

# NEW TOKYO NATIONAL THEATRE

## Introduction

New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT), was constructed in February 1997, is a theatre for the performing arts, such as opera, ballet, contemporary dance and drama.

There are three theatres, "Opera House", "Play House" and "The Pit", suitable for the kind of public performance staged to each. Many audiences appreciating the various productions are made and staged in the theatres having the highest quality equipment and the wide backstage.

Besides the public performances, various enterprises are undertaken, such as the training programmes for young artists, theatre rental for other performing arts groups, exhibition, public presentation of the video library and books, the public performances for a children and students, the back stage tours and the international exchange for performing arts, etc. Moreover, in The Stage Set & Design Centre (Choshi city, Chiba pref.), stage sceneries and costumes are stored and exhibited.

Management of NNTT including the enterprises in above is commissioned to New National Theatre Foundation (NNTF) from the independent administrative institution The Japan Arts Council. NNTT is managed by the funds placed in trust (including government grants), the admission revenues and the donations from many support company and supporting member, etc.

## FACILITIES

### Opera House



The Opera House's proscenium style stage consists of four areas: the main stage, a rear stage, and left and right wings. This structure, standard in European theatre architecture, has been built to suit grand opera. Within the Opera House, the walls and ceilings of the seating area are covered in thick panels of wood, to provide the ideal acoustics for the singers. In fact, the theatre itself acts as a musical instrument. The orchestra pit seats a full 120-person orchestra. The audience seating is in continuous 20-seat rows - the first use of this arrangement in Japan - to enhance the audience's focus on the stage.

## Lighting

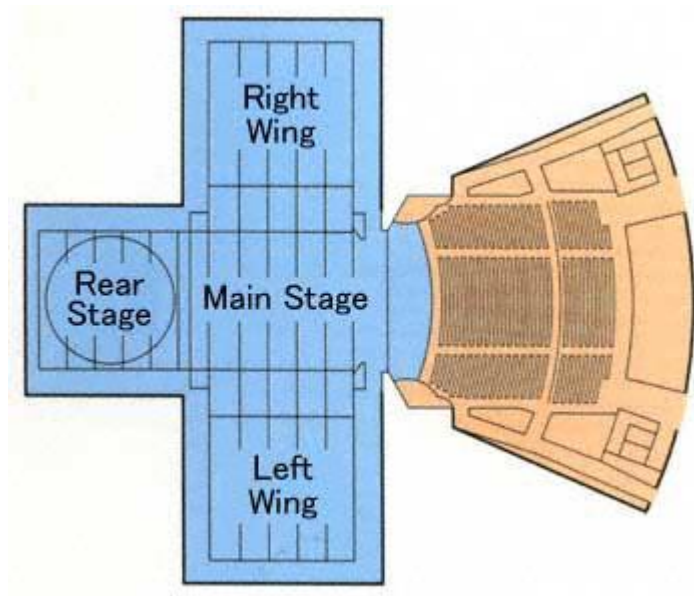
The portal bridge and portal tower have the width and height required to stage opera. There are four galleries with mainly profile spots as well as other lights. The four bridge ladders and multiple booms are full-scale facilities needed for ballet production.

## Sound

The acoustic environment has been designed to give the audience a clear, natural, beautiful sound. The fully digital console provides a warm, rich sound, and the sophisticated sound equipment is balanced to satisfy the most stringent demands of staging live vocal performances flexibly and intelligently.

***(Uitzonderlijke goede AKOESTIEK van de zalen)***

## Data



Capacity	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,814 seats</b>
<b>Ground floor</b>	868 seats
<b>(including 8 wheelchair seats) First balcony</b>	354 seats
<b>Second balcony</b>	292 seats
<b>Third balcony</b>	300 seats
<b>Seat size</b>	Width 52.5cm Depth 95cm
<b>Reverberation time</b>	1.4 to 1.6 seconds (when fully occupied)
Stage Facilities	
Four Stages	
<b>Proscenium opening</b>	Width 16.4m Height 12.5m
<b>Show portal opening</b>	Width 14.6m to 18.8m Height 1.4m to 15.0m
Main stage	
<b>Elevator stages</b>	18.2m * 3.64m * 5 sets
<b>Elevating level range</b>	+4.5m to -15.7m
<b>Heights</b>	30.5m from the Stage Floor level to the Grid -15.7m from the Stage Floor level to the Understage Floor level
Wing	
<b>Trucking wagons</b>	18.2m * 3.64m * 5 sets
Rear Stage	
<b>Sliding stage</b>	18.2m * 18.2m
<b>Revolving stage</b>	16.4m (diameter)
Orchestra pit	
<b>Floor space</b>	147m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Sinking level range</b>	±0m to -2.65m
<b>Accommodation</b>	four-section orchestra of approx. 120 members

# Playhouse



The Playhouse can be configured in proscenium style and open-apron style, and even the seating can be changed, giving the audience the impression of a new theatre at each production. In the proscenium style configuration, a sliding stage permits swift scene changes. The riser at the front of the stage can also serve as the orchestra pit.

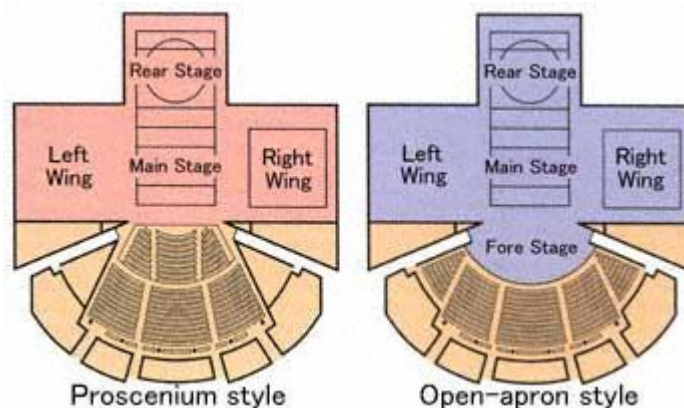
## Lighting

The main stage has four bridges and three galleries. There are three sliding ladders each leading up and down from the galleries. To accommodate the extra thrust of the stage in its open configuration, two bridges, four side bridges, and one lighting batten are located above the stage, just in front of the seating, to provide full lighting for the front of the stage.

## Sound

To support the open format, a dedicated flying speaker batten and circuits are installed above the front of the stage. The fully digital sound table developed for the Playhouse is located at the centre back of the first floor seating, so that the operator can adjust the sound based on the actual sound reaching the audience. The acoustical image system includes the wall speakers and ceiling speakers in the seating area as well as the speakers in the main stage for greater freedom in creating an acoustic space.

## Data



***(Uitzonderlijke goede AKOESTIEK van de zalen)***

<b>Capacity</b>	
<b>Proscenium style</b>	
<b>Total</b>	1,038 seats
<b>Ground floor</b>	851 seats (including 8 wheelchair seats)
<b>Balcony</b>	187 seats
<b>Open-apron style</b>	
<b>Total</b>	1,010 seats
<b>Ground floor</b>	761 seats (including 8 wheelchair seats)
<b>Balcony</b>	249 seats
<b>Seat size</b>	Width 52.5cm Depth 95cm
<b>Reverberation time</b>	1.0 to 1.3 seconds (when fully occupied)
<b>Stage Facilities</b>	
<b>Four Stages</b>	
<b>Proscenium opening</b>	Width 16.8m Height 9m
<b>Main stage</b>	
<b>Elevator stages</b>	14.58m * 3.64m * 2 sets 14.58m * 7.27m * 1 set
<b>Elevating level range</b>	+4.5m to -15.7m
<b>Heights</b>	21.3m from the Stage Floor level to the Grid -15.7m from the Stage Floor level to the Understage Floor level
<b>Wing: Stage left</b>	
<b>Sliding stage</b>	14.58m * 14.58m
<b>Rear Stage</b>	
<b>Sliding stage</b>	14.58m * 14.58m
<b>Revolving stage</b>	12.74m (diameter)
<b>Fore-stage</b>	
<b>Convertible</b>	Elevating level range +0.5m to -4.5m



# The Pit



*The Pit*

The open plan adopted in the Pit features a movable floor that can be used for both stage and seating. Raising or lowering that floor creates precisely the right performance space to suit a particular staging plan. The space can be configured into an end stage, and the seating adjusted from 340 to 468 seats. There are two balconies, the lower of which can either be an independent seating area or the highest level in graduated seating. The upper balcony can serve as a performance space, accommodate the technicians' lighting and sound equipment.

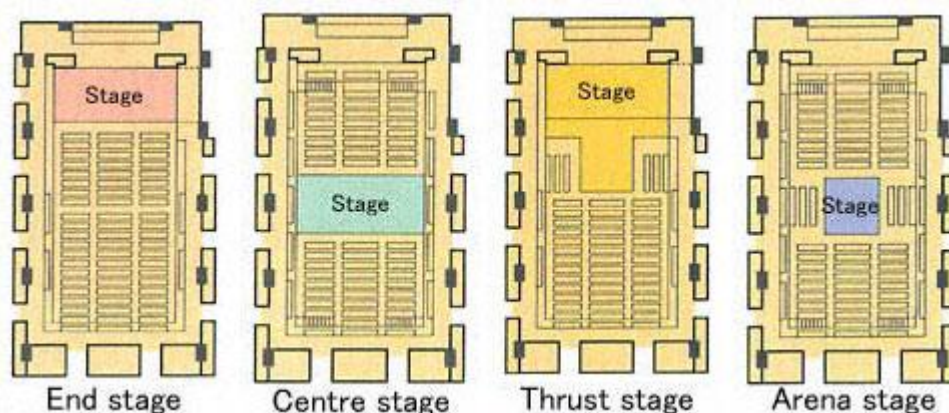
## Lighting

The 13 light battens at nearly equal intervals across the ceiling can provide the desired lighting, no matter how the stage is configured. The operation consoles on the flying floor equipment include four 1kW xenon follow spots, two 2.5kW HMIs, and a DMX512 digital circuit to control the latest lighting equipment.

## Sound

The movable sound table, peripherals, and flying speakers provide the flexibility needed for freestyle stage and seating configurations. The main sound circuits are in the operation consoles on the flying floor, but they can be switched between the audience balcony and the stage level. For video, seven movable monitors and five cameras provide flexible support for changes in the stage configuration.

## Data



***(Uitzonderlijke goede AKOESTIEK van de zalen)***

Capacity	
<b>End stage</b>	358, 394, 458 seats (Seating availability depends upon stage depth (5.4m - 9m))
<b>Thrust stage</b>	416 seats
<b>Centre stage</b>	420 seats
<b>Arena stage</b>	468 seats
<b>Seat size</b>	Width 50cm Depth 91cm
<b>Reverberation time</b>	0.8 to 1.0 seconds
Stage Facilities	
<b>Flat area</b>	27.6m * 16.6m, 10m(height)
<b>Flexible area</b>	25.5m * 12.7m
<b>Sub-stage</b>	9.9m * 3.3m (including a stage lift for stage loading)

## Young Artists Training Programme

### NNT Opera Studio

#### Training Programme for Opera Singers

The NNTT Opera Studio opened in April 1998, with the goal of training opera singers to go on to pursue international careers. Since 2001, the innovative curriculum has incorporated an international training system as part of efforts to broaden the scope of the program. It is a three-year training program headed up by a staff of experienced instructors, many hired from overseas. They select a repertoire for each trainee to suit his or her voice type, conduct private lessons with a focus on the arias, and also lead ensemble lessons that feature groupings of vocalists in different years of the program.

The students receive instruction in vocalization and the basics of acting, and attend lectures on a diversity of subjects essential to the education of a proper opera singer. The program also includes foreign language instruction, vital to the understanding and performance of the works. Because the Opera Studio is affiliated with the NNTT, students have a unique opportunity to observe opera rehearsals and performances, attend special lectures and master classes led by people involved in the productions, and get the latest on what's happening in the world of opera.

Students also get the chance to perform themselves, in trial productions held twice a year and an opera performed at the end of the academic year. The trial productions, in summer and autumn, focus on ensemble work as students perform a number of opera scenes. For the year-end opera, all students take part in development and performance of a full-scale work. Students also perform in concerts organized at the NNTT and other venues throughout the year.

## **NNT Ballet School**

### **Training Programme for Ballet Dancers**

Started in April 2001, the Ballet School is a two-year program with space for eight students, who work diligently day in, day out toward the goal of becoming professional ballet dancers.

The curriculum focuses on ballet class, variations, pas de deux and character dance, with lessons designed to hone the skills required to perform works of the classic repertoire. Students also take lessons designed to prepare them for performance of contemporary works. In addition, dancers practice an ongoing regimen of body conditioning to ensure a healthy balance between body and mind. The curriculum includes basic dramatic training, aimed at enhancing the dancer's skills in acting, interpretation and vocalization.

The students are also instructed in ballet history, ballet and music, theatre history, notation, human anatomy, etiquette, art history, sketch, foreign languages and nutritional science to give them the knowledge they will need as professional dancers. The NNTT also organizes events that give students the opportunity to meet the artists and production staff involved in various areas of the performing arts.

Using the theatre facilities of the NNTT, several recitals are held over the two-year term so students can showcase what they have learned, and the students also get practical experience by performing in regular productions of the New National Theatre Ballet.

## **NNT Drama Studio**

### **Training Programme for Actors**

The NNT Drama Studio opened in April 2005. The aim of the programme is to train talented candidates to give them the physical and verbal skills they need to take the lead as our next generation of fine stage actors. The programme lasts three years, and young actors follow a full-time curriculum, five days a week. Lessons are taught by accomplished instructors who are working, leading actors from Japan and abroad. As they progress through the programme, actors receive fundamental training in the use of voice and body — including a focus on Japanese traditional performing arts. Their studies also cover improvisation, the Method and other acting techniques, as well as analysis and interpretation of the text, scene studies, and actual acting practice.

The fifteen students of the 1st year entrants are currently taking part in this intensive programme, held in specially allocated studios in the Geino-Kadensha (operated by the Japan Council of Performers' Organizations) in Nishi-Shinjuku.

De akoestiek in de zalen is uitzonderlijk goed. Lees meer hierover in

***(Uitzonderlijke goede AKOESTIEK van de zalen)***