

JTI Encounters 2017: Japan Foundation presents the performances of Noism company in Bucharest and Sibiu

Bucharest, 27 March 2017 – For the first time in Romania, at the initiative of Japan Foundation, with the support of the Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with the Sibiu International Theatre Festival and the Art Production Foundation, the **JTI Encounters** shall host in Bucharest and Sibiu the most important Japanese company of contemporary dance. „Noism” shall present on March 30, at 19.00 hours, on the stage of the Big Hall of the Bucharest National Theatre, the performance *La Bayadere – Nation of Illusion*, a commemorative story passed down beyond memory and history. The „Noism” tour shall be continued in Sibiu, where two performances shall take place, *The Match Seller's Tale* and *Passacaglia*, on April 5 and 6, in the preview of the International Theatre Festival (FITS 2017).

„Noism” was established in 2004 by the artist Jo Kanamori, as the first professional dance company following the European theatrical tradition. Since 2007 the company has performed in 11 cities in 8 countries overseas and was honoured the prestigious Asahi Performing Arts Award in 2008 for its brilliant presentation of *Nameless Hands – house of dolls*. Subsequently, „Noism” has performed *Nameless Poison – black monk* co-production with Chekhov International Theatre Festival in 2009. In 2011, the company was invited to the prestigious classical music festival, the Saito Kinen Festival Matsumoto, directed by Seiji Ozawa. Today, „Noism” continues to earn acclaim as the most important Japanese company of contemporary dance.

Jo Kanamori, Artistic Director of „Noism”, has studied under Maurice Bejart at L'ecole-Atelier Rudra Bejart School in Lausanne. He performed as a member of the Netherlands Dance Theatre, the Lyon National Opera Ballet in France and the Gothenburg Ballet in Sweden. Kanamori returned to Japan in 2002. His first self-produced project, *No-mad-ic project – 7 fragments in memory* was honoured with the Third Asahi Performing Arts Awards in 2003. Kanamori directed Bartok's opera works, *Bluebeard's Castle* and *The Miraculous Mandarin*. He has been presented numerous awards and in 2008 was the recipient of the prestigious Minister of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology Award in Japan.

In early summer 2016, Jo Kanamori has staged *La Bayadere – Nation of Illusion*, an adaptation of the masterpiece of classical ballet *La Bayadere*, using perfect physical expression and multi-layered story-telling. Dramatist/Director Oriza Hirata, boldly adapted for „Noism” this tragic story „...this piece had not yet been produced by any of the great choreographers of the 20th century...”, says Jo Kanamori. Costumes and stage art for *La Bayadere* have been created by contemporary professionals who are active in various fields. *La Bayadere* is performed by 20 dancers in total, which are: „Noism1”, the core performing group of „Noism”, and „Noism2”, group of dancers in training, as well as guest actors from Shizuoka Performing Arts Center (SPAC). Noism's *La Bayadere* has successfully got a great response from the audience as it has been sublimated the original into work that face issues of the modern society such as history, religion and ethnic groups. The set, costumes and woodworking were placed variously in the hands of the architect, Tsuyoshi Tane, the designer, Yoshiyuki Miyamae (ISSEY MIYAKE), and the furnituremaker, Masaki Kondo, all of whom have previously cooperated with „Noism”. The music was based on the original score by Ludwig Minkus with additional music provided by Yasuhiro Kasamtasu in his first involvement with „Noism”.

The tickets are available at the Agency of the Bucharest National Theatre (tel. 021-314.71.71), in the Eventim network (Orange, Vodafone, Germanos, Carrefour shops, OMV gas stations, Cărturești, Humanitas book stores, Diverta) and online at www.eventim.ro and www.mystage.ro.

We are looking forward to meeting you at the ***JTI Encounters!***

Japan Foundation is aimed to consolidate Japan's relationships at global level, by means of intercultural dialogue. The activities of the Foundation are supported by the Government of Japan, as well as by contributions from the private sector.

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Launched in 2000, by the famous ballet company Bejart Ballet Lausanne, the *JTI Encounters* have hosted renowned dancers, choreographers and ballet companies: Nacho Duato and Compania Nacional De Danza, Joaquin Cortes, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Tango Pasion, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Sylvie Guillem and Russell Maliphant, Gigi Căciuleanu and the National Chilean Ballet, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Vortice Dance Company, Maria Pagés and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Akram Khan Company, and in 2016 Mats Ek, Ana Laguna, Susanne Linke and Dominique Mercy. The 2017 edition is presented by The Japan Foundation, with the support of the Embassy of Japan in Bucharest and in cooperation with Sibiu International Theatre Festival. The *JTI Encounters* are organized also this year by the Art Production Foundation, under the artistic counselling of Silvia Ghiță.