



**PRESS RELEASE
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**DiverseWorks presents
FAIFAI: *Anton, Neko, Kuri*
December 6 & 7, 2013**

**Texas-debut of the Celebrated Japanese Experimental Theater Company
during their First U.S. Tour**



(Houston, TX, November 19, 2013) – DiverseWorks, Houston's multidisciplinary arts space, presents the Texas debut of Faifai, the Tokyo-based theater company known for their pop aesthetics, energetic groove, and experimental style that pushes the narrative boundaries of dramatic theater.

Faifai performs their most recent work, *Anton, Neko, Kuri*, at DiverseWorks December 6 and 7, 2013 at 7 pm.

Combining pop visuals and music with graffiti-like body movements, *Anton, Neko, Kuri* follows the alternately humorous and poignant travails of a sick stray cat and his encounters with individuals in his neighborhood. Faifai uses unconventional performance techniques – including cutting up, sampling and transforming performers' words into music, and inviting audience intervention – in order to blend disciplines, generate new realities, and reveal the creative process. *Anton, Neko, Kuri* transcends language barriers through a hybrid style that combines eclectic choreography and multiple video projections of English-language text with a polyphonic soundscape.

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PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Dates / Times:

Friday, December 6, 2013 / Doors at 7 pm, Performance at 7:30
Saturday, December 7, 2013 / Doors at 7 pm, Performance at 7:30

Ticketing:

Admission is FREE, but seating is limited.

Advance reservations requested and may be made online:

<http://www.diverseworks.org/in-the-works/exhibition-performance/faifai-anton-neko-kuri>

Location:

DiverseWorks, 4102 Fannin Street, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77004
(entrance on Cleburne Street between Fannin and Main)

ABOUT FAIFAI

Faifai is a Tokyo-based theater company established in 2004. It changed its name from “koyubichi” to “Faifai” in 2008. Since then, they have been active in the vibrant theater scene of Japan’s capital, contributing their own unique vision and sensibility to the field of contemporary performing arts. Interested in making theater accessible to a wide range of audiences while maintaining the integrity of theatrical research, Faifai has successfully developed a new form of theater that is a cross between a play and a party/event.

Incorporating dynamic disciplines like electro music, video and dance, Faifai’s work depicts human relationships in today’s complex society with irony, sensitivity, and humor. As a major representative of Japan’s “Trash & Fresh” subculture, the group has been collaborating with artists from various fields, including architecture, dance, device-art, and contemporary music. Their major theater works include *My Name is I LOVE YOU* (2009), *The Story of Y o’clock* (2010), *SHIBAHAMA* (2010), and *Anton, Neko, Kuri* (2012).

For their first U.S. tour in 2013 Faifai is presenting *Anton, Neko, Kuri*, nominated for the Toyota Choreography Award in 2012, at Legion Arts, Cedar Rapids, IA; REDCAT Roy & Edna Disney/CalArts Theater, Los Angeles, CA; DiverseWorks, Houston, TX; and the Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, LA.

MORE INFORMATION

Faifai’s website: <http://faifai.tv/?lang=en>

Download images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zpv2qjxm8c47d96/g3_CYqpIEW

SUPPORT

This presentation is made possible by the generous support of the Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program and by the US/Japan Connection, a partnership between the National Performance Network International Program and the Japan Contemporary Dance Network (JCDN) designed to increase artistic exchange between the U.S. and Japan with funding from the Japan Foundation’s Center for Global Partnerships, The US/Japan Friendship Commission, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. For further information, visit the NPN website at npnweb.org.



ARTS COUNCIL TOKYO



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DiverseWorks is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, foundations, corporations, businesses, and individuals – including DiverseWorks Members.

DiverseWorks Season Sponsors: The Brown Foundation, Inc., The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts, The Houston Endowment, and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Additional In-Kind Support: Saint Arnold Brewing Company, Topo Chico USA



About DiverseWorks

DiverseWorks is a non-profit art center in Houston, Texas dedicated to commissioning and presenting new visual, performing, and literary art. DiverseWorks is a place where the process of creating art is valued and where artists can test new ideas in the public arena. By encouraging the investigation of current artistic, cultural, and social issues, DiverseWorks builds, educates, and sustains audiences for contemporary art.

DiverseWorks

4102 Fannin, Suite 200

Houston, TX 77004

(entrance on Cleburne between Fannin and Main)

(713) 223-8346

Gallery Hours: Wednesdays, noon – 8 pm / Thursdays – Saturdays, noon – 6 pm / or by appointment

Admission is open to the public and FREE

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