



*Once More, in the Same Room (2026), Session House, Kagurazaka. Photo: Hiroyasu Ohora*

# Naoko Ikegami

池上 直子

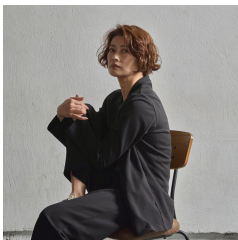
Choreographer & Director / Artistic Director, Dance Marché

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*From the body, a story is born.*

## PROFILE

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Studied modern dance under Sachitomo Homma and classical ballet under Toshinori Takagi. Graduated from the College of Art, Nihon University. She has performed as a dancer in works by choreographers from Japan and abroad, across modern, contemporary, and ballet repertoire. In 2010 she founded the dance company Dance Marché, directing and choreographing its productions while also performing in them.

In 2016 she was selected for the Japanese Government Overseas Study Programme for Artists (Agency for Cultural Affairs), training with the Dance Company of Theater Regensburg in Germany. The following year she danced Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, choreographed by the company's artistic director Yuki Mori. On returning to Japan, she ran the Dancer Development Project (2019–2022), which drew wide attention and support to the working conditions of young dancers in Japan.

Her recent work is known for taking richly narrative material — from Japanese classical sources to Western stories — and staging it with a strong sense of drama and swift, propulsive development. Alongside her stage work she writes and directs music-and-narration theatre pieces and directs film.

## SELECTED WORKS (Choreography & Direction)

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Once More, in the Same Room (2026), Session House, Kagurazaka — co-created with Ygal (piano/composition)

The Little Prince — featuring Haruo Niyama

Tamamo-no-Mae — featuring Nozomi Iijima, Kei Sugino

Phantom — featuring Takuro Watanabe & Yuri Kimura / Yuya Yoshizaki & Nozomi Matsuoka

Botan Dōrō (The Peony Lantern) — featuring Yui Yonezawa & Naoya Homan / Yuri Kimura & Yasuo Atsuji

## COMMISSIONS & OTHER WORK

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Choreography commissions: Yamato City Ballet / Japan Ballet Association / Nagano Cultural Promotion Foundation / Shinagawa Canal Art Moment

Script & direction, music-and-narration theatre: The Wizard of Oz, Alice in Wonderland, The Adventures of Sinbad

Film direction: Yonako Great Falls tourism promotional video

## AWARDS & RESIDENCY

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2019 & 2022 Best Young Choreographer, On Stage Newspaper

2016 Overseas Study Programme for Artists, Agency for Cultural Affairs (Regensburg, Germany)

## BROADCAST

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Broadcast for four consecutive years since 2023 on satonoka 4K, a nationally distributed channel originating from Japan's cable television network.

2026 Once More, in the Same Room (scheduled)

2025 Chopin's Lover and Foldscape, from Dance Marché's 15th anniversary programme Re:sonic

2024 Eden

2023 The Little Prince, Nagano performance

satonoka broadcasts regional culture from across Japan in 4K and HD. All works filmed in 4K; video production by Goolight (Nagano).

## CURRENT PROJECTS

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**Tennoz Waterborne Opera 2026: The Little Mermaid — Choreography and direction of the Pretheater Party. 6–8 November 2026, floating stage on the Tennoz Canal, Tokyo (three nights, approx. 900 seats).**

Executive producer: Rumiko Hasegawa (More Than Musical) / Director: Tetsu Taoshita / Music director: Sho Shibata / Presented by the Tennoz Canalside Revitalisation Association.

Living Day Project — a three-year project built around Once More, in the Same Room, touring the work through a succession of "rooms" across Japan. The aim is a cycle in which each performance gives rise to the next invitation.

## CONTACT

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