



Null New Work

Null, an emerging and fresh Japanese contemporary dance artist duo led by Reina Okada and Yu Kuroda, are creating a 3-person choreography that uses 3 cubes on stage.

The work reflects the duo's acute contemplation towards contemporary Japanese society. In this creative process, they reflect on the tensions between agency and social pressure, between personal boundaries and isolation, between internal/subconscious and external/conscious.

In expressing these provocations, Okada and Kuroda uses 3 cubes. In one moment of the work it becomes a shelter that shields one from danger or a thing that hides one's insecurities, while in another moment it becomes a makeshift throne or an overwhelming tower.

Despite their technical brilliance, Null's movement is based on authentic reactions of the body - just like a flick of the wrist or a stumble on the floor. They use their body rigorously, oftentimes playing around with tension and release to express the themes of their work.

This 45-minute-work embodies the complicated anxieties and hopes of how it feels to live in this contemporary Japanese society. While they draw from their own experiences, the messaging of the work based on social critique has the potential to resonate among a wide group of audiences across the globe.

General Information and Timeline:

Duration: 45 minutes

Work-in-progress showing: December 5th-6th, 2025
(Yokohama, Japan, as part of YPAM)

Premiere Date: May 2026 (Aichi Prefectural Art Theater)

Work-in-progress Full Video:
<https://youtu.be/tpvEIbqwWVI>



Please contact Marika Niko (mniko@aaf.or.jp)
Producer at Aichi Prefectural Art Theater

Team Credit:

Choreography and Performance: Reina Okada / Yu Kuroda

Performance: Kotaro Sengoku

Producer: Eri Karatsu*

Technical Director: Yoshinori Sekoguchi*

Tour Coordinator: Marika Niko*

*Aichi Prefectural Art Theater

About the artist



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Null | Reina Okada and Yu Kuroda

Null was formed in 2019 by Shigakukan University graduates, creates choreography that fuses various dance styles with their sports backgrounds. Their movement vocabulary draws from everyday situations and authentic physical responses. By questioning established concepts and approaching them from a fresh perspective - the perspective of <zero =null > - they seek to discover new artistic possibilities. Aichi Prefectural Art Theater Dance Artist since 2025.

Reina Okada (Choreographer, Dancer)

Born in Ishikawa, Japan. Graduated from Shigakukan University. Reina Okada began modern dance at a young age with the Hakuyo Modern Dance Study Group under Junko Katsuki. Since 2019, she has been a member of the dance company <BATIK>, led by Ikuyo Kuroda.

Yu Kuroda (Choreographer, Dancer)

Born in Aichi, Japan. Graduated from Shigakukan University. He studied dance under Hiroe Ishihara in 2012. Since 2019, he has been a member of the dance company <Co. Un Yamada>.

Past works



OwnOwn

Taking inspiration from the Japanese word “roubai” which means “dismay,” this duet physically reflects on the tension between supporting one another and following one’s greed.

Choreography and Performance: Null (Reina Okada and Yu Kuroda)
Premiere: 2021



limit

Using pipes as a recurring motif, this work challenges the notion of time through physically demanding repetitive tasks.

Choreography and Performance: Null (Reina Okada and Yu Kuroda)
Performance: Keisuke Okamura, Yusuke Miya, Sengoku Kotaro, Shiori Hirata
Premiere: 2023

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Aichi Prefectural Art Theater

~ APAT ~ Nagoya, Japan

Aichi Prefectural Art Theater is located in Nagoya, Japan, and is one of the largest theaters in the region. Having Eri Karatsu as Artistic Director, the theater is well-known for its cutting-edge curation of contemporary dance in Japan. The theater consists of three spaces: Main Theater, Concert Hall, and Mini Theater.



Main Theater

2480 seats
Equipped with Japan's first multi-space stage and capable of hosting large-scale opera and ballet productions.



Concert Hall

1800 seats
A hall predominantly for musical performances, with a reverberation time of 2.1 sc. The pipe organ is one of the largest in Japan.



Mini Theater

Maximum 330 seats
A small-scale blackbox theater that can be set up as an end stage, arena stage, and more.



Artistic Director, Eri Karatsu

Over her 30-year career in the performing arts, Karatsu has produced and invited over 200 productions and projects ranging from large-scale international co-productions to experimental performances. She has organized numerous Japan tours that originate from Aichi and have been invited from various festivals and theaters in France, Hong Kong, and the United States. Since 2021, she has been the Artistic Director of Dance Base Yokohama. Since July 2021, she has been serving as a Managing Director and Artistic Director of Aichi Prefectural Art Theater.

Aichi Prefectural Art Theater (APAT)

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Operated by Aichi Arts Foundation

<https://www-stage.aac.pref.aichi.jp/index.html>

Constellation

~ Connecting Worlds with Aichi Prefectural Art Theater Dance Project ~

In 2024, Aichi Prefectural Art Theater (APAT) received a **multi-year grant from the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan** to promote Japanese artists internationally.

APAT is using this grant to support four artists including Null - Yu Kuroda and Reina Okada (others include Ruri Mito, Hana Sakai, and Yasutake Shimaji). As this grant allows theaters to support creative staff members, we are also supporting producers, stage managers, lighting technicians, and critics in this project through practice.

This grant allows APAT to create new works with the artists and staff, and support distribution opportunities.

Details: <https://aichi-constellation.com/en>



Collaboration with Dance Base Yokohama

For the last four years, APAT and Dance Base Yokohama (DaBY) have collaboratively provided opportunities for talented choreographers to make work and have organized numerous workshops and international performances. We focus on nurturing these creators and producing more refined content. APAT being a public institution and DaBY being a private organization, our collaborative efforts aim to build a better creative infrastructure for Japanese artists to make and share work with a wider public sphere.

DaBY: <https://dancebase.yokohama/>