

# Young, Fearless & Limitless

Artist Talk:

Yo Nakamura  
and

Underground Airport



Date: 28 August 2014, from 6:30pm

Venue: The Japan Foundation, London

Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5EH

The Japan Foundation is dedicated to supporting performing arts from Japan and through the PAJ (Performing Arts Japan) programme, we have helped bring exciting, cutting-edge artists to Europe to both present and develop their work. Most recently, **Underground Airport** and **Yo Nakamura**, both of whom are representatives of a new direction for performing arts in Japan, have been invited by National Theatre Wales to take up a residency for future and further collaborations with the UK, supported by the Japan Foundation.

In this joint artist talk, **Yasuro Ito** of Underground Airport, a theatre group renowned for portraying society through their metaphorical works, and **Yo Nakamura**, an award-winning dancer and choreographer, will introduce their careers and work illustrating how they each utilise a variety of media to create their own unique style. Reflecting on their WalesLab project, where they have been able to take inspiration from the people, landscape and history of the area, they will look into how these encounters and experiences could influence their future work and activities, as well as the difficulties they have faced in the borderless and global performing arts world of today. Ito and Nakamura will also be joined for a discussion by **Sioned Huws**, independent choreographer and Artistic Director of the Aomori Project.

This event will provide the opportunity to discover the future for Japanese performing arts and meet some of the most thrilling young talents that Japan has to offer.

#### Underground Airport

Underground Airport is a company made up of Yasuro Ito (Director and Founder), Chinatsu Kato (Dramaturg) and Shuya Okumura (Technical Associate). The company started making work together back in 2000 and most recently produced *The Scandal of Propagation Island* with the agency for Cultural Affairs in Japan, and have renowned for representing society through allegorical and often socially engage theatre productions, expressing their message through theatrical effects, music and body expressions. As part of the WalesLab project, they will be developing their production *Red Dragon and Soil Traveller*, a theatre piece reflecting on the Great East Japan Earthquake and the following disaster in Fukushima in 2011.

#### Yo Nakamura

Yo Nakamura is a dancer, movement director and choreographer, who creates rich, textured pieces by using movement, text, narrative and character relationships. As well as creating own performances, Nakamura also choreographs for other companies and was the choreographer for National Theatre Wales's production *The Opportunity of Efficiency* in 2013. Nakamura also received the coveted Sibiu international Theatre Festival's prize in 2014, as part of the Yokohama Dance Collection EX. Nakamura's WalesLab project is called *Cymru and I*, and will look at the relationship between memory and place based on her conversations and interactions with people she encounters in Wales.

*This event is free to attend but booking is essential. To reserve a place, please e-mail your name and the title of the event you would like to attend to [event@jpf.org.uk](mailto:event@jpf.org.uk)*