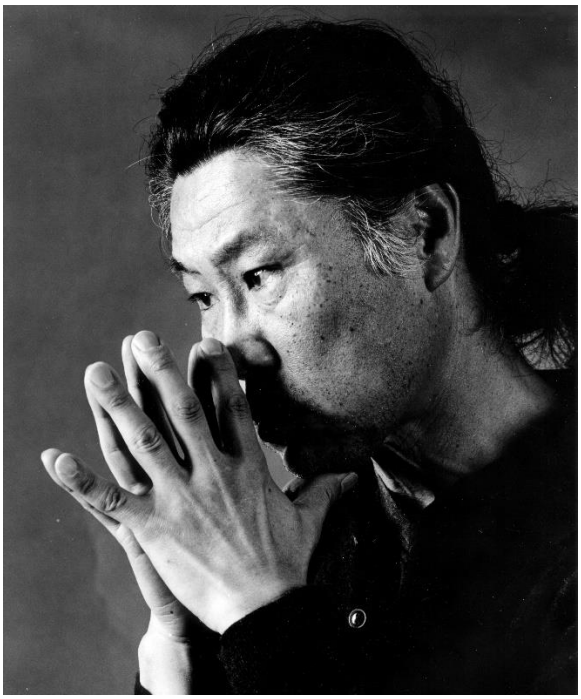
DEUTSCHER TANZPREIS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
as part of the German Dance Award 2026

Tadashi Endo



Tadashi Endo ©Udo Razdkowski

Biography – Tadashi Endo

Tadashi Endo - born in 1947 in Beijing, Japan, was a Butoh dancer, choreographer, director of the Butoh Centrum MAMU in Göttingen and artistic director of the Butoh Festivals MAMU in Göttingen as well as a medallist of honour of the city of Göttingen. After studying directing at the famous Max Reinhardt Seminar in Vienna, Tadashi Endo went on tour as a solo dance performer. In 1989, he met the great Butoh master Kazuo Ohno for the first time, who recognised Endo's dance as Butoh dance. Since then, Tadashi Endo has developed his aesthetic, expressive and very unique Butoh style. His dance is like a tightrope walk between Eastern and Western cultures and the art forms of theatre, performance and dance, whereby he achieves a maximum of tension and emotion in the transformation of his images with a minimum of movement - Butoh MA.

MA - ‘the void’ or ‘spaces between things’ - ‘in between’, it is these ‘in-between spaces’ that Tadashi Endo makes visible, with almost invisible movements but an intense tension that

he radiates with extreme concentration and body control. All this turns his dance into a representation of motionless movement. His body is at rest, even though he is dancing. He does not dance - he is danced.

Tadashi Endo has toured worldwide with his solo pieces MA, TASOGARE, QUAI DAN, ONE NINE FOUR SEVEN, KARA DA KARA, SYNAPSIS (invitation to the 'German Year 2005, Tokyo/Japan), IKIRU- Hommage à Pina Bausch, FUKUSHIMA MON AMOUR, SHINKAI NO TAMASHII - Homage to the drowned refugees in the Mediterranean. He has choreographed dance theatre pieces for his company the MAMU DANCE THEATER, e.g. METASEQUOIA, SENRO, MINOTAURUS, MIGRATION 01, BACK PACK, KI ME RA and I. NTER S. EX, as well as SHI ZEN for the Brazilian company LUME, (nominated for the Shell Prize for Dance Theatre and Lighting Design 2004/Brazil and for No Ballett Ludwigshafen 2006), SOPRO for Carlos Simioni and VOCE for Cris Callo, both at LUME/Brazil. In August 2010, Tadashi Endo premiered the dance theatre piece MA be MA, which he created with 13 Brazilian dancers and dealt with the work and life of the Brazilian painter Manabu Mabe. November 2012 saw the premiere of DÔ, a dance theatre production with Bando de Teatro Olodum in Salvador/Bahia. In 2014, Tadashi Endo choreographed a dance theatre piece entitled BLACK MIRROR for Eugenia Vargas and her company El Laboratorio Escenico Danza Teatro Ritual in Mexico City, and in 2015 AMORPHA VOICE for Rosario Ordonez in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Since 2005, he has worked closely with the film and opera director Doris Dörrie, e.g. for the opera 'Madame Butterfly' (premiere 2006), the film 'Kirschblüten-Hanami' (Bavarian Film Award 2007, Silver Bear for Best Film 2007, German Film Award 2007) and the opera 'Admeto' (Herald Award 2009).
In 2011, Doris Dörrie staged the opera 'Don Giovanni' by W.A. Mozart at the Hamburg State Opera. Tadashi was not only involved as a choreographer, but also danced Death - La Muerte.
Tadashi Endo was represented in many genres. He has appeared in various other film roles on the big screen, including in 'Jim Knopf und Lukas der Lokomotivführer' (2017, directed by Dennis Gansel) and the film 'Perfect Christmas' (2018, directed by Vinicius Coimbra). He has been involved in other opera productions on stage or as a choreographer, such as in 'Tristan & Isolde' by Richard Wagner (2018, directed by Stephan Langridge, Hanover State Opera) or in 'Madama Butterfly' by Giacomo Puccini (2024, directed by Patric Seibert, Halle an der Saale State Opera).

Tadashi Endo was a guest lecturer at the Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem/Israel and at the Nucleo Interdisciplinar de Pesquisas Teatrais at the University of Campinas/Sao Paolo/Brazil.

Most recently, Tadashi Endo was invited as one of the great representatives of Butoh to the Congress of Butoh dancing at Sotheby's Maison in Hong Kong in January 2025, which took place as part of a festival organised by the Xevarion Institute.

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