

The Tempest - Swimming for Beginners

Tuesday 1 - Sunday 6 June 2021

Owlspot Theatre (Toshima Performing Arts Centre)

Script: William Shakespeare, Pamela Carter
Original script translation: Kazuko Matsuoka
Text translation: Keiko Nagata
Artistic Director: Jenny Sealey
Direction (Japan) : Hiroe Ohashi, Yasushi Oka
Direction (Bangladesh) : Samiun Jahan Dola
Set Design: Hiroko Oshima
Lighting Design: Kosuke Sugimoto
Sound Design: Akame Fujita
Costume Design: Yosuke Tanaka
Hair and Makeup: Yon Cho
Movement Direction: Takuro Suzuki
Stage Management: Akiyoshi Tsutsui
Lighting Operation: Saki Toriumi
Sound Operation: Minako Teruyama
Video Direction : Dai Kitabatake
Film Editing: Jonah Sealey Braverman
Wardrobe: Misako Inoue
Stage Crews : Naoyoshi Okumura, Asumi Mizoguchi
Supporting Staff : Tatsuki Suguro
Props **Design**: Riko Shinokawa
Costume Make: Kaede Kojima, Misako Inoue, Azusa Owada, Chizuru Wakagi, Mikiko Muto,
Ayano Kawamoto
English-Japanese Interpretation : Yoko Yuyama
Sign Language Interpretation and Coordination (Japanese) : Kozue Tamura
Sign Language Interpretation (Japanese) : Kayo Iizuka, Fumiko Saeki,
Haruka Murayama, Mutsuko Takayama
Sign Language Interpretation (English): Jeni Draper, Chandrika Gopalakrishnan
PR and Subtitle : Asumi Ueda
Graphic Design : Daisuke Omi
Production Assistant : Sakae Nishihara
Production : Chihiro Sasaki
Production Coordination: CHIKA Sudo (British Council)
Masashi Kishimoto (Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation)
Ticketing: Mai Sugaya, Yoriko Uchiyama
Production Cooperation: 55visio, Space Craft Agency, Theater Echo,
Osafune Mfg. Co., Ltd , C • COM, Yoko Hashii
NPO Theatre Accessibility network

Organised by: British Council, Toshima Mirai Cultural Foundation, Toshima City

In Association with: Graeae Theatre Company, Dhaka Theatre

Supported by: Arts Council Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

Cast

Japan

Hiroe Ohashi (Hero, Caliban)

Sachika Segawa (Sachika, Ariel)

Rio Sekiba (Jonny, Miranda)

Hidetada Tashiro (Hide, Prospero)

Kazumi Hiratsuka (Bandana, Alonso)

※In the Shakespear's original, Queen Alonso is written as King Alonso
Kotaro Yanagi (Yanagi, Ferdinand)

Sakura Yoshidomi (Sakura)

Kaoru Tomihama (Alonso)

Tatsuki Suguro (Prospero)

Shotaro Niki (Production Manager)

Cast in the video (UK)

Philippa Cole (Pippa)

Fatima Niemogha (Fatima)

Jack Hunter (Jack)

Jenny Sealey (Jenny)

Cast in the video (Bangladesh)

Md Saddam Bepary (Saddam)

Morshed Mia (Morshed)

This programme is part of an ambitious joint initiative by the British Council and the British Embassy called 'UK in JAPAN', featuring events and activities to showcase UK excellence in arts, education and business. The cultural campaign has brokered 90 new connections as we work to further strengthen the bilateral relationship and address global challenges together.

[Story]

The scene is a rehearsal where a cast from Japan, the UK, and Bangladesh are getting ready to perform their trinational production of "The Tempest". The overseas cast and staff members can no longer come to Japan due to the impact of COVID-19. The rehearsal venue in Japan and overseas are connected online, and the actors, with their various disabilities and backgrounds, struggle to create "The Tempest", each using their different ways of expression.

[About "The Tempest"]

Prospero, Duke of Milan, has been robbed of his position in a plot by his younger brother Antonio and banished to a desert island with his daughter, Miranda. He has learned secret arts over many years, and one day, he uses magic powers to call up a storm. The ship carrying Antonio, King Alonso of Naples, and Prince Ferdinand, the people who tricked him, is shipwrecked, and they are washed up on the desert island. Miranda and Ferdinand then fall in love, and Prospero manipulates the spirit Ariel and the monster Caliban to take back control of the duchy. Shakespeare's last play exudes a sense of translucence, and is said to be the dramatic world at which he finally arrived.

This production has already had a tempestuous journey and there have been many times when I have thought that it would never happen. But the vision, drive and commitment from Owlspot and the British Council with support from Graeae, along with the 'never give up' attitude of our glorious international cast means it is finally happening. It is not the production we originally envisaged, but it is an authentic response to the pandemic and a whole new re-imagining of everything and a new way of working. I am thrilled to be part of this adventure.

Hiro Oohashi (Director and Cast)

Welcome to our *Tempest: Swimming for Beginners*.

The brilliant artists with different backgrounds from the UK, Bangladesh and Japan have been working hard on one theatrical piece, interweaving with various cultures, ethnic groups, languages and difficulties. And now the curtain is finally ready to come up. This is the day for which all casts and staffs have jumped into the chaotic world and been swimming in and hanging on for dear life.

In the other side of the curtain, what kind of tempest is waiting for us?

Please enjoy the play which will provide you all amazing culture shocks.

Yasushi Oka (Director)

We are trying to connect with each other. With people who have physical disability, who have hearing disability, who has visual disability and who has neuro-divergent people; in rehearsals. In the rehearsal rooms and on the stage, having the sign language interpreters and the Japanese-English interpreter among us. Also we have been trying to have a connection with the UK and Bangladesh. Covid-19 made us wait for one year. The British team and the Bangladesh could not make it to come to Japan, but still we are finding a way to communicate with each other through a tiny camera in the rehearsal room.

I am wondering if, in the theatre, we can unite with you who are with or without any disabilities. Now I do hope it will happen.