

## The World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2022 (PAT2022) July 30 (Sat) ~ August 3 (Wed), 2022

The history of Theatre Festivals in Toyama, Japan ~The very beginning~

In 1977, the Theatre Company BUNGEIZA from Toyama obtained the premium award in Dundalk International Maytime Festival, Ireland, which opened the way to international artistic and cultural exchanges in Toyama.

BUNGEIZA proposed to hold the "Toyama International Amateur Theatre Festival"

(TIATF'83)" in 1983. This was the first international amateur theatre festival ever held in Asia.



# ②Strong figures of high school students

In 1985, we held the "Toyama International High School Theatre Festival", and for the first time in the world's history, high school students from all over the world gathered in one place. In 1989, "Toyama International Youth Theatre Festival" was held, when more and more

gathered in one place. In 1989, "Toyama Internation
Youth Theatre Festival" was held, when more and more
applicants wished to participate, and there was an increasing

difficulty in selecting the groups. In **1992**, the second **TIATF'92** was held which was the 4th international theatre event in Toyama at that time.



ΓΙΔΤΕ′92

#### The first cruising performances in the world

In 1996 we held the Toyama International Theatre
Festival combined with International Children's Theatre
Festival. Also, for the first time in the world, we were
cruising around Toyama Bay on the Shin-Sakuramaru, a

large cruise liner, giving the performances on the board, while His

Imperial Highness the Crown Prince with Her Imperial Highness gave us the honor of visiting Toyama and appreciating "**The Marriage Proposal**" played by BUNGEIZA.



Shin-Sakuramaru

#### **Towards** the future of children

In **2000**, the **Toyama World Children's Theatre Festival** was held, officially being authorized by **International Amateur Theatre Association** (AITA/IATA asbl.). On this good occasion of organizing an international performing arts festival, we focused on children. Thus, after **Asia-Pacific Children's Theatre Festival** held in **2004**, the first

World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama

**(PAT2008)** expanded its frames including a larger variety of performing arts such as theatre, dance, music, musicals, etc.



His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince with Her Imperial Highness (at that time) giving the honor to the festival.

©Collaboration with foreign countries, finally bearing fruits

After the World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2012 (PAT2012), the

World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2016 (PAT2016) saw our memorial

of the 10th international event in total. On this special occasion, we performed in front of a large audience from abroad.

The results of our collaboration with overseas countries bore fruits of wonderful joint performances: folklore puppet drama "Sannen Netaro" created by BUNGEIZA and Griff Puppet Theatre (Hungary) and dance fantasy "The Little Match Girl" by KASAI Dancing Company and Bohemia Ballet (Czech Republic). Our

"The Little Match Girl" by KASAI Dancing Company and Bohemia Ballet

commemoration of the 10th festival was extremely successful.

#### 6PAT2020 and the pandemic

In 2020, we were preparing to hold our next festival;

the TOYAMA World Festival of Children's Theatre in 2020 (PAT2020). We have received a support in preparation from our prefectural government, with volunteers and promotion. However due to the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection which started at the beginning of the year, with the thought of the welfare of children and participants, sadly, we were forced to postpone our event and then

cancel it. However, we never felt the defeat and gather our forces again in order to hold our festival in the year 2022.



"Sannen Netaro" by Bungeiza and Griff Puppet Theatre

### The World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2022 (PAT2022)

From July 30 (Sat.) to August 3 (Wed.), 2022 (for 5 days)

In hopes that the pandemic will be settled by next summer, we are eagerly preparing to share the joy with children all over the world, through the performances by children and adults for



Festival's Mascot Patty promoting the event

Eunteers Dreparing for PAT2020 children, and international cultural exchanges under the theme "We build the future". This Festival aims to promote mutual cultural exchange and friendship among the participants through

the artistic performances of various genres (theatre, dance, music, etc.) and various exchange activities like workshops, an excursion in Toyama Prefecture, exchange party, etc, to deepen the mutual understanding, friendship and to learn about each other's culture. We believe that participants can fully enjoy their stay in Toyama.

