



Festival Night Market in Toyooka ©Ayaka TOMOKANE

[One of Asia's Largest Theater Festivals!](#)

[Visit Kinokasa Onsen and the September Toyooka Theater Festival](#)



**Previous performance IKKO TAMURA /
Dairakudakan + Toyooka citizen's butoh company
"Tajima Kanjyakuro"**

From September 18 to 27, the Toyooka Theater Festival Draws Visitors for Another Round of Exciting Performances. 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 displays, it's no wonder that Toyooka City serves as an epicenter of art in Japan. The Toyooka Theater Festival is one of the largest events of its kind in Asia. Hosting performances in Japanese, English, French, and other languages, the festival provides a sense of belonging and community among fellow art lovers who visit the area, regardless of language.

The Town Becomes the Stage

From the scenic coastline of Takeno Beach to the dramatic lava craters of the Kannabe Highlands, artists merge their stages with the natural landscapes of Toyooka City and the surrounding areas. Indoor events make exceptional use of local theaters, shopping arcades, and even public bathhouses! Side by side with locals, experience unparalleled artistic expression in residential, rural locations.



Takeno Beach stage

Fringe Street Performances

The serene streets of Kinosaki Onsen and the surrounding areas spring to life with the creative imaginations of street performers, musicians, and magicians. These Fringe Street events bring free performances to everyday locations including shrines, Toyooka City Hall, and train stations.



Street Performance by HOSHIMARU
©Ayaka TOMOKANE



Barrel-Organist KINO ©Ayaka TOMOKANE

Connect with Locals at Machi no Kichi Antenna



Located on Daikai Street near Toyooka Station, Machi no Kichi Antenna is a convenient stop for inquiring about performances, meeting local creatives, and browsing official festival merchandise.

Talk with the Artist, Yasuhito Suzuki "Amplified Routines"
©Ayaka TOMOKANE

Experience Local Narratives

The Toyooka Theater Festival is not only a chance for artists to present their performances, but also a place where artists create and develop their works while they stay in Toyooka City. There are always works born here, researching local narratives and created with local people. "Tanto Sai Sai" is performed by local people based on the traditional folklore performance carried down through generations in Tanto Farming Village. Last year, "The Last Geishas: Re-creation" was created with Hidemi, the final Geisha in Kinosaki Onsen.



"TANTO SAI SAI" by Karasuma Stroke Rock and People of Tanto ©Ayaka TOMOKANE



Previous performance "The Last Geishas: Re-creation"
Hydroblast (Shingo Ota/Kyoko Takenaka) ©bozzo



[Toyooka](#) is home to the Oriental White Stork, a national natural treasure that was revived from extinction in this very city. Toyooka's efforts restored the Oriental White Stork population, and now over 400 fly the skies of Japan. Toyooka is also known as one of Japan's largest producers of handbags.

[Kinosaki Onsen](#) is a town of time-honored tradition dating back 1300 years ago. It is home to seven tattoo-friendly public hot springs, all within walking distance. Guests wear yukata and geta, stroll through the town, and enjoy onsen-hopping.



[Izushi](#) is a residential castle town, popular for its nostalgic atmosphere of samurai-era Japan. It is home to many interesting attractions such as castle ruins, a samurai house, a kabuki theater, and a Japanese-style clock tower. The town's specialty is Izushi Sara Soba, buckwheat noodles served in small portions on five plates.

[Kannabe](#) is a mountainous area with outdoor activities year-round and a perfect destination for adventure travelers. In the winter, visitors go skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and sledding, and during the green season, hiking, paragliding, fishing, and tree climbing are popular pastimes.



[Takeno](#) is a quaint fishing and beach town with landscapes part of the UNESCO San'in Kaigan Geopark. Takeno beach has clear, blue waters while the surrounding mountains offer great hiking opportunities. Visitors stroll through the peaceful town, discovering small shops and traditional cedar wood homes.

[Tanto](#) is a quiet countryside town with magnificent nature including hot springs, a giant field of tulips in the spring, brilliant red-leaved trees in the fall, and waterfall meditation.

