



NTCH Leads the Future of Asia's Performing Arts with Japanese, Korean, and Singaporean Theaters

Taipei's National Theater & Concert Hall (NTCH) connects theaters, people, and countries around the world through performing arts. Launched in 2019, the "Asia Connection" this year partners with other major art platforms in the Asia-Pacific region for the first time, collaborating with Singapore's Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay, South Korea's National Theater of Korea, and Japan's Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, in the planned 'Asia Connection: Producers Camp' (ACPC), a regional platform for art. With the participation of producers from Asian-Pacific countries, the ACPC will promote art production through establishing an improved and robust network for performing arts across Asia.

"When it comes to contemporary performing arts in Asia, countries in the region are more likely to invite Western performers or speakers due to Asia's socio-economic developments and relationships with the rest of the world. Hence, collaborations between Asian theaters, or even those between local theaters in Asia remain relatively minimal. Asian theaters, producers and artists alike still look to the West, where they find a high level of resources and creativity. Yet, Asia is actually replete with creative talent. Therefore, the four theaters in the Asia Connection project have come together to form a regional alliance where dialogue and support can be exchanged. The ACPC, which will systematically guide participating producers, aims to gather resources of Asia's most respected theaters and create a regional platform for talent in the performing arts," says Liu Yi-ruu, NTCH's General and Artistic Director.

A Platform to Showcase Contemporary Asian Art

Asia Connection continues to focus on the collaboration, production and performance of creative art works in Asia. It integrates art resources, and underscores the development of performance art in all its diverse forms, so building Asian alliances and sending Taiwanese and Asian works into international spotlight.

Asia Connection: Producers Camp will be an international inter-theater project that runs from 2021 to 2023. It will give participating producers and theaters the opportunity to collaborate and serve as a creative conduit for Asia's rich cultural heritage, and help shape creativity in the region — all



while showcasing contemporary Asian art. It will also focus on how use of the internet and social realities are incorporated into art in the global context of COVID-19.

In 2021, the ACPC is inviting international mentors to head group courses, discuss individual projects, lead proposal exercises, train producers to better communicate with creative talents, and improve the design thinking process through which works are created. These mentors include Farooq Chaudhry, Executive Producer for the UK's Akram Khan Company; Ong Keng Sen, the former Artistic Director of Singapore's International Arts Festival; Wouter van Ransbeek, Creative Director of the Netherlands' International Theater Amsterdam; Alistair Spalding, Artistic Director and CEO of the UK's Sadler's Wells; and Annette Shun Wah, Artistic Director of Australia's OzAsia Festival.

With the goal of promoting regional co-production in Asia, the ACPC will help participants to develop skills in field research, production R&D, arts group integration, the production process, budgeting, and back-end tours — all of which will enhance the creative process and production cycle. From submitted project proposals, NTCH and its three partnering theaters will select outstanding project proposals and allocate resources, R&D and co-produce accordingly; in doing so, creating opportunities for future international tours.

The Pandemic Will Not Stand in the Way of Dialogue and Collaboration

The pandemic has changed the way artistic exchange takes place, significantly affecting how dialogue and collaboration happens. Despite this, NTCH continues to facilitate conversations between Asian countries. “What is contemporary Asian art?” “Who are Asia’s new talents?” “What is the future of Asian productions?” are all questions the Asia Connection: Producers Camp will ask. While the international community has had to adjust significantly the way it communicates in the wake of the pandemic, NTCH has taken the initiative to explore alternative ways artists, producers and theaters can stay in touch and work together.

Previously scheduled as a five-day in-person workshop, the ACPC will now be held online, each Tuesday to Thursday evening for three weeks, with participants coming together for mentoring, forum sessions and group discussion. Applications are open until April 21, 2021 via <https://reurl.cc/Q75mY5>.



Camp workshops will be offered in 2021, 2022 and 2023, with each year having a new group of participants, and with each year having a specific theme. The participants will engage in discussions about the different developments and thought process in Asian countries, gain professional management experience, and expand their international network. The ACPC will be a place where participating producers, theaters and professional curators work together to advance the multicultural perspective of theater production in the Asia-Pacific.

【Appendix】

Asia Connection: Producers Camp

Duration:

Each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 31 August-2 September; 7-9 September; and 14-16 September, 2021. 18:30 to 21:00* (GMT+8).

Workshop interface:

Online participation will take place via Google Meet.

Requirements and number of participants:

Candidate qualifications: Performing arts producers in the Asian-Pacific region with at least 5 years of production experience; able to communicate in English; experience in international co-productions preferred.

Documents required: Applicants must submit a project that is still in the development phase (to be premiered after 2023). Projects with Asian themes or that are a co-production between Asian countries are preferred. We are also interested in works that incorporate online technology and non-physical performance in ways that address the new aesthetic vocabulary, artistic landscape and social realities of the post-pandemic era.

A project proposal may include concept ideas, production team information, a work and performance plan, a budget (up to NTD 4.5 million or USD 150,000), resource links, etc.

For Immediate Release
25 March 2021



Number of participants: 15 participants will be selected, of which 4 will be recommended by partner institutions, the rest chosen from open applications. (An additional 5 applicants will be chosen as reserves.)

Registration Period and procedures:

Applications must be made online between noon on Wednesday 10 March, 2021 and 23:59 on Wednesday 21 April, 2021. All times are Taiwan (GMT+8).

For more information, please visit the NTCH's official website: <https://reurl.cc/Q75mY5>

Vivian Yang, NTCH Media Manager

Tel: +886-2-3393-9818, E-mail: vivian.yang@mail.npac.ntch.org