

**Akiko Kitamura**  
**Artistic Director**  
**Choreographer/Dancer**

[BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE]

In 1994, AKIKO KITAMURA founded her own company Leni-Basso. In 1995-1996, she stayed in Germany for a year as a resident artist sent by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and observed the situation of contemporary dance in Europe. In 2001, she was invited to Bates Dance Festival, and created her solo work Face-Mix by which she attracted great attention and won recognition in the U.S. She created one of her master pieces Finks and performed more than 60 times in many countries. In 2003, she was invited to American Dance Festival to create the group piece Enact Oneself with ADF dancers for the International Choreographers Commission Program; the piece was chosen as one of the best dance of the year in North Carolina. In 2005, at the request of the Group Motion Dance Company of Philadelphia, she made and premiered Rondo in Philadelphia. Created ghostly round for In Transit 2005, organized by Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, and premiered on June 2 and later performed around the world as her repertory. In 2007, she made a commissioned work named "Blind Trip"-SKIN Project for ACE Dance and Music of Birmingham, UK, and it toured 20 cities in the UK in 2007/2008. In 2011, she created a full length piece ICE for the same company, and it toured in the 2011/2012 season.

On another occasion, she acted in two movies: Pulse (Kairo), which won a prize at the Festival de Cannes and Grand Illusion (Oinaru Gen-ei), both were directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa. Art Zoyd, a famous French avant-garde rock group, made a video opera based on the movie Kairo and Akiko choreographed and acted as a performer in the opera. The opera was premiered in France (2009 in Enghien-les-Bains). She choreographed and danced in Black Particle, a choreographic video concert by Art Zoyd (2010 in Enghien-les-Bains).

Since 2011, she started Asian Collaborative Project, To Belong, which won the 7th Japan Dance Forum Award 2013.

To Belong-cyclonicream- was premiered in Japan and Singapore in 2013-2014. To Belong/Suwung was performed in Dance New Air festival 2014 in October 2014, at Aoyama Round Theater, December 2014 at Geothe Haus in Jakarta, Teater Besar ISI-SURAKARTA, in Solo in Indonesia. She choreographed for Tari Opera Gandari in Jakarta December 2014.

March 2016, Started International Collaboration, "CrossTransit project" with Cambodian Artists. 2016-2017, she made her solo piece "TranSenses" and was performed in Japan Society NY and Montreal. 2017 in November, "Cross Transit" was performed in Phnom Penh city in Cambodia, and March 2019, performed in Japan Society NY, The Kennedy Center and other cities. She has been awarded the grand prize in the annual Japan Dance Forum Award 2018 for her direction on "vox soil" from the Cross Transit project, which was premiered at Kanagawa Art Theater in October 2018. The latest piece of Cross Transit project is "'Rhymes of Soil" was premiered at Theater Tram, in Tokyo.

She starts International collaborative project with Ireland "Echoes of Calling" project February 2020, which is going to be performed Galway 2020 in September.

Since 2001 Akiko Kitamura has taught at Shinshu University, Nagano, as an associate professor of the Faculty of Arts.

ACC Fellowship Grants to Individuals 2015, Japan-United States Arts Program/Saison Foundation Fellow.

AKIKO KITAMURA

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