Confidential until start of Closing Ceremony (16:30)

Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics Closing Ceremony Media Guide

**Tokyo Sport Benefits Corporation Deaflympics Preparation and Operation Office** 





### 1. Summary

- The first Deaflympics to be held in Japan. This commemorative event marks the 100th anniversary since the first Deaflympics were held in France.
- The ceremonies held at the "beginning" and "end" of the Games are the only occasions where athletes and spectators gather together to share that time and space. They serve as the symbol of the Games, conveying the vision that the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics aims to achieve.
- The opening and closing ceremonies of the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics will showcase the appeal of Deaf sports, allowing everyone to experience the athletes' performances up close. For Deaf athletes worldwide, it will mark the "beginning" of a new era for the Games as they look toward the next 100 years. It will also contribute to realizing an inclusive Tokyo where everyone shines.
- The opening ceremony will welcome athletes through performances by deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing individuals, along with light and sound (vibration) effects. It will convey the appeal of Deaf culture and Deaf sports to the audience while celebrating the start of the centennial Games.
- At the Closing Ceremony, the entire venue will share the excitement with the athletes who competed fiercely throughout the Games, honor their efforts, celebrate the achievements of the Tokyo Games, and pass the torch to the next Games.

#### 2. Distinctive Features of This Ceremony

Commitment to Accessibility

At the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics, we are committed to providing information accessibility so that everyone, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, can enjoy the event.

Similar to the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony also features:

- Installation of speech-to-text displays at accessible service counters (main reception)
- Speech-to-text conversion of venue announcements (excluding during the ceremony) and web browser viewing
  - Projection of subtitles on ribbon displays and overhead displays.

Additionally, we distribute special identification stickers to staff and volunteers who are proficient in Japanese Sign Language, International Sign Language, and spoken English.

We also distribute tablet devices equipped with writing-based communication apps and speech-to-text apps to other support staff and volunteers.

This initiative facilitates smoother communication with all individuals, including those who are deaf.



Japanese Sign Language



International Sign



English



#### 3. Director

- For the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies, we have selected two directors—one deaf and one hearing.
- These two directors will collaborate, exchanging ideas and working together to create a truly unique Deaflympics experience.



#### < OHASHI Hiroe >

《Profile》

- Played Sara, Japan's first deaf lead role, in Actor's Theatre's production "Children Made by the Little God," winning the 7th Yomiuri Theatre Award for Outstanding Actress. Studied theater and dance in the United States.
- Upon returning to Japan, founded the theater company "Sign Art Project. Asian," serving as both producer and member.
- Author of the book "I Thought I Didn't Need a Voice Anymore."
   《Comments》

For the opening and closing ceremonies of these Deaflympics, we will create performances that resonate the journey and hopes of Deaf athletes across the world. We aim to deliver a time where everyone can be the protagonist and affirm their true selves. Through sign language, physical expression, and visual art, we will make this a place to share the richness and pride of Deaf culture.



©MIYAGAWA Maiko

#### < KONDO Ryohei >

《Profile》

• Founded the dance company "CONDORS" in 1996, overseeing composition, visuals, and choreography for all productions. Performed in approximately 30 countries worldwide, receiving high praise from The New York Times. • Gained widespread support across diverse audiences through his approachable personality and dance, appearing on programs like NHK Educational's "Let's Play with Our Bodies." • Active as an artist across multiple fields, including theater works written and directed by Hideki Noda, films, and TV commercials. • Served as director and choreographer for the Sports Festival Tokyo 2013. • Engaged in diverse approaches to social contribution through dance, such as performances by the dance team "Handles" composed of people with disabilities. • Recipient of numerous awards, including the 2016 (67th) Arts Selection Award from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and the Medal with Purple Ribbon in Spring 2025. • Currently serves as Professor at Tama Art University and Artistic Director of Saitama Arts Theatre. 《Comments》

This year marks the historic 100th anniversary of the Deaflympics, held in Tokyo. It is a truly wonderful event, a miraculous convergence of timing with our era. I hope this will be a deeply meaningful Games for everyone. Let us join hands to make the opening and closing ceremonies truly memorable. Together, let us share the culture of the deaf and create new opportunities for the future. Thank you for your support.

#### 4. Host

 The hosts for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics are the following two individuals.

#### < KAWAMATA Ikumi • International Sign Language >



#### 《Profile》

Born in Tochigi Prefecture. Became deaf at age 3.

Traveled to the United States as a fifth-term recipient of The Nippon Foundation Scholarship Program for Overseas Study for the Hearing Impaired.

Graduated from Gallaudet University's School of Social Work.

Subsequently pursued a Master's degree in Public Administration and International Development at the same university's graduate school, completing the program.

©Tokyo Metropolitan Government

#### < SHIMIZU Aika · Japanese Sign Language >



#### 《Profile》

Born in Ishikawa Prefecture. Became deaf at age 3.

As Youth Division Director of the General Incorporated Foundation All Japan Federation of the Deaf, he works alongside deaf and hard-of-hearing youth nationwide and their hearing peers to foster community, create learning opportunities, and build advocacy.

©Japanese Federation of the Deaf

16:30 Start, 17:50 End (Scheduled)

**%13:30 Open (Scheduled)** 

Programme	Required time (Schedule)	Cast
(1) Opening	5 min	<sign mimme="">   ~ Pride of Deaf Athletes ~</sign>
(2) Parade of the Participants	2 0 min	Placard Bearers: Tokyo Metropolitan Chuo School for the Deaf HarajukuGaien Junior High School Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics Volunteers
(3) Speeches/ Declaring the Deaflympics closed	2 0 min	<speeches> ISHIBASHI Daigo ,President ,Japanese Federation of the Deaf KOIKE Yuriko,Governor of Tokyo <declaring closed="" deaflympics="" the=""> Adam KOSA,President,InternationI Commttie of Soprts for the Deaf</declaring></speeches>
(4) Deaflympics flag hand over	1 5 min	Flag Hoister: The Ground Self-Defense Force, Maritime Self-Defense Force, and Air Self-Defense Force
(5) Artistic Programme Theme Bon Mirai!	1 5 mi <b>n</b>	OHASHI Hiroe、KONDO Ryohei and more Stage Performer、Audience Performer

• On the day of the Closing Ceremony, we will distribute leaflets to attendees.

These leaflets contain useful information for viewing the Closing Ceremony, including the ceremony program schedule and venue maps.

The cover design features the official mascot, Yurito, signing the word "thank you" in Sign Language, expressing gratitude to all those involved in the tournament, including Athletes and Spectators.



#### < TOKYO 2025 DEAFLYMPICS OFFICIAL MASCOT, Yuriito is>

Yurito, the official mascot of the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics, was born as the character for the Tokyo 2013 Sports Festival.

Wearing a cherry blossom pink T-shirt, this color creates a unified look with the Games emblem, which features "cherry blossom petals" as its motif under the "Yurito Deaflympics Design" concept.

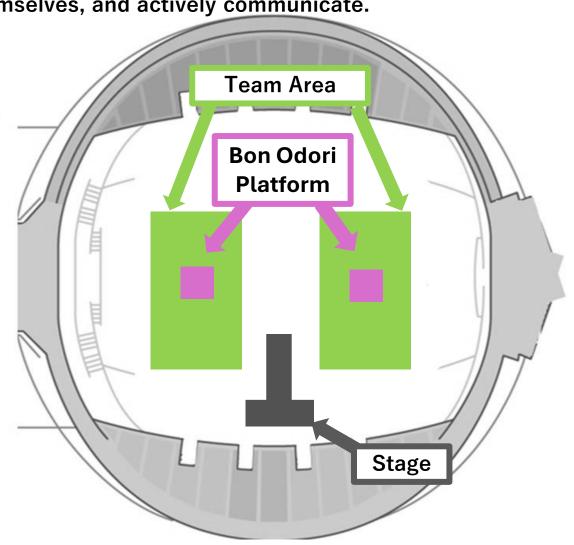
#### Regarding the Venue Layout

By creating a flat arena surface, we have established a space where athletes can freely move about, enjoy themselves, and actively communicate.

- < Stage >
- Set up toward the south side of the arena
- · Height: 60 cm

#### <Team Area>

- Artificial turf installed
- Installation of a raised
   Bon Odori Platform



#### Pre-ceremony programme 14:40–15:40 (Scheduled)

Prior to the ceremony, a performance by Heaven Artist(\*\*) will be held.

#### <Performing Artists >

· AYUMI (Hoops、Stilts)



- Cartoon Clown CHEEKY!Shiojyari
  - (Unicycle Circus)



Juggler Laby (Juggling)



Meriko
 (Pole Acrobat Dance)

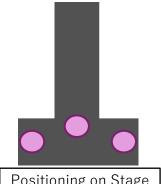


#### **X** Heaven Artist

The purpose of this initiative is to provide artists who have passed the screening committee conducted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government with access to venues such as public and private facilities, thereby offering residents easy opportunities to engage with arts and culture.

### (1) Opening

- Three performers take to the stage to present Sign Mime.
- Deaf people are not simply "people who cannot hear"; they are "people who live through their eyes."
- At this Deaflympics, through Deaf sports, deaf athletes understand light and their opponents' movements with their eyes and compete. Cheering is also conveyed visually to the athletes.
- We envisioned this with the hope that, transcending national borders, we would respect each other, involve hearing people in enjoying Deaf sports, and together change society in the future.



Positioning on Stage

#### · Cast



#### < IZAKI Tetsuya>

Advisor to the Japan Deaf Theatre Company

Deaf. Born in Saga Prefecture. Graduated from Tokyo University of Education (now University of Tsukuba) Affiliated School for the Deaf. Participated in founding the "Tokyo Deaf Theater Circle" (renamed the "Japan Deaf Theater Company" in 1981) in 1980. Joined the professional American deaf theater company "National Theater of the Deaf" as a member for a year and a half starting in 1982, then returned to the Japan Deaf Theater Company. Active in NHK Educational Television's sign language instruction program "Everyone's Sign Language" and drama programs. Provides sign language instruction for the "White Hand Chorus Nippon" under the general incorporated association "El Sistema Conecta." Served as a sign language instructor to Her Imperial Highness Princess Kiko, Princess of Akishino, for ten years. Appointed as a Public Relations Ambassador for Kohoku Town, Kishima District, Saga Prefecture in 2022.



#### < MORITA Akira >

Deaf person. Vice Principal at Meisei Gakuen School Corporation. Instructor for NHK E-TV's "Everyone's Sign Language." Sign language performer for NHK E-TV's "Everyone's TV Enjoyed Through Sign Language."

Born in Kumamoto Prefecture, raised in Kanagawa Prefecture. At Meisei Gakuen, Japan's only private school for the deaf offering bilingual deaf education, teaches expression (learning language) subjects within the school's unique "Sign Language Course," including poetry, sign language theater, the structure of sign language, and presentations. As a sign language poet and storyteller, he has shared numerous works of deaf literature. In 2023, he made his drama debut as Toshio Arai, the father of the protagonist Naoto, in the NHK drama "Deaf Voice: Court Sign Language Interpreter."



#### <OTAKE Anna>

Deaf person. Born and raised in Chiba Prefecture. After graduating from Meisei Gakuen, a school offering bilingual education, attended a prefectural high school. Participated in discussions about bilingual education at Keio University. Appeared on NHK E-TV's "Everyone's Sign Language." Assisted with Meisei Gakuen's early support program "Medaka" and collaborated on sign language research at the National Rehabilitation Center. While at university, interacted with various children and obtained a special needs education teaching license.

## (1) Opening

• The official tournament video will be shown.

As a highlight video of the Games, it pays tribute to athletes who excelled at the Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics, as well as volunteers and various individuals involved in the event.

# (2) Parade of the Participants The closing ceremony will feature flag bearers.

#### Entry Order

One or two flag bearers from each delegation will participate.

The order of entry is as follows: first France, followed by the Deaflympics Refugee Team, then the Deaflympics Team, and lastly Japan.

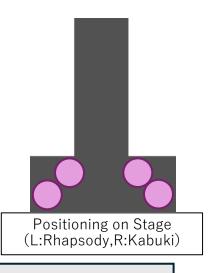
All other countries will enter in alphabetical order by country name.

#### Country and Region Names Point!

In addition to the text display of country and region names on the monitor, expressions in international sign language by deaf children will be shown.

#### (2) Parade of the Participants

- Using Sign Language Rhapsody and Sign Language Kabuki, we call out Athlete from the stage.
- Cast (1/2)





#### <SUNADA Atom>

Deaf person. Born in Ehime Prefecture. Developed an interest in theater and the stage from elementary school at Ehime Prefectural Matsuyama School for the Deaf, influenced by his father. Performed in productions across Japan, including with the Japan Deaf Theatre Company. In 1999, she appeared in the film "I Love You." She also performed in skits for NHK Educational TV's "Everyone's Sign Language." In 2022, she starred in "LOVE LIFE" (directed by Koji Fukada), which was screened at the 79th Venice International Film Festival, where she walked the red carpet. Currently, she is actively involved in sign language theater, sign language-related illustration and painting, and sign language instruction.



#### < MIYAKE Chikanari >

A person who can hear. Noh actor and Sign Language Rhapsody performer of the Izumi school. His grandfather was the Living National Treasure, Miyake Tōkurō IX. He studied under his father, Miyake Ukon, a holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property. He made his stage debut at age three in "Kanzaburō." He performs secret plays and major works such as "Sanbasō," "Tsuri-kitsune," "Kaneoka," "Hanako," and other secret and major pieces. Beyond his activities as a Kyōgen performer, he also appears in opera and contemporary theater while producing collaborative projects with other fields. For sign language Sign Language Rhapsody

, he personally uses sign language to instruct Japan's deaf theater troupe, and also performs in sign language Kyōgen and sign language Noh.

#### (2) Parade of the Participants

#### Placard Bearers

Following the opening ceremony, Placard Bearers will be primarily children with hearing impairments and children without hearing impairments.





< Deaf child > Tokyo Metropolitan Chuo School for the Deaf < Hearing Child > HarajukuGaien Junior High School %In addition, Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics Volunteers will also serve as placard holders.



#### Point!

Participants will wear placards featuring a cherry blossom motif.

The placards are designed to hang from the shoulders, allowing both hands to be free for sign language.

- < Student Comments (Excerpts) >
- I want to do my best to safely guide the representative athletes.
- · I want to walk with a smile on the day.
- I am grateful to be standing in the same place as the world'srepresentative athletes.

#### (3) Opening Remarks and Closing Declaration

The following attendees will deliver opening remarks and the closing declaration.

The ICSD President will present a plaque to the Governor of Tokyo to express gratitude.

#### <Speeches>

ISHIBASHI Daigo ,President ,Japanese Federation of the Deaf KOIKE Yuriko,Governor of Tokyo

#### < Presentation of the Appreciation Shield >

Adam KOSA, President, Internation | Commttie of Soprts for the Deaf

KOIKE Yuriko, Governor of Tokyo

#### < Declaring the Deaflympics closed >

Adam KOSA,

President, Internation | Commttie of Soprts for the Deaf



▲Shield of Gratitude

#### (4) Return of the Deaflympics Flag

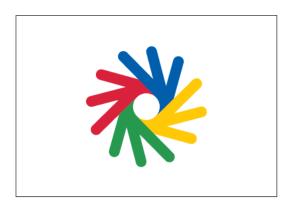
The Deaflympics flag will be lowered to the Deaflympics Anthem.

#### <Flag Hoister>

The Ground Self-Defense Force, Maritime Self-Defense Force, and Air Self-Defense Force perform the lowering and raising of flags.

#### < Deaflympics flag hand over >

The lowered flag will be returned from Tokyo 2025 Deaflympics Volunteers who supported HISAMATSU Mitsuji Chairperson of the Organising Committee, and then to ICSD President Kosa.



▲ Deaflympics flag

#### (5) Artistic Programme

- The "Artistic Program," which expresses the culture of the host country, will transcend all barriers—deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals—to enjoy communication, share Deaf culture, and showcase the appeal of Tokyo and Japan to the world.
- We will create an experience enjoyable for everyone, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, while respecting individual differences such as "deafness, hard of hearing," and "hearing ability." By expressing ourselves together while embracing each person's unique qualities, we will pass on this legacy to future generations long after the Deaflympics have concluded.



**OHASHI** Hiroe



@MIYAGAWA Maiko

**KONDO Ryohei** 

#### (5) Artistic Programme

#### Cast

In addition to professional dancers, participants selected through auditions took part.

Recruitment began in May, with auditions held in June.

#### ■ Application Requirements

Students in third grade or above who are cooperative and can follow the director's instructions to help create the opening and closing ceremonies.

#### ■Application Category

#### **Stage Performer**

## People who are deaf or hard of hearing

Children

About 15 people

From third grade of elementary school to third grade of junior high school

## People who are deaf or hard of hearing

High school students and above

About 25 people \*\*No age limit

#### **Hearing person**

Children ·

High school students and above

a few individuals \*No age limit

#### **Audience Performer**

People who are deaf or hard of hearing

Hearing person

Children · High school students and above About 70 people \*No age limit

We received applications from 437 individuals, and 129 were ultimately selected.

## TOKYO 2025 DEAFLYMPICS Closing Ceremony Artistic Programme

## **BON MIRAI!**

Media Guide

Structure and Choreography: KONDO Ryohei

Direction: KONDO Ryohei OHASHI Hiroe

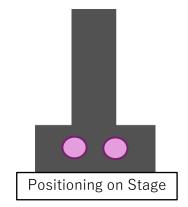
#### (5) Artistic Programme <Overall Concept>

The performance title "Bon" is a play on words, combining the French word "bon" (meaning "good") with the Japanese "Bon" (referring to the Bon Festival, a traditional event honoring the spirits of ancestors). This title expresses a wish for a bright and positive future.

It connects France of a hundred years ago with Japan today and beyond.

## (5) Artistic Programme <Composition>

Lecture (5 minutes)



At center stage are OHASHI and KONDO, with two drums positioned behind them.

OHASHI begins explaining the choreography in sign language:

"Hello, Athletes. Thank you so much for your incredible efforts. Now, we would like to deepen our connection with you through *BON MIRA!!*. Shall we begin? There are seven types of movements, and each will be repeated four times."

1st: Hand clapping

2nd: "Smile"

3rd: "Sparkle, sparkle, dokkyun, dokkyun"

4th: "Moon, moon, up-down-up-down"

5th: "Walk, walk, high five"

6th: "Everyone together, portable shrine"

7th: "Sakura maki-maki"

## (5) Artistic Programme <Composition>

• Performance (10 minutes)

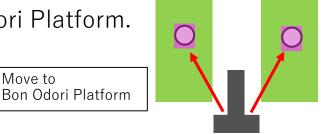
Can you remember the moves? Don't worry, you'll be fine.

Ready? Let's go! Drums, please.

The drums begin a rapid beat, blending with a techno-style bass rhythm.

The performance starts with hand clapping.

OHASHI and KONDO move to the Bon Odori Platform.

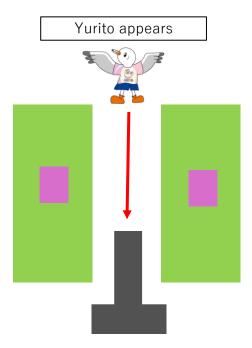


In the second-floor aisles, spectator performers take their positions, while on the third-floor aisles, members of CONDORS and stage performers stand ready.

The audience, arena, and gymnasium unite as one in dance.

# (5) Artistic Programme <Highlights>

- Athletes in the arena and spectators in the stands share the same movements and enjoy them together.
- Communication that is easy to understand for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing alike.
- Toward the future entrusting our hopes to a society of inclusion.
- Towards the end, Yurito appears and dances together on the Runway.



#### (6) Closing

- Content that embodies aspirations for the next 100 years of the Deaflympics.
- Praise for the Deaf athletes who competed fiercely, and gratitude to the volunteers who supported the Games.