

Japanese Contemporary Plays and Playwright Series



# Series 1

Play Readings & Meet the Writer talks: Akihito Nakatsuru & Yudai Kamisato

This September an exciting month long festival brings to the UK a new series of contemporary Japanese plays by the country's most celebrated playwrights. The Japan Foundation is proud to be in partnership for Series 1, the first two weeks of the month, with Yellow Earth Theatre, StoneCrabs, and One Two Works.



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September Reading of 'Fallout' and 'Meet the Writer'

> Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September at Marylebone Theatre, 7:00pm Play reading: Fallout Written by Akihito Nakatsuru Translated by Jeremy Kuhles

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude-9 earthquake shook northeastern Japan, unleashing a savage tsunami and resulting in a massive nuclear fallout. Shunsuke Komoto, a broadcasting employee turned freelance documentarist, finds himself caught between the political and the personal with devastating consequences.



### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September at Freeword Centre, 3:00pm. Meet the Writer (talk): Akihito Nakatsuru

Akihito Nakatsuru is a founding member of the theatre company TRASHMASTERS, formed with actors from the TOMM Actors Studio. Nakatsuru's latest pieces include numerous weighty human dramas, dealing with the problems of contemporary Japanese society. He goes to great lengths to keep his works entertaining for the audience, going so far as to change even the floorboards between scenes and lengthening performances beyond normally accepted limits.





## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September at Marylebone Theatre, 7:00pm Play reading: +51 Aviación, San Borja

Written by Yudai Kamisato, translated by Aya Ogawa

In an abandoned building in Tokyo a director lies down to die, only to be approached by a Japanese man, Sekisano, known as the father of Mexican theatre, who was exiled to Mexico before the war. Overwhelmed by the sense of futility of theatre, they embark on a journey to Okinawa and then Peru. This play creates a kaleidoscopic canvas of dream, contemplation, and the search for one's identity, purpose, and place in the world.

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September at Freeword Centre, 3:00pm. Meet the Writer (talk): Yudai Kamisato

**Yudai Kamisato,** director and playwright and head of Okazaki Art Theatre, was born in Peru. He formed his theatre company in 2003 and in 2006 became the youngest person ever to win the first prize in the TOGA Directors Competition for his staging of "Desire Caught by the Tail". Winning the prize for the Kishida Kunio Drama Award in 2018, his plays were performed at various international festivals including Festival d'Automne a Paris. His recent works derive from an interest in his own identity, and problems confronting immigrants and workers.

**Booking:** Tickets to play readings are £5.83. Meet the Writer talks are free to attend but booking is essential. Please click on the event titles above to book tickets for each event.

#### This series, with Japan Foundation, is presented with the following partners:



Image credit: "+51 Aviación, San Borja" (2015) at STspot (Yokohama) © Yuta Fukitsuka

The Japan Foundation, London | Lion Court, 25 Procter Street, London WC1V 6NY | www.jpf.org.uk | 🖬 JapanFoundationLondon | 🎔 @jpflondon