okinawa City. It was the 60th anniversary since the Battle of Okinawa (the WWII). Since then the festival has been held every summer. In 2014, when the festival celebrated its 10th anniversary, it moved its main venue to Naha, the capital city of Okinawa Prefecture, and also started to introduce a part of its programme in Tokyo due to a long demand in the mainland.

In 2015, the festival adopted a new nickname **ricca ricca*festa** to start its new decade. 'ricca ricca' means "Let's go" in Okinawan dialect. We hope ricca ricca*festa will be the festival that everyone goes together.

In 2012, the festival was selected to host the very 1st International Meeting of **ASSITEJ** (International Association of Theaters for Children and Young People), the first attempt of the organisation to offer the place where artists and practitioners meet and talk about the current situation of theatre for children and young people in the world. With many international productions being a premiere in Japan or Asia, the festival has established the role as a platform for non-Asian companies to gain the foothold in Asia and Japan. For Japanese artist, it is an opportunity to introduce their works to international presenters and programmers and exchange with foreign artists.

With Okinawa's geographical and historical background, the festival is strongly connected to East and South East Asia since the beginning and various exchanges have taken place through inviting productions and organising co-productions and symposiums. In 2015, the festival launched 2 programmes in partnership with the Japan Foundation Asia Center: 'asian multinational theatre*ricca' to produce *The Story of the Little Gentleman* and 'ricca ricca*residency' to invite professionals from Asia to establish practical network in Asia.

The festival's past programmes can be found in the 'ARCHIVE' page on the festival website.

FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES

ricca ricca*festa aims to nurture rich personalities and creative minds by sharing the emotional experiences through the diverse festival programme and developing the sense of respect, mutual understanding and friendship. The festival strives to proceed with children to the peaceful world by promoting the spirits of Okinawa: Ichariba-Chodee (One encounter makes people siblings) and Bankoku Shinryo (Interacting builds the bridge between countries). The festival has developed to be a place where local communities and international artists meet and established as a new platform of cultural presentation in Japan.

The festival aims to provide emotional experiences to be shared with family and friends. Children encounter with wonderful productions and artists from the world and establish emotional relationship beyond languages. Adults are surprised and fascinated to see children's faces drawn into the performance. The festival nurtures the heart to love the arts of the world and the arts of Japan.



FESTIVAL MISSIONS

EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The festival aims to nurture rich humanity and sensibility by presenting high quality productions for children and young people so that they can share the emotional experiences with their family and friends.

'ICHARIBACHOODEE' & 'BANKOKU SHINRYO'

Icharibachoodee (one encounter makes people siblings) and Bankoku Shinryo (being a bridge between countries by exchange) are the Okinawan spirit we wish to promote through the festival. A festival is a community where various people with different backgrounds such as nationality, culture, language and disabilities get together. By creating a safe environment to recognise and accept each other and to encourage the conversations, the festival aims to proceed to the peaceful world.

BASE OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN ASIA

With the historical and geographical background of Okinawa, the festival aims to be a hub for the arts, culture and the creative individuals to meet, interact and inspire each other and that the possibilities for theatre for children and young people would develop further.

CULTIVATION OF CREATIVE HUMAN RESOURCES

By getting involved in the festival as an audience, a volunteer, a performer, a staff or a participant, the festival cultivate creative human resources with wide perspective, both locally and internationally, and the skill to actively interact with others.

FESTIVAL THEME: THEATER IS NUCHIGUSUI

"Theater is Nuchigusui"

"Nuchi du Takara" is the spirit of Okinawa

Protect and hand down life, even in hard times

"Nuchigusui" is what supports "Nuchi du Takara"

"Nuchigusui" nurtures spirit and life

Nuchigusui means 'healing for life' in Okinawan dialect. Okinawan people would say 'It was such a Nuchigusui!' after seeing a wonderful performance.

We believe theatre is a wonderful place where people can experience joy, sadness and many other emotions together. Festival crews take great care to create spaces to present works by artists for audiences to share various lives and feelings. We continue the festival with the hope that our audiences spend a rich time with family, friends and loved ones at the festival.

FESTIVAL CHARACTER



The character of the festival was designed by an Okinawan artist Bokunen Naka and was given to the festival's General Producer Hisashi Shimoyama as a gift when he first organised the International Theater Festival OKINAWA for Young Audiences in 1994. Since then the character has been loved by our audiences.

This character is Kijimuna, an Okinawan spirit which is believed to live in a Gajumaru tree.



ATYA:

ASIAN ALLIANCE OF THEATRE FESTIVALS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES



ATYA (Asian Alliance of Theatre Festivals for Young Audiences) is an open network of international performing arts festival for young audiences in Asia, which was established to develop theatre for children and young people in Asia and promote it to the world through festivals.

Currently ATYA has 12 members in East and South East Asia who collaborate to invite and produce works, to exchange ideas about the role and management of festival, and to improve the recognition of TYA in Asia.

Since 2013, ricca ricca*festa acts as the Chair Festival of ATYA and actively works to expand the network. 5 new members (3 from China and 1 from Singapore and Philippines) joined ATYA after the festival was assigned the role.

ATYA website: atyafests.net

ATYA Members (as of February 2016)

1. ricca ricca*festa (Okinawa/JAPAN) - CHAIR
2. Festival PUM (Hwaseong/KOREA)
3. ASSITEJ Korea Festivals (Seoul/KOREA)
4. Kaohsiung Children's Art Education Festival (Kaohsiung/TAIWAN)
5. Gimcheon International Family Theater Festival (Gimcheon/KOREA)
6. China Association of Performing Arts Children's Performing Arts Committee (Beijing/CHINA)
7. Shanghai International Children Theatre Festival (Shanghai/CHINA)
8. Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education (HONG KONG)
9. A.C.Orange/Orange Castle Theatre (Shenzhen/CHINA)
10. ACE! Festival (SINGAPORE)
11. PETA Theater Center (Manila/PHILIPPINES)
12. the A.S.K. -Art Space for Kids- (Shanghai/CHINA)



INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS

International co-production is one of the festival's strong focus since the beginning. By continuously producing co-productions, the festival has aimed to establish an artist network and set up multinational theatre company which activity base is the festival. In 2015, the festival launched asian multinational theatre*ricca in partnership with the Japan Foundation Asia Center and produced *The Story of the Little Gentleman* through the collaboration between Asian artists. The festival hopes to bring its productions on tour to the regions in Asia where children do not have a regular access to theatres.

Some of the international co-productions in the past



The Story of the Little Gentleman
-Asian Traditional Instruments ver.-
2015 / Asian collaboration



The Story of the Little Gentleman
-String Quartet ver.-
2006, 2009, 2015 /
Sweden, Japan, China (2015)



The Wolf and the Goat
2011, 2012, 2015 /
Italy, Japan



Round the Moon, Blue the Sky
2014 /
Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan



Walking Shadow
2013 /
Zimbabwe, Denmark,
Mexico, Japan



The Quest
2013 /
Taiwan, England, Japan



RUN
2012 /
Taiwan, Korea, Belgium, Japan



Superhero
2012 / Croatia, Korea, Taiwan,
Hong Kong, Austria, Russia, Japan



Looking for Yoghurt
2009 /
England / Korea / Japan

FESTIVAL STATISTICS: 2005-2015

	Country & Region	Production			Seminar	Symposium	Workshop	Other	Participant
		Company	Work	Performance					
2005	13	18	19	63	-	2	2	-	15,809
2006	13	29	35	112	-	2	9	-	19,612
2007	15	39	46	130	10	3	11	-	31,360
2008	12	44	43	129	11	4	9	-	31,833
2009	17	48	50	141	5	5	10	1	34,226
2010	19	31	31	90	3	2	4	1	28,863
2011	14	44	51	170	4	4	10	3	31,120
2012*	42	70	86	230	5	7	15	4	39,765
2013	23	38	39	130	-	3	4	4	32,000
2014	22	26	29	102	-	6	2	1	25,000
2015**	27	35	38	126	8	3	2	1	15,000
Total	217	422	467	1423	46	41	78	15	304,588

*2012: ASSITEJ International Meeting

**2015: Festival moved from Okinawa City to Naha City

ricca ricca*festa office

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