

The Tokyo Ballet "M"

The 50th Anniversary of Yukio Mishima's Death

Saturday, November 21, 2020

15:00 (Doors open at 14:00)

Kanagawa Kenmin Hall (Main Hall)

Running Time: About 1 hour and 40 minutes without intermission.

Choreography / Decor and Costume Concepts: Maurice Béjart

Music : MAYUZUMI Toshiro, Claude Debussy, Johann Strauss II, Richard Wagner and others

\*There will be no intermission. Please make sure to arrive at the venue in good time, as latecomers will not be permitted to take their seats.

\*Accompaniment will consist of live piano performance by KIKUCHI Yoko and recorded music.

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Even today, the writer MISHIMA Yukio is internationally acclaimed for his unique and striking ideas.

When master choreographer Maurice Béjart was commissioned to create a ballet on the theme of "Japan" for the Tokyo Ballet in 1993, he chose Mishima as his subject.

As indicated in Béjart's comment that he "created this piece for the love of a poet", this was a bold attempt to create a ballet that would not simply tell the story of Mishima's life and writings, but would incorporate the entirety of his life, literature, thought and aesthetics into a single ballet.

The work begins with the sea, a motif that often appears in Mishima's works. A young boy, Mishima, appears amidst the sound of the waves, and embarks on a journey, which appears to follow the pilgrimage of his own soul. The boy has four alter egos, and the fourth one is revealed to be "Death". A dizzying array of images from Mishima's masterpieces including "Kyoko's House," "Forbidden Colors," "Rokumeikan," "The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea," and "The Temple of the Golden Pavilion," as well as Saint Sebastian – a kind of aesthetic motif running through his various works – unfold one after another on the stage. Finally, "patriotic sentiment" leads the way to the tension-filled climax of his suicide, ending in a final return to the "sea".

This masterpiece, performed to great acclaim by the Tokyo Ballet at the Paris Opera, La Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Hamburg State Opera, will be presented for the first time at Kanagawa Kenmin Hall to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Mishima's death. We hope you will enjoy the performance.

The Tokyo Ballet "M"

<https://youtu.be/C2uKbqgTOYs>

The Tokyo Ballet

Director: IIDA Munetaka

Artistic Director: SAITO Yukari

Casting

I- Ichi: TSUKAMOTO Dan

II- Ni: MIYAGAWA Arata

III- San: AKIMOTO Yasuomi

IV- Shi (death): IKEMOTO Shoma

Saint Sebastian: HIGUCHI Yuki

Woman: UENO Mizuka

Moon on the water: KANEKO Hitomi

Orange: OKI Kanako

Rose: MASAMOTO Emi

Violette: DENDA Akimi

\*A change of cast will not lead to tickets being refunded. The final cast list will be announced on the day of the performance.

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To Our Guests and Visitors,

Please note our preventive measures against the further spread of COVID-19.

If you have cold-like symptoms, such as fever or a cough, please refrain from visiting the Kanagawa Kenmin Hall. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with the following measures;

- There will be a thermal camera inspection at the main entrance. If you are detected with a fever higher than 37.5 °C, you will be asked to refrain from entering into the building.
- Please wear a mask while in the building.
- Please sanitize your hands. Sanitizers can be found at the entrance and in other parts of the building.
- Please refrain from eating and drinking in the hall.
- Currently, we are limiting number of people who can enter the hall. Please note that performances may be cancelled or rescheduled due to the spread of COVID-19 and other unavoidable circumstances.

