

## **Programme:**

### **PERFORMANCES**

#### **Duo Kanadé**

When the delicate strings of the koto meet the warm breath of the saxophone, a new harmony is born. This Japanese-Belgian duo reimagines classical Japanese traditions through dialogue with Western compositions, creating music that feels both ancient and fresh. Their recital goes beyond cultural fusion: it is a humanistic invitation to listen, connect, and embrace a universal message of peace.

#### **Saint December Trio**

Saint December Trio is an alternative folk project led by Brussels-based singer-songwriter Christopher Malapitan. With tenor ukulele, calabash percussion, double bass and warm vocal harmonies, the trio weaves rhythmic and melodic soundscapes that carry themes of memory, identity, and belonging. Their music blends intimacy with energy, inviting listeners into stories that are both deeply personal and universally relatable.

#### **Steve Sonic**

Steve Sonic is a Belgian singer with Filipino roots whose powerful voice has taken him from karaoke contests to national TV shows like The Voice and Starstruck, where he shined as “Bruno Mars.” He has also performed as a guest vocalist with REGI LIVE. Inspired by artists like Ed Sheeran, The Weeknd and Linkin Park, Steve is now focusing on his own songs, combining pop, soul and rock influences into a dynamic stage presence.

#### **Baozi**

MUSIC Baozi is a 22-year-old French singer-songwriter and producer from Hong Kong. Her music blends house, techno and pop into introspective yet danceable tracks, drawing inspiration from artists like Yaeji and Billie Eilish. With singles such as Too Bad and Blue, and her debut EP Overstepped (2025), she is carving out a unique sonic identity where vulnerability meets strength. On stage, Baozi creates an immersive experience, combining sound and visuals to build a sincere connection with her audience.

#### **cát nguyên**

cát nguyên (they/them) is a queer, non-binary storyteller and experimental poet. Their art is rooted in movement, migration, grief and love, transforming poetry into an immersive experience. Through cảm diễn (emotional embodiment), they weave together Vietnamese spirituality, folklore and ancestral wisdom with performance, voice and presence dismantling boundaries and reimagining what poetry can be.

#### **Dwi Mekar**

Balinese dance is a living art where every movement, mask and rhythm tells a story. Known for its powerful energy, grounded movements and vibrant costumes, it celebrates beauty, ritual and community. Dwi Mekar Belgium, an offshoot of the Balinese arts center founded in 1991, brings this tradition to life on our stage. Their performance combines heritage and passion, offering a glimpse into the heart of Bali.

**Puki Harana**

Meet Puki Harana, Belgium's number one Filipina drag queen: a living celebration of identity, history, and resistance. As part of the Filipino diaspora, she embodies ancestral power once held by the babaylan: queer and gender-fluid spiritual leaders in pre-colonial Philippines. Through her performances, Puki fuses ancient queerness with modern drag artistry, reclaiming what was nearly erased. Fierce, beautiful, unforgettable.

**Mashiro Tamura**

Mashiro is an interdisciplinary performer whose work flows between dance and music, blurring boundaries to create something entirely her own. Having grown up in multiple countries, her art is shaped by constant encounters with difference, yet always rooted in the pull of home culture. For Mashiro, dance has become a mother tongue: a way of expressing plurality, curiosity and the many layers of identity.

## WORKSHOPS

**Creative workshops by Kokoro Creations**

Born in Kyoto and now based in Belgium, Eri of Kokoro Creations shares her love for Japanese handcraft. Through her workshops she blends tradition with a contemporary spirit: creating with heart and soul, and building a bridge between heritage and personal expression.

**Sashiko**

Sashiko is a centuries-old Japanese embroidery technique, once used to repair and strengthen fabric. Today, it has become a mindful and creative way to decorate textiles with beautiful geometric patterns. In this workshop, you'll discover the rhythm of stitching and take home your own handmade piece. Limited spots! Sign up in advance.

**Kumihimo**

Kumihimo, the traditional art of braiding cords, has been practiced in Japan since the time of the samurai. Once used for armor and ceremonial wear, it's now also a way to create colorful and personal accessories. In this workshop, you'll learn the basics of braiding and craft your own unique cord. Limited spots! Sign up in advance.

# Dance workshops

## **Balinese dance by Dwi Mekar**

Balinese dance is an ancient art form that blends spirituality, tradition, and expression. In this workshop, you'll discover the basics of Balinese dance. The first part is an accessible introduction for everyone, followed by a second session for those who wish to go deeper or already have experience. Limited spots! Sign up in advance.

## **K-pop Dance by Beyond The Dance**

From ballet to hiphop to K-pop dance has always been Ming-Sum's way to release stress, push boundaries and connect with others. Since 2022 she's been teaching at Beyond The Dance in Leuven, where fun and community come first. Whether you're a pro or a total beginner: join the workshop, feel the energy, and dance your heart out to K-pop! Limited spots! Sign up in advance.

# VENDORS

## **Henna Bliss**

Parel is a talented henna artist who turns every design into a moment of peace, creativity and connection. Her elegant patterns bring joy and beauty. Get yours at Asian Persuasion!

## **Inishi Enishi**

Discover authentic vintage Japanese kimonos from the 1940s to the 1980s. Each piece is handpicked with care. Every kimono is unique: no two are the same. You might just find the perfect kimono at Asian Persuasion!

## **Native Indo**

Native Indonesia is an Antwerp-based collective dedicated to sharing Indonesian culture. At Asian Persuasion, they'll bring a vibrant booth full of Indonesian products & traditions, a celebration of heritage, community and togetherness.

## **Curieus**

TBC

## **CoCo Fresh**

TBC

## **Foocha**

TBC

# SHORTFILMS

# PANEL