

Senior Theater Collective “The 10,000 Gold Theater 2016”

Saitama Prefecture



Situation

- The late Yukio Ninagawa, former arts director of Saitama Prefecture’s Saitama Arts Theater, founded the Saitama Gold Theater and wanted to give the opportunity to an even greater number of older folks, so he came up with a plan for a larger theatre collective.
- With the aim of creating an opportunity for a large number of senior citizens to shine and be energetic through expressive activities, Saitama Prefecture carried out “The 10,000 Gold Theater 2016”. as a mainstay of the culture programme in the prefecture for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

Action

- Around 1,600 people ranging in age from 60 were gathered by a public appeal and rehearsals took place.
- Seiji Nozoe, the successor to Mr. Ninagawa, wrote a play modelled on Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, called “The Gold Symphony, My Dream, Your dream.”
- The public performance was on Wednesday, 7 December at the Saitama Super Arena while approximately 8,000 people watched.

Impact

- This project demonstrated new possibilities for the performing arts in the form of collective theatre performed by the elderly.
 - In 2018, Saitama Prefecture and the Saitama Arts Foundation (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation), held an international performing arts festival featuring senior citizens called World Gold Theater 2018.
 - The Gold Arts Club was formed participants of “The 10,000 Gold Theater 2016 ” and held public performances of plays and dances
 - Saitama Prefecture is considering continuing this project to enable senior citizens to shine energetically through arts and culture.
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