



Press Release, vol.5
February, 2009

What is Yokohama Dance Collection R?

Yokohama Dance Collection R is a contemporary dance festival that was launched in 1996. The Yokohama-based festival communicates the many faces of contemporary dance throughout Japan—and the world. With dance directors coming to Japan from many other lands for the festival, Yokohama Dance Collection R also functions as a contemporary dance market, connecting an international group of choreographers and directors.

Yokohama Dance Collection R 2009 Announces the 2009 Yokohama Solo x Duo <Compétition> + Winners

The Yokohama Dance Collection R is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Yokohama Solo x Duo <Compétition> +, the competition component of this contemporary dance festival, one of the largest contemporary dance festivals in Asia. These awards are the gateway to achievement on the global stage for promising young choreographers.

This year, we had a record 192 entries from 14 countries. The 15 finalists were selected by screening the videos they submitted, then presented their work at the festival. After a rigorous judging process, the jury announced its decision, awarding prizes to the following choreographers. Again this year, the awards include the MASDANZA Prize, which carries the right to perform at MASDANZA in Spain. We look forward to brilliant futures for all these innovative young dance artists!

Yokohama Dance Collection R 2009 Yokohama Solo x Duo <Compétition> +
Thursday, February 5 to Sunday, February 8, 2009
Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No. 1, 3rd Floor Hall

The Winners

Prize	Name of Winner	Gender, Age, Birthplace	Title of Prize-winning Work
• The French Embassy Prize for Young Choreographers	Rhosam Jr. Prudenciado	Male, 24, Philippines	<i>Which Way?</i>
• The Yokohama Prize for a Brilliant Future • MASDANZA Prize	Maki Tabata	Female, 35, Kanagawa, Japan	<i>The Dramatic</i>
• Jury Prize	Yumi Osanai	Female, 25, Saitama, Japan	<i>Concord</i>
• Jury Prize	Yuuri Furuie	Female, 25, Kumamoto, Japan	<i>Almost Collapsing 3,000 Yen's Worth of Self-Affirmation</i>

*As of February, 2009

The Prizes

The French Embassy Prize: Solo x Duo.

- Six months' study in France
- The right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R festivals

The Yokohama Prize for a Brilliant Future: Group

- Right to an independent performance at Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse No. 1
- Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R festivals

Jury Prize: Solo x Duo, Group.

- Right to perform at all future Yokohama Dance Collection R festivals.

The Yokohama Solo x Duo <Compétition> + Jurors

Rebecca Lee, Manager of Les Labos d'Aubervilliers

Junji Ito, Professor, Faculty of Art and Design, University of Toyama; art critic

Toru Kawasaki, Director

Kasumiko Murakami, Writer

Fumio Hamano, Editor of *Dance* magazine

Hélène Kelmachter, Cultural Attaché, 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

Comment by juror Rebecca Lee, Manager of Les Labos d'Aubervilliers, France

"I was astonished, as I was last year as well, by the high level of the artists entering the competition. This time, I was also surprised to see many choreographers joining from Europe. With every performance fully booked, Yokohama Dance Collection R is the place for theater-related people at home and abroad to interact and build friendly ties. I hope that it will also lead to more opportunities for choreographers to perform their work. At each festival, I always find one exceptional person who stands out, someone so amazing that I almost find myself wondering if what I am seeing could be real. This time, Rhosam Jr. Prudenciado was the one.

Comments by the prize winners

Rhosam Jr. Prudenciado (The French Embassy Prize for Young Choreographers)



It's like a dream—I'm very excited. First, I'd like to go home and celebrate my prize with my family. Then, I'd like to test myself as a choreographer, in many countries. First of all, I will study hard in France for six months and build up experience.

Maki Tabata (The Yokohama Prize for a Brilliant Future, MASDANZA prize)



I didn't expect this award at all! I am so happy, and very grateful to my fellow dancers. I'd also like to express my sincere thanks to the staff members who supported me. I will do my best to achieve the brilliant future this prize foretells!

Yumi Osanai (Jury Prize)



Since this was the first work I'd choreographed, I certainly did not expect to win an award. I couldn't be happier! Using this prize as my springboard, I'll do my best in creating my next work.

Yuuri Furuie (Jury Prize)



I'm so delighted—it's utterly astonishing. I hope to work even harder and to gain more insight.

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What is the MASDANZA Prize?

Natalia Medina Santana, director of the MASDANZA dance festival, which is held in Gran Canaria, Spain, first participated in Yokohama Dance Collection R2006 in an effort to uncover talented Asian dancers. Since then, the exciting choreographers that her explorations at Yokohama Dance Collection have discovered have been invited to MASDANZA, to great success. In 2006, *anna* won the MASDANZA Grand Prix in the choreography section and the Audience Prize. In 2007, *Ayako Hamaguchi* won Third Prize in the choreography section and *Lee Sun-A* won the Second Prize in the solo contest and the Audience Prize. In 2008, *Miki Hoen* won the Best Dancer Prize, *Hyauk-Jin Geon* took Second Prize in the solo section, and *Park Eun Young* won Second Prize in the choreography section. The prizes they have earned at MASDANZA attest to the superb talents of Dance Collection R prizewinners.

MASDANZA Prize winner: Maki Tabata, *The Dramatic*



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Natalia Medina Santana, director of MASDANZA, Spain

I felt that both the choreographers and the dancers have made great strides. This time, with many entries from Europe, it provided a good opportunity for both Asian and European choreographers to see their works. I imagine that they must have been inspired by each others' creativity and must have acquired some ideas for their future work. When Maki Tabata began to perform, I was riveted by this dancer's work from the moment she appeared onto the stage. Her movements are unique and fresh, her space direction is clear, and, all in all, she created a very well-structured, excellent piece of work, for which we were pleased to award this prize.