

TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN

TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN Production Announcement Report

Message of support from Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike (read by the MC)

- I'm sure that many of you were impressed by the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.
- I was also moved by the story performed by Yui Wago of "The Little One-Winged Plane" that grew through various encounters and finally takes off with her own wings.
- The bond between the cast and crew at that time has remained as a legacy, and we are very happy to be able to present a new work from this team to coincide with the 2025 Deaflympics.
- Auditions for cast members will be held in November of this year, and we invite all performers to try out for the show, regardless of whether they have a disability.



From Kaiji Moriyama (Director and Choreographer)

- The team that created the opening ceremony for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games is joining with new members to present a stage production called TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN at the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre in November next year.
- The enthusiasm surrounding the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics opening ceremony remained high following the performance, and those of us who created it were all still feeling excited. We thought hard about what we could do next, and a few days later, we drew a picture of a steam locomotive. This work is the story of a young girl who encounters a mysterious train and embarks on a journey. I want to create an inspirational story where the girl meets various passengers, and by experiencing each other's stories, both the girl and the people she meets discover what is important to them.
- To what extent can we approach that story through physical expression? It would give me great pleasure if the audience appreciated the physical expression, and fully experienced the loneliness, pain, happiness, and joy presented on the stage. I will do my best to create a story that people will enjoy.
- Shuta Hasunuma, who directed the orchestra at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and played wonderful melodies, will also compose the music for this work. I am certain that he will make use of the bonds we made at the opening ceremony in this work.
- We want a wide variety of people to come together for this production, so we plan to hold public auditions. Details will be announced in early November. Watch for the announcement of the cast and crew who will be participating together in the future.



From Yui Wago (Performer)

- It's been three years since the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games, and I never thought I'd be able to see the team again, or be involved in creating a new work. I have improved my skill over the last three years, and I strongly hope to make use of this ability in this latest expression to create a performance that exceeds that of the opening ceremony.
- (Asked what advice she has for those who are about to audition) I'm not in a position to give advice, but I try to be myself. Whether it's an audition or a personal relationship, even if I don't get a part, I want people to see who I really am, so I decided to always be my unadorned self, without trying to make myself bigger than I am.



From Yoshie Kurisu (Director of Accessibility)

- As an accessibility director, I provide the direction that allows performers with disabilities to express themselves safely, and ensures that the work can be appreciated. I act as a bridge between performers with disabilities and professional artists such as Kaiji Moriyama, functioning as interpreter and facilitator so that they can make use of each other's strengths, and elevate the performance into new ideas of expression. I played a similar role at the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games, so I will be right beside them this time as well.
- At the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, we wanted to create a physical environment where people with disabilities would not have to hold back on performing because of their disabilities. We spent several years working on the preparations. I will do my best to ensure that the legacy that we cultivated does not end with the Paralympic Games, and is instilled throughout Tokyo, where the Deaflympics will be held next year. This project is being conducted with that in mind.

TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN

The dynamic performance of diverse personalities created an inspiring opening ceremony at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

A new adventure is born from that bond and legacy –
The stage performance **TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN**

On August 24, 2021, the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, based on the concept of “WE HAVE WINGS,” told the story of a small airplane with one wing.

At center stage among more than 700 performers, the one-winged plane was portrayed by a girl in a wheelchair. Yui Wago, 13 years old at the time, was selected by the public to portray the “little one-winged plane” that had given up ever trying to fly. The moving story depicts the plane encountering various vehicles played by performers with rich personalities, gaining courage and finally taking off.

The opening ceremony, which artistically depicted the dynamism of diverse personalities in a stunning performance, was highly acclaimed both in Japan and abroad. And despite the absence of an audience, moved many viewers who watched it on screens.

In fall 2025, four years after this incredible emotional experience, the World Athletics Championships and Deaflympics will be held in Tokyo, and a new story will be born from the bonds and legacy of that performance.

This new adventure story, directed and choreographed by Kaiji Moriyama, who served as the director and chief choreographer of the opening ceremony, and starring Yui Wago, who played the one-winged plane, will be presented by a performing company that brings together diverse personalities that transcend disability and non-disability.



Photo: Yohei Osada / AFLO SPORT



Photo: The New York Times/Redux/AFLO

TOKYO FORWARD 2025 Cultural Program

TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN: Outline

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| 1) Performance Period | Late November 2025 |
| 2) Venue | Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre Playhouse |
| 3) Direction & Choreography | Kaiji Moriyama (Director and chief choreographer for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games opening) |
| 4) Music | Shuta Hasunuma (Arrangement of the Paralympic Hymn at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, and conductor for the Para Orchestra) |
| 5) Performance | Yui Wago (Lead performer at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games opening ceremony) and others |
| 6) Accessibility Director | Yoshie Kurisu (General supervision of DE&I as stage advisor for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics) |
| 7) Accessibility Advisor | Asako Hirokawa (TA-net) |
| 8) Special Ambassador | Worry Kinoshita (General director for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games opening ceremony) |
| 9) Planning & Production | Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre |
| 10) Sponsorship | Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre |

About the TOKYO FORWARD 2025 Cultural Program

With the World Athletics Championships and Deaflympics to be held in Tokyo in 2025, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government is sponsoring three art projects to “Unite, connect, and create with diverse participants” that will continue and build on the legacy of the Tokyo 2020 Games. Through the festival-themed event, the performing arts production in collaboration between deaf and hearing people, and the new performance that continues the legacy of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Opening Ceremony, the program will promote the allure of Tokyo’s arts and culture, advance efforts to realize an inclusive society, and raise enthusiasm for both sports festivals through art and culture.

TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN

Three main points of *TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN*

◆The 2021 opening ceremony without spectators and its legacy

Even though the event was held without spectators, the cast and crew felt a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment, and continued to nurture the bonds and legacy of their community after the event ended. Four years after the Olympic Games, a new performance will emerge from those bonds. Kaiji Moriyama, chief choreographer and director of the opening ceremony, will be the main artist. He will be joined by new colleagues at the heart of the bond and legacy from the opening ceremony, forming a company of diverse personalities to present an engaging presentation.

◆A new performance company centered on Kaiji Moriyama

Kaiji Moriyama, who coordinated the opening ceremony, is a skilled dancer and choreographer. He is in demand for a wide range of projects, and is highly regarded for his achievements both in Japan and abroad. The company will include performer Yui Wago, who starred as the one-winged plane, as well as musician Shuta Hasunuma, who directed the Para Orchestra at the opening ceremony with such beautiful music. With Hasunuma's legacy from the opening ceremony in mind, the music created together with the cast and crew is also a key component of this performance. The original cast and crew, united by the bonds from the opening ceremony, will be joined by charismatic new cast members and artists. Watch for member announcements in the future.

◆TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN, A dance performance to thrill everyone

The motif for the performance is "Train." This adventure story of a girl in a wheelchair traveling on a mysterious steam locomotive is told through music and words intertwined with physical expression. Based on a stunning dance performance, her encounters with various passengers and events are presented by cast members with rich personalities, and artists expressing themselves in a variety of ways. In consideration of audience accessibility, the show is being designed so that everyone, regardless of disability, can enjoy it together. Be sure to watch for this novel dance performance that will thrill everyone!

**Auditions will be held for performers to join *TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN* and develop the show together.
Please see the following websites for details.**

- Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre website: <https://www.geigeki.jp/>
- Official website: <https://www.train-train-train.com>

*Applications accepted regardless of disability.

*Document and in-person assessments are planned.

*Auditions are scheduled for January 2025. The rehearsal and production period will be from October to November 2025.

Inquiries

Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre

Tel: 03-5391-2115 (Weekdays 11:00~16:00, including closed periods)

*The theater will be closed until the end of July 2025 (planned) for renovations.