SANKAI JUKU
TOTEM—VOID AND HEIGHT
NOVEMBER5-7
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

CREDITS

Directed, Choreographed, and Conceived by
Ushio Amagatsu

Décor
From Natsuyuki Nakanishi "Quartet, Touching Down on Land and Touching Down on Water X"

Music by
Takashi Kako, Yochiro Yoshikawa

Dancers
Semimaru , Sho Takeuchi, Akihito Ichihara, Dai Matsuoka, Norihito Ishii, Taiki Iwamoto, Makoto Takese, Sotaro Ito

Assistant Director
Semimaru

Stage Manager
Kazuhiko Nakahara

Assistant Stage Manager
Keisuke Watanabe

Lighting
Genta Iwamura

Sound
Akira Aikawa

Make up provided by
Shiseido Company, Limited.

Company Administration
Midori Okuyama, Asami Hori

Music Production
IO-Factory inc

Co-produced by
Kitakyushu Performing Arts Center, Sankai Juku

North American Tour Produced by
Pomegranate Arts, Linda Brumbach & Alisa E. Regas for Sankai Juku

Pomegranate Arts Production Supervisor
Tony Crawford

Pomegranate Arts Tour Manager
Amit Hevrony

TOTEM—Void and Height's presentation at NYU Skirball is made possible in part with generous support from **Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels**.

The 2026 North American tour of Sankai Juku is supported by **the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan** through the Japan Arts Council

WHO'S WHO

Founded in Tokyo in 1975, **Sankai Juku** has become one of the most internationally recognized butoh companies in the world. Since its first overseas tour in 1980, the company has performed in more than forty countries and developed a longstanding relationship with the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, which has co-produced many of its works. Sankai Juku's distinctive movement language is rooted in a highly refined approach to space, time and the body, and the company continues to tour internationally with a repertory created over nearly five decades.

Born in Yokosuka, Japan, in 1949, **Ushio Amagatsu** was Sankai Juku's founder, director, choreographer and designer, and one of the defining figures of second-generation butoh. He described his approach as a "dialogue with gravity": not an attempt to escape gravity, but to move in concert with it. Beginning with works such as Amagatsu Sho, Kinkan Shonen and Sholiba, he developed a theatrical language that combined movement, visual composition, sound and space with extraordinary precision. From 1981 onward, Paris became an important center for his work.

Amagatsu also worked extensively beyond Sankai Juku. He created *Fushi* for Jacob's Pillow in 1988 with music by Philip Glass, served as artistic director of Spiral Hall in Tokyo, and directed operas including Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* and Peter Eötvös's *Three Sisters* and *Lady Sarashina*. His work received major honors in Japan and France, including Japan's Purple Ribbon Medal, the Art Encouragement Prize from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and appointment as Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. *TOTEM—Void and Height* was completed shortly before his death in March 2024 at the age of 74.

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