

Program Facilitators :

BEBERICA representative, director, and actress Mana Yumii

Born in Kyoto. Yumii studied Performing Arts and Theater Pedagogy at the Kyoto University of Art and Design and ZA-KOENJI Public Theater Creative Theater Academy. She then went on to establish BEBERICA, a theater company which creates projects for audiences of both small children and adults. In addition to production activities, Yumii is currently planning, coordinating, and developing theater workshops for children. In 2017, she worked as a theater instructor at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus Children and Youth Theater. She was selected as a member of the Next Generation 2017, a platform for children's theater for the next generation, at the ASSITEJ World Congress in South Africa the same year. Yumii worked as a workshop coordinator at the ST Spot Yokohama Regional Cooperation Department until 2018. She was also a member of the "marebito theater company" as an actress until 2019.

A Message from Founder and BEBERICA Representative Mana Yumii :

Baby Theater is an art packed with a lot of potential for development in the future. I believe that projects by those who are currently practicing forms of baby theater in Asia can bring us together from now on and develop baby theater in a more interesting and significant manner than ever before.

For this reason, we aim to continue hosting this program.

The first theme of our inaugural year is "meet and learn".

Being located in Kinosaki Onsen in the midst of the lush natural environment of the Kinosaki International Arts Center, I would like to meet with people engaged in baby theater in Japan and other parts of Asia, get to know the backbone of one another's work, and value gaining a deeper knowledge of our activities.

Although participants from Asia will be taking part in the program online in light of the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19, I think that this will still be a valuable opportunity to learn about people engaged in the field of baby theater and their activities, and network with them.

The second theme is "contemplating baby theater during COVID-19".

With the current state of things, the coexistence of baby theater and the COVID-19 pandemic is a situation which a global community of artists and coordinators is grappling with for the first time in history. I hope that we can conduct this program with all of our participants embracing this theme, creating ways to tackle this problem and asking questions that one

would not be able to come up with on their own.

Additionally, for the main project, we are valuing the importance of the idea that this is “a meeting where we create things together.”

Instead of dividing ourselves into “staff and guests”, we would like to have this be a setting where all participants can work with each other. Basing discussion on the notion that “all participants have valuable bits of knowledge and thought processes,” we will be placing importance on time set aside for “self introductions and presenting on activities”.

Take this opportunity and apply soon!