

Program Outline – 2007

■ GRANT PROGRAMS

The grant-making activities of the Saison Foundation consist of (I) national programs designed to activate the fields of contemporary Japanese theater and dance, and (II) international programs intended to promote mutual understanding between Japan and other nations / areas through intellectual and artistic exchange projects.

I. NATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. Contemporary Theater and Dance – *Creative Environment Improvement Program*

For Workshops, Conferences, Symposia, etc.

This program supports workshops, conferences, symposia, and other projects aimed to improve the infrastructure of the contemporary performing arts community in Japan (Range of grants given in this program in 2007: ¥500,000 - ¥1,500,000). Priority use of the Foundation's rehearsal facilities in Tokyo (Morishita Studio) may be awarded instead of grants depending on the nature of the project.

For the year 2007, the Foundation invited projects with the following purposes in particular:

- Training workshops for developing and enhancing directing, acting, choreographing, dancing, administrating, and technical skills
- Talent discovery / development programs by halls and performing spaces, etc.
- Conferences or symposia for promoting data and information sharing / disclosure systems within the performing arts

For Arts Management Studies

This category assists Japanese performing arts managers to go abroad and study arts administration at universities or other educational institutions, or to undertake internships at performing arts organizations outside of Japan by awarding scholarships up to ¥1,000,000. Applicants must have (a) more than three years of professional experience in the field of performing arts administration, and (b) approval from the educational institution or performing arts organization accepting him or her for a period of more than three months, and (c) a long-term plan on how to contribute toward the development of Japanese theater or dance by applying the skills and knowledge acquired through their studies or internship.

Sabbatical Programs

This category gives partial support to individuals who wish to travel abroad to come into contact with inter-cultural experiences by awarding fellowships up to ¥1,000,000. Applicants must have (a) a base in Japan; (b) more than five years of professional working experience in one of the following occupations: directing,

choreography, playwriting, performing arts criticism, or producing; and (c) plan to travel abroad for more than one month.

- Priority will be given to artists or producers who have been creating and presenting works continuously until the time of applying to this program, have an established reputation in their respective fields, and are considering to take a sabbatical leave during fiscal year 2006 to reconsider their past activities and receive inspiration for future activities through inter-cultural experiences.

2. Contemporary Theater and Dance – *Artistic Creativity Enhancement (ACE) Programs*

The aim of these general operating support programs are to allow artists and / or companies to concentrate on their artistic work by awarding long-term grants of between three to six years and priority use of Morishita Studio for rehearsals and creative work.

Artistic Creativity Enhancement (ACE) Program I

This program awards grants and priority use of Morishita Studio for three consecutive years as a rule to promising Japanese theater and dance artists / companies with an active history of less than fifteen years. (Range of grants given in this program in 2007: ¥3,000,000 / company.)

Artistic Creativity Enhancement (ACE) Program II

Grants and priority use of Morishita Studio are awarded for another three years as a rule to grantees chosen among the companies who have completed the above program. (Range of grants given in this program in 2007: ¥3,000,000 / company.)

Incentive Aid to Young Artists

Small subsidies are awarded to a chosen few among the young performing artists / companies who have applied to and passed the first screening of the ACE I program.

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Special Project Support Program (national) [designated fund program]

This program awards grants to cultural or artistic projects belonging to fields other than contemporary theater or dance.

Note: Applications to this program are not publicly invited.

II. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. Intellectual Exchange Programs

Contemporary Theater and Dance – Intellectual Exchange Program

The Contemporary Theater and Dance – Intellectual Exchange Program supports conferences, symposia, translation / publication and other related projects that improve the visibility of contemporary Japanese theater and dance within the international performing arts community (Grants given in this program in 2007: ¥500,000 - ¥1,000,000). Priority use of Morishita Studio is also awarded depending on the grantee's request.

Translation / Publication Project Program [designated fund program]

Financial support is provided to translation and publication projects of Japanese social science and humanities literature and to activities related to these areas.

Note: Applications to this program are not publicly invited.

2. Artistic Exchange Programs

Contemporary Theater and Dance – Creative Exchange Program (Studio Award)

The aim of this program is to stimulate international creative projects and to promote Japanese performing arts on a global scale, including collaboration projects and performances, and / or workshops held during the process of such activities (only Studio Awards are given under this program). Artists / companies organizing collaboration projects or performance tours, or individuals and organizations involved in the production and / or management of the above projects are eligible to apply to this program. Artists / companies based outside of Japan who are planning to conduct a tour in Japan are required to find a Japanese host organization before submitting an application. Priority will be given to collaboration projects with not-for-profit organizations outside of Japan that are committed to working with and presenting contemporary Japanese theater and dance artists / companies.

Contemporary Theater and Dance – Creative Exchange Program – For Long-Term Projects (joint grant program by The Saison Foundation and EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee)

A grant program that awards long-term grants to international exchange projects in which contemporary Japanese theater or dance artists / companies are involved and require more than two years until completion. (Grants given in this program in 2007: ¥2,000,000 - ¥3,000,000). Priority use of Morishita Studio is also awarded upon request. Those eligible to apply to this program are (a) individuals or companies based in Japan, and (b) with a history of artistic achievements in the area of intercultural exchange activities at the time of application. Producing companies applying to this program are required to have a fixed artist (playwright,

director, choreographer) for the project.

Contemporary Theater and Dance – Franco-Japanese Dance Exchange

Thanks to the generous donation made to our Foundation from the <france danse 03> program, The Saison Foundation has started a certain period grant program from 2005 to 2008 that will support contemporary dance artists based in France who plan to visit and present their work in Japan. Grants will be given as partial support to performances, lectures, and / or demonstrations that will take place in Japan with the aim to introduce the works and activities of French contemporary dance artists. Priority use of Morishita Studio is also awarded upon request. (Awards given in this program in 2007: ¥800,000). Dancers and / or choreographers based in France who plan to stay in Japan and contribute to the enhancement of Japan-France contemporary dance exchange through activities such as presenting their work in Japan are eligible to apply to this program. Producers / art managers and theater halls planning to present such projects may also apply. Priority will be given to projects featuring French artists who are relatively unknown in Japan.

Artistic Exchange Project Program [designated fund program]

This designated fund program supports activities by not-for-profit organizations outside of Japan with a continuous partnership with the Saison Foundation, including creative work by artists / companies, projects with the aim to familiarize Japanese culture to other nations, and fellowship programs.

Note: Applications to this program are not publicly invited.

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Special Project Support Program (international) [designated fund program]

This program provides support to international cultural exchange projects belonging to fields other than contemporary theater or dance.

Note: Applications to this program are not publicly invited.

■ SPONSORSHIP AND CO-SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS (Saison Theater Program)

Apart from making grants, the Saison Foundation sponsors and organizes seminars, workshops, and symposia, and publishes a newsletter.

In order to support and enhance the creative process within contemporary theater and dance and to stimulate the performing arts scene in Japan, the Saison Foundation also organizes creative projects by working with artists / companies, not-for-profit organizations, and other groups under its co-sponsorship program known as the Saison Theater Program.