

Japanese Plays and Playwrights Series



Japanese Play Reading in English

Current Location (Genzaichi)

Written by Toshiki Okada (Translated by Aya Ogawa)

Date: 18 March 2014, from 6.30pm

Venue: The Japan Foundation, London

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

As part of the annual Japanese Plays and Playwrights Series, The Japan Foundation has invited award-winning theatre company **FellSwoop** to perform a work-in-progress performance of **Toshiki Okada's** *Current Location*. The event will be the first performance in the UK of this work, which marks a ground-breaking new direction for Okada and his theatre group, Chelfitsch, and which has received rave reviews all around the world since its world premiere in 2012.

The performance will be a continuation of FellSwoop's longstanding relationship with Okada, having previously presented a work-in-progress of Okada's signature work, *Five Days in March*.

Following the performance, **Bertrand Lesca**, Director of Ablutions by FellSwoop Theatre, and **Josh Goulding**, dramaturg for FellSwoop's performance of *Current Location*, will be joined in conversation with **Kyoko Iwaki**, a journalist specialising in contemporary performing arts.

Current Location (synopsis)

Three women stand on a cliff-edge overlooking their village; a village which is soon to disappear. "Sometimes we need to do things like this", one of them says, "we need to step away from our daily lives, and look at them from a distance." Using a cast of six female performers, the play explores how rumour and fear of inevitable change disrupts families, friends and communities, and is Toshiki Okada's allegorical response to the 3.11 disaster.

Toshiki Okada (playwright)

Born in Yokohama, Okada is leader of Chelfitsch, a production company based in Yokohama that he established in 1997. Okada's work has gained him acclaim both in Japan and overseas, and his plays have been performed all over the world. His signature work *Five Days in March* (2005) won the 49th Kishida Kunio Drama Award, while his debut novel, *The End of the Special Time We Were Allowed*, won the 2nd Oe Kenzaburo Award in 2007.

FellSwoop (theatre company)

Based in Bristol, FellSwoop are a theatre company exploring the relationship between live music and the stage. An associate company of Bristol Old Vic Ferment, FellSwoop has received much critical acclaim in the last four years, and has previously won the NSDF Emerging Artists award and the Critic's Choice Award at Ignite Festival. *Ablutions*, FellSwoop's latest devised piece, will be presented at the Edinburgh Fringe this year.

The play reading will be held prior to performances at the Wardrobe Theatre, Bristol and the Ignite Festival, Exeter.

To read an article about FellSwoop's performance of *Current Location*, please visit:

<http://fellswooptheatre.com/2014/02/13/our-japanese-project-explained-an-article-by-josh-goulding/>

This event is free to attend but booking is essential. To reserve a place, please email your name and the title of the event you would like to attend to event@jpf.org.uk