



## za-koenji public theatre GUIDE

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People are gathering,  
People meet,  
Something is born,  
Something is starting,  
This is how a day at Za-Koenji starts.  
And so does today.



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Welcome to Za-Koenji!

Za-Koenji is a public theatre for performing arts in Sugunami City designed by Toyo Ito. The building consists of three floors above ground and three floors below ground. It is equipped with three halls for the creation and diffusion of performing arts and for community-based activities, with rehearsal rooms and workspaces supporting the creation of plays, with the archive where works by contemporary playwrights are collected (Theatre Library) and with the Café and Restaurant "Henri Fabre" where not only food and drinks can be enjoyed. The aim is to create a space which is open for a wide variety of users as an agora for the town where everyone is having a good time.

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1st floor

From here you enter Za-Koenji 1.  
The lobby is directly accessible through the entry.  
It can be opened up to the outside to be transformed into one space with the exterior area of the entrance.



Lobby and stairs ■ Upon entering into the building, which through its shape gets the appearance of a bit off chocolate bar, the sunlight spreads little nostalgic spots of light, as if it was falling through a tree's foliage. First and foremost eye-catching is the round, light-studded stairwell leading from the second basement floor up to the second floor. This is the principal space that connects all the people who come to the theatre.

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Za no ichi ■ Every third Saturday of a month, a food market is taking place at the entrance area. The shops hold a collection of delicious things, not least some of the region's greatest culinary pride, like local grown vegetables from Sugunami.

Michikusa counter ■ An exhibition space of A4 size can be rented for 200 yen per month. The Michikusa counter serves as a distributor for culture, art and local information, such as flyers for performances, activity information and member recruitments.

Magazine

Issued twice a year, the theatre's public paper, the theatre communication magazine "Za-Koenji" gives information about the theatre as well as featuring the charm of Koenji City from a different perspective in each issue. With its impressive photos and rewarding, up-to-date articles it is being well received by the local community.

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Za-Koenji 1

The spacious auditorium "Za-Koenji 1" with its high ceiling evokes a feeling of openness and freedom. Here the theatre repertoire's six pieces are or were shown. To create new impressions all the time, we develop staged works with the audience every year. The Japan Playwright Association is joining a partnership agreement with Sugunami City and its performances span a wide range of genres. We are also holding events in conjunction with local festivals.

The theatre's repertoire ■

"Tabi-to-Aitsu-to-Ohimesama" Child Welfare Cultural Award 2011

"Lear" based on King Lear by Shakespeare

"American Rhapsody"

"George"

"Futago-no-Hoshi" Child Welfare Cultural Award recommended work 2013

"Ping-Pong" Child Welfare Cultural Award recommended work 2012



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### 2nd floor

The administration office and the box office are located here. Moreover here you will find another important feature of Za-Koenji, the spacious Café & Restaurant Henri Fabre.



### Café & Restaurant Henri Fabre

Here you can enjoy food and beverages or attend the picture book reading. The Café and restaurant is also available as event space for lectures or concerts. Every season 250 of the theatre's at least 1000 picture books are chosen and can be enjoyed here for free. On Saturday mornings "The picture book's journey at the Café" is held. There a picture book of your choice will be read to you one by one by "Hon-Yomi-Annainin-San", a real book reader. These readers who have a large knowledge about picture books consist of a large variety of people who participate voluntarily - from seniors, actors and voice actors to students.

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### 3rd floor

### Theatre Library (archive)

Here we have a collection of over 5000 works by playwrights who are playing an important role in modern Japan.

The library is open Tuesday to Sunday.

As it is a stack room, it is not directly accessible for visitors. So please consult the list at the reception desk on the second floor to find what you want to read and sign in. Your choice will be brought to you by the staff. The library's index can also be looked up on the theatre's website.

Our collection covers a wide range of topics, besides published plays and other scripts you will here find books relating to puppet shows, circus, cabaret, rakugo (story telling) and variety performances. The scripts that have been revised during the restages are also collected here.

Moreover you will find back issues of theatre magazines such as "Teatro", "Higeki Kigeki (Tragedy Comedy)" or "Shingeki (New Theatre)". It can be interesting to decrypt the work's historical background etc. from the magazine's photos and its advertisements. The Café & Restaurant Henri Fabre on the second floor provides a special corner with a monthly renewed collection of books. So please feel free to pick some books when enjoying a drink at the Café.



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### 2nd basement floor

The second basement floor is equipped with Za-Koenji 2, the Awaodori Hall and a gallery space for paintings or photography.

### Gallery Asobiba

The lobby which Za-Koenji 2 and the Awaodori Hall are sharing is at the same time the Gallery Asobiba. We use this space to introduce a new exhibition every month; to exhibit dynamic works, hosts unique exhibitions related to local events and support young artists.

### Awaodori Hall

Tokyo Koenji Awaodori is a cultural heritage of Koenji City. The theatre's Awaodori Hall plays an important role in preserving this tradition as it supports its activities in giving the possibility to practice the dance together with musicians. This is why all throughout the year practicing full of enthusiasm is taking place here. But we also transform this place into a playground for children due to a variety of workshops happening here on Sunday mornings.

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### Za-Koenji 2

Za-Koenji 2 impresses with its red chairs. It is a civic hall and available for applications through the Sazanka online system of Sugunami City. Drama, dance and music, as well as assemblies, recitals or lectures, from amateur shows to professional ones - the space can be easily used for a large variety of events. It is used also as venue for talks and concerts within the framework of Koenji's seasonal event "Koenji Fes" and "Koenji Engei Festival".



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3rd basement floor

The third basement floor provides rehearsal rooms, workshops for stage and costume design and the audio-visual studio.

Rehearsal rooms 1, 2 and 3

Rehearsals for the projects from the theatre's program take place in these rehearsal rooms. Here the theatre's future leading students are studying and learning in the year-round classes of the Creative Theatre Academy's two year program.

Every year since the first graduating class, the second year's graduate performance is Edward Bond's Trilogy "The War Plays". In the challenge of this performance they cooperate with professional staff.

Additional the rehearsal rooms have become the venue for theatre workshops for adults which target employees from schools or companies and people from the local community and workshops for children, as well as for drama seminars by the Japan Playwright Association and for drama critique courses organized by the Japanese Center of International Association of Theatre Critics/Theatre Arts.



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Workshop 1 (props), 2 (costumes) and audio-visual studio

This is where stage designing and production of properties and costumes as well as the audio and visual production take place. Properties and costume workshops for middle and high school students are also carried out here. The works that have been manufactured over a period of more than six months in these workshops will be displayed in the gallery on the second basement floor.



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Za-Koenji Index

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ZA-KOENJI 1

A small scale theatre whose stage and seating area's shape can be easily adjusted according to the repertoire. A precious time inspiring the imaginations of both, creators and audience, can be created here.

- Stage form: end stage (1.8×1.8m stage decks with understructure)
- Width: 16.2m / Basic depth: 7.2m / Floor: stained plywood / Height: 11.35m
- Area: 440m<sup>2</sup>
- Electric rigging system battens: 1 (backdrop)
- Movable winches: 16
- Fixation bridges: 4 (for lighting and set)
- Audience seating (basic form): 238 seats



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■2F Café Henri Fabre / Administration / Box Office

■3F Theatre Archive

■B1 Toilets



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■B2

ZA-KOENJI 2

Corresponding to the wide range of cultural and artistic activities, Za-Koenji 2 has a fixed raked seating. This hall, a standard theatre space, provides a harmonious balance between the technique's high quality and its ease of use.

- Stage form: end stage (main stage: 0.9×1.8m stage decks with understructure)
- Width: 14.9m, stage deck section 12.7m / Basic depth: 7.2m / Floor: stained plywood
- Height: 6,3m / Area: 330m<sup>2</sup>
- Electric rigging system battens: 10 (for lighting and set)
- Audience seating (maximum): fixed: 189 seats, removable: 109 seats, total: 298 seats



AWAODORI HALL

A room primary for the diffusion and for practicing of Awaodori. When there is no reservation for Awaodori, it is also available for hire for other purposes. As it is a simple space of clear plain wood, it also corresponds to various rehearsals and lectures.

- Stage form: flat stage
- Width: 9.2m-11m / Basic depth: 15.9m / Floor: Wooden floor / Height: 5.3m – 6.6m
- Area: 160m<sup>2</sup>
- Rigging system battens: 5 (for lighting and set)



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■B3

Rehearsal Room 1

Area: 150m<sup>2</sup>

Rehearsal Room 2

Area: 66m<sup>2</sup>

Rehearsal Room 3

Area: 73m<sup>2</sup>

Workshop (props) Area: 64m<sup>2</sup>

Workshop (costume) Area: 49m<sup>2</sup>

AV Studio

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Za-Koenji Public Theatre

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<http://za-koenji.jp/>

Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., closed during New Year's holidays and for maintenance

Managed by: NPO Creative Theatre Network

Opened: May 2009

52nd BSC Award 2011

Regional Art Award (Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Award) 2014

Number of floors: 6; 3 stories and 3 basement floors

Structural type: ferroconcrete (underground), iron frame (above ground)

Site area: 1649.26m<sup>2</sup>

Building area: 1107.86m<sup>2</sup>

Total floor area: 4997.74m<sup>2</sup>

Architect: Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects

Construction: Taisei Corporation

Stage technology equipment: Sansei Technologies, Inc.

Stage lighting equipment: Marumo Electric Co., Ltd.

Sound design equipment: Yamaha Sound Systems Inc.



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Za-Koenji

Design by Ariyama, Tatsuya and Iwabuchi,

Keiko (Ariyama Design Store)

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