



A Small Town, Big in the Arts Kinosaki Onsen and the Toyooka Theater Festival



Madama Butterfly, scheduled to be performed at the Kinosaki International Arts Center © Philip Frowein

Toyooka City is ecstatic to announce the beginning of the annual [Toyooka Theater Festival!](#)

As a small city with a profound focus on the arts, ranging from Kabuki performances to bag craftsmanship and from traditional straw craft to modern-art performances, it's no wonder that Toyooka City serves as the epicenter of art in Hyogo Prefecture of the Kansai Region.

With performances spread out across nine areas of Northern Hyogo throughout the month of September, the Toyooka Theater Festival connects local municipalities across Northern Hyogo Prefecture with both international and Japanese creatives.

Ticket sales for the various events and performances have gone on sale starting August 4, with organizers thrilled to welcome both locals and visitors alike to celebrate the arts thriving in a rural setting.



Furikuru Mono no Naka de, scheduled to be performed at Toyooka Citizens' Hall © Sankai Juku

Building Community Through Art

Through the integration of special currency, non-contact ticketing systems, and local tour planning, the Toyooka Theater Festival not only provides unique entertainment for visitors and locals, but also serves as a special opportunity for nurturing community development. Along with the aim of developing the local community through artistic endeavors, The Toyooka Theater Festival boasts the ambitious goal of becoming the number one theater festival in Asia within five years and one of the world's top theater festivals within ten years.



Multilingual Performances

Toyooka Theater Festival hosts performances in Japanese, English, French, and other languages, providing a sense of belonging and community among fellow art lovers who visit the festival, regardless of language.

Fringe Programs: Art for All

The beauty of Northern Hyogo serves as a stage for artists during the Theater Festival's fringe program. In addition to Director's program multilingual performances, the Toyooka Theater Festival continues to make accessibility to art a main priority of its mission by holding public fringe programs around Northern Hyogo. Coupled with the natural and dramatic beauty of locations such as [Takeno Beach](#) and the [Kannabe Highlands](#), visitors can enjoy performances such as concerts and dancing.



Left: *The Last Geisha* by Hydroblast © bozzo

Right: The aesthetic of something that never has been seen ~Toyooka ver.~ by *Mi-Mi-Bi* from DANCE BOX © Iwamoto Junpei

For inquiries regarding this press release

Toyooka Tourism Innovation Point of Contact: Danielle Leveille (info@toyooka-tourism.com)

tel. (+81) 0796-21-9002 website: visitkinosaki.com



[Kinosaki Onsen](#) is a town of time-honored hot springs dating back 1300 years ago. It is home to seven public bathhouses, all located within walking distance of each other and the train station. Guests are encouraged to wear yukata and geta, stroll through the town, and go onsen-hopping.

[Toyooka](#) is home to the Oriental White Stork, a bird that was revived from extinction in this very town. Tour the storks' natural habitat with an English-speaking guide and learn about the town's sustainability efforts, such as stork-friendly farming methods, to keep stork populations thriving and healthy.



[Izushi](#), lovingly referred to by locals as “Little Kyoto,” is popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of Edo-era Japan. Together with an English-speaking guide, tour Izushi Castle Ruins, Shinkoro clock tower, and Eirakukan Kabuki Theatre. Enjoy Izushi Sara Soba for lunch, buckwheat noodles served on five small plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area teeming with natural wonders and scenic views. Take flight into the highland skies on a paragliding adventure, hike a lava flow trail with an experienced guide, and enjoy relaxed camping and picnic spots together with the town's locals.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fisherman town that is a hidden gem among the northern coast of Hyogo Prefecture. Enjoy a plethora of outdoor activities such as sea kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and hiking Nekozaiki Peninsula, the northernmost point in Japan's Hyogo Prefecture.

[Tanto](#) is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature—including a festival of tulips in the spring and sunflowers in the summer.

