


Yokohama Dance Collection R 2008 Prize Winners!

Yokohama Dance Collection R is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Yokohama Solo x Duo <Competition> +, the competition component of this contemporary dance festival, held on a scale unique in Japan.

Of the 164 works by choreographers entered in the 2008 competition, 18, from Japan, Korea, France, and Finland, were selected as finalists to be presented at the festival, between Friday, February 8, and Monday, February 11. (Two of the finalists withdrew from the competition.)

After a rigorous judging process, the jury announced its decision on February 11, awarding prizes to the following choreographers. We look forward to brilliant futures for all these innovative young dance artists!

The French Embassy Prize for Young Chorographers


Prize details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six months' study in France • Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R 	
Choreographer	KENTARO!! (Chiba Prefecture, Japan; 27 years old)	
Title of work	<i>Don't Cry, I'll Wait in Tokyo</i>	
Profile	<p>Kentaro!! has been dancing for 14 years, since junior high school, studying mainly street dance. He formed the Lockin' On dance team; after it disbanded after four years of activity, he relaunched himself as the solo dancer Kentaro!!. Deeply influenced by contemporary dance, he also began dancing in performances. His style, rooted in improvisation, seeks to introduce the techniques and spirit of Hip Hop into contemporary dance.</p>	

"I could only be at the festival for two days, and I realized that my style is very different from the others'. I didn't think I'd fully expressed myself. But I am delighted to have won this prize; that's why I entered the competition, after all. It makes me very happy to be recognized in the contemporary dance arena, having started out in Hip Hop; this achievement has made many persons' wishes come true. I myself am based in Hip Hop, and I'd like to see people in contemporary dance do Hip Hop and, through cross fertilization, really enliven the dance scene. Taking this as my start, I hope to devote myself to bring even better dance experiences to audiences. I'd also like to thank, above all, my family, friends, and team" — KENTARO!!

Comment by juror Rebecca Lee

"This year's Yokohama Dance Collection R had a fresh, vital feel, with work from many genres. The jury regarded originality, presence, quality of the choreography, and composition as critical elements in the judging. The work by Kentaro!!, which received the French Embassy Prize for Young Choreographers, generated a profound sense of presence on the stage."

The Yokohama Prize for a Brilliant Future

Prize details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to an independent performance at Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No. 1 • Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R 	
Choreographer	Park Hong Ki (Korea, 32)	
Work	<i>Ice or Water</i>	
Profile	<p>Performed with the Master Jakkie-TTanel dance company (Montpellier) and the Paris Harmonic; took part in the Emio Greco/PC workshop at ModaFe 2003; won the Compagnie Philippe Sair Grand Prix at the 7th Competition of New Generation Choreographers. Since January, 2003, has been a member of the Daegu City Modern Dance Company.</p>	

"I'm so happy I'm about to burst! Receiving this prize makes me want to work even harder. And I'll be back in Yokohama! I thank you infinitely much." — Park Hong Ki

Jury Prize + MASDANZA Prize

- Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R
- Right to perform at MASDANZA in Spain

Miki Hoesi (Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan; 22, female)

Line

“I was delighted just to be able to perform. Winning this prize makes me even happier. I will be graduating soon, and I would like to thank my teachers and classmates for all their advice about the work and their help with the lighting, sound, and in so many other ways. I did modern dance until beginning contemporary dance in college, and I am so grateful to my instructors for teaching me about this world!” —Miki Hoesi

Comment by juror Natalia Medina Santana

“This festival was extremely satisfying, with a high level of work presented. The performances in the Solo x Duo division were particularly impressive. The role Yokohama is playing in contemporary dance is extremely valuable and productive. We awarded Ms. Hoesi this prize for the grace that captivated the audience from the moment she appeared on stage. I was awed by the power that this small young woman could generate. I am very happy to have this opportunity to meet this young choreographer with such potential.”

Jury Prize

- Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R

Park Eun Young (Korea; 23; female)

The Walking Fish

“I am so happy that this opportunity will bring further opportunities with it. Building on the work I performed here, I want to be active as both a choreographer and dancer. I am truly grateful to receive this prize.” — Park Eun Young

Jury Prize

- Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R

Park Young Jun (Korea; 30; male)

Dreaming Bodies

“I am honored to have this work seen in Japan. I hope to perform more of my work in Japan in the future. Thank you very much.” — Park Young Jun

The Yokohama Solo x Duo <Compétition> + Jurors

Rebecca Lee	Manager of Les Labos d’Aubervilliers
Masashi Miura	Critic
Junji Ito	Professor, Faculty of Art and Design, University of Toyama; art critic
Toru Kawasaki	Director
Kasumiko Murakami	Writer
Hélène Kelmachter	Cultural Attache, Embassy of France
Philippe Laleu	Director of the Institute Franco-Japonais in Yokohama
Nobuhiro Fujisaki	Director, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No. 1, Yokohama Arts Foundation

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