

Awaji Art Circus (AAC) 2026 and 2027

Open Call for Artists/Performers

We are conducting two Open Calls simultaneously for 2026 and 2027, with each corresponding to a different year. Artists will be selected separately for the 2026 and the 2027 editions. You are welcome to apply for the 2026 edition, the 2027 edition, or both years, depending on your schedule and availability.

1. AAC OBJECTIVE

Awaji Island, located in Hyogo Prefecture, is considered to be the Island of Japan's Origin and is known for its beautiful natural surroundings and tasty food. However, in recent years, the island faces serious issues such as population outflow as well as decreasing birthrate and aging population.

1. Based in Awaji Island, AAC has three distinct missions:

- 1) One is to bring about **increase in population flow and local economic consumption** leading to regional vitalization whilst utilizing local resources.
- 2) The other is to **let the world know the appeals of Awaji Island** and more broadly Japan. AAC aims to become a new local tourism attraction and attract people from within and outside of Awaji Island.
- 3) Last but not least, **to develop art and culture on Awaji Island** and **to create a chance for Japanese people to get to know international art of different genres.**



To have an image of the festival, you can check the highlights of Awaji Art Circus 2025.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qf_h0WuYjZo

2. RECRUITMENT DETAILS

1. Recruiting number of artists

Around 10

2. Location

Awaji Island, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

3. Duration

AAC 2026: Sep 12 (Sat) – Nov 10 (Tue), 2026 (60 days, including arrival and departure days)
AAC 2027: Sep 11 (Sat) – Nov 9 (Tue), 2027 (60 days, including arrival and departure days)

*Please note that the dates for AAC 2027 are subject to possible change. By applying to participate, you acknowledge and agree to this possibility. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility.

**You will be expected to arrive at Kansai International Airport by Sep 12, 2026 or Sep 11, 2027 respectively, stay for the entire duration of the period.

4. Work content

A) Main content: Awaji Art Circus original theatrical Show

- Perform a version of their own original act, adjusted to the theme and content of the show (up to 4 minutes)
- Participate in group numbers together with all other artists (acrobatic/juggling/dance numbers) and final dance
- Participate in the connections between the numbers in the show

*12 shows during the period

B) Performances at local schools

All artists will be asked to perform a pre-prepared act (up to 5 minutes, depending on genre) in a concert style show at local schools
*up to 13 shows during the period (1-2 shows a day)

C) Participation in various sub-events

- Local events (outside and inside venues)
- *up to 3 shows during the period
- Talk event with the audience in English

Note:

Performance frequency. In general, participants will perform once-twice per performing day.

D) Participate in the rehearsals and meetings held by the organizer. (rehearsals will be generally held from morning until evening. On some days, you may be required to wait for several hours before your turn, and during that time you may spend your time freely).

E) Participate in cultural learning and local sightseeing activities (some free days will be spent on these activities)

F) Share and post information about Awaji Art Circus on social media. We will ask you to create posts and share information on social media (Facebook, Instagram, blog etc.) about your daily experiences on Awaji Island and as a performer in the show. Sometimes, we will provide you with information that we would like for you to post or share.

3. OVERVIEW

1. Event Period AAC 2026

Arrival: **Sep 12 (Sat)**

Orientation: **Sep 13 (Sun)**

Rehearsal and Performance period: **Sep 14 (Mon)~Nov 8 (Sun)** *1-2 days off every week

Packing day: **Nov 9 (Mon)**

Departure: **Nov 10 (Tue)**

Event Period AAC 2027

Arrival: **Sep 11 (Sat)**

Orientation: **Sep 12 (Sun)**

Rehearsal and Performance period: **Sep 13 (Mon)~Nov 7 (Sun)** *1-2 days off every week

Packing day: **Nov 8 (Mon)**

Departure: **Nov 9 (Tue)**

*Please note that the dates for AAC 2027 are subject to possible change.

2. Venue

- Main Venue: Concert hall with linoleum floor (the stage length 9m x depth 5m x height 4.5m (for aerials: rigging point is 10 m high, but acting area is only 4.5 m high)
*Please note, that the venue for AAC 2027 may be a different one
- School performances: school gym (wooden floor, stage length 10m x depth 6m x height 6m). ***No rigging point for aerials, please prepare ground act.**
- Sub-events: outside or inside stage (the details depend on the event) ***No rigging point for aerials, please prepare ground act.**

3. Aerial equipment

Electric winch with lifting power around 400 kg (impossible for big dynamic drops). Aerial artists will need to adapt their performances to the technical capabilities and possibilities of the venue and equipment. For example, due to the lighting bars, only movements from left to right are possible. Circular movements in the air are not feasible.

4. Transportation.

Transportation between accommodation and performance venues will be via AAC bus or by car. Time on the road usually varies from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours.

4. SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZER

- 1) **Performance pay:** The fee is **500,000 JPY** per person for the entire period and the work content stated above. Of this amount, **100,000 JPY** will be paid **in cash (JPY)** at the beginning of the period (*the USD/EUR exchange rate will not affect the amount in JPY*), and the remaining balance will be paid **in cash (JPY)** at the end of the period. This amount is paid **per person**, including in the case of a group act. Due to restrictions of the local bank, **AAC is unable to make bank transfers or WISE transfers**. Therefore, **all payments will be made in cash only**. *the performance pay for AAC 2027 may be subject to change.
- 2) **Transportation costs:** We will cover your two-way economy class air ticket from your nearest airport to Kansai International Airport and other costs to and from the airport. (the Festival will book your airplane ticket, but you will need to pay for your transportation to and from the airport and provide the receipts to be reimbursed)
- 3) **3 Meals a day** (on some days, you will need to buy food by yourself (often at a convenience store), and we will reimburse you for these days at the end of the period)
- 4) **Accommodation** (single or shared rooms for 2 people)
- 5) **Support staff**
- 6) **Insurance**

5. WHAT ELSE WILL YOU GET?

- **Become a member of Awaji Art Circus Family** – A heartwarming network of artists from various countries, genres and backgrounds. What does this mean? You will have jams, collaborations and family atmosphere throughout the Festival as well as supportive friends from all over the world who may become your lifetime buddies after the Festival! Since 2015, we have generated more than 250 Awaji Family Members, and the network will continue to grow!
- **Stay right in the heart of Awaji Island's nature**, enjoying its incredible environment with breathtaking sceneries.
- **Get to know all the magic of Japan from inside**, enjoy delicious traditional Japanese meals.
- **Go on free tours around Awaji Island**, visiting its key touristic venues.
- **Enjoy interacting with local people**. They will capture your hearts immediately, both adults and children.

Be a part of this incredible art journey that will surprise you every single day with its uniqueness!

6. ELIGIBILITY

To apply, you must meet all the following criteria:

- Open to artists of different **circus and other performing physical disciplines (except work with fire)**.
- We welcome artists working across **multiple genres**.
- For all artists, **dancing skills are desirable**, as we plan to include group dance numbers into the theatrical show).
- For Aerial artists, please apply only if you can perform a full independent ground act in addition to your aerial performance** (as we do not have rigging equipment at schools and other event venues).
- Artists **who can communicate in English**.
- Open to all artists **over 18 years old**.
- Individuals and Groups (up to 3 members)** .
- Artists **who can adjust their performance to the show and to suit any performance venue**.
- Performance which** is offensive to public order and morals, dangerous performance, performance with acts which cause inconvenience to a third party, performance which is unjustly cruel to animals, performance which uses motorcycle, performance which may be partial to certain religion/belief and performance with political assertion **are not eligible**.
- Artists **who are willing to write about Awaji Island** as well as their everyday experience and

performance on Facebook, Instagram, personal blog, etc.

- Artists who are interested in Japan**, Japanese culture and livelihood etc.
- Artists who are interested in regional vitalization**, local economic development etc.
- Artists who can proactively communicate with other artists, local residents and visitors**.
- Previous years performers are welcome to apply on a regular basis.**

*Items not defined in the Open Call shall be decided by the Organizer upon consultation with artists.

If you meet all aforementioned criteria and are ready to contribute your energy to Awaji Island, we await your application!

7. APPLICATION PROCESS AND APPLICATION FEE

Due to the development of the festival, growing interest from artists, and an increase in the number of applicants, we will introduce an **application fee** starting this year to support the sustainable operation of the project.

Application fee: 35 USD

After completing the payment via the URL below, please proceed to the Application Form. There is no link to the Application Form in this Open Call. **The link to the Application Form will appear only after the payment is completed.** Payment can be made by credit card or debit card.

*If your card is not accepted by international payment systems due to political restrictions beyond the cardholder's control, please feel free to contact us by email at: 4awajiartcircus@gmail.com. We will find a solution together.

Payment URL:

<https://buy.stripe.com/eVq4grdLN7Av7QgeWaeEo00>

Please be prepared to complete the Application Form during 48 hours after completing the payment (it takes approximately **30-45 minutes to fill out the Form**). **Please save the link of the Application Form** (for example, in your notes) as it will be shown only 1 time. You can find the list of the questions from the Form at the end of the Open Call.

ONLY APPLICATIONS FOR WHICH PAYMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED WILL BE CONSIDERED.

Important Notes

1. Application fee and selection

Payment of the application fee does not guarantee selection or participation in the festival. All applications will be carefully reviewed and selected based on their content.

2. Application completion

Your application will be considered complete only after the application fee has been paid and the application form has been successfully submitted. Payment alone does not constitute a completed application.

3. Refund policy

Once paid, the application fee is non-refundable under any circumstances. In case you are selected or not selected, the application fee will not be refunded. Please note that duplicate payments for a single application are non-refundable. Thank you for your understanding.

4. Payment per application

One artist may submit up to three applications under a single payment (solo, duo, or trio performance). In this case, please submit all applications using the same email address.

If the same artist or group has multiple acts with the same number of performers, they may be included in one application form. Please describe each act separately and provide the corresponding video links.

5. Application deadline and inquiries

Applications and payments submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. If you have any questions regarding the application process or payment, please contact us at:

4awajiartcircus@gmail.com

8. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must arrive by **March 2 (Mon), 2026, 11:00 PM JST (Japan Standard Time)**

*Please note applications will not be accepted after the deadline under any circumstances.

9. SELECTION PROCESS

1. First screening: Application material screening

- Deadline for application submission is **March 2 (Mon), 2026, 11:00 PM JST (Japan Standard Time)**
- The results of the First Screening will be announced to all the applicants by mail in the second part of March.

2. Second screening: Online interview

- The date and the time of Zoom Interview will be discussed with successful applicants of the first screening (planned to take place in the second part of March – first part of April 2026).
- The Organizer will conduct the interview and decide participating artists of AAC 2026 upon consideration of the First and Second screening.

The final results of the Second screening will be announced around the middle of April 2026.

10. SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The **originality, professionalism, sense of showmanship and suitability** of the performance, given the Japanese audience (including children) and the Awaji Island environment.
2. The **transportability of the performance and its adaptability** to a range of locations and conditions.
3. The **motivation of the artists to participate** in the festival and their level of **understanding of our goals and missions**.
4. The **communicative skills and flexibility** of the members.

11. VISA INFORMATION

Certificate of Eligibility required for obtaining visa will be issued by the Organizer and mailed to the artist, and in turn the artist shall go through the visa acquisition process at the embassy of his/her own country. The Organizer will cover the visa issuance fee and fee for transportation to the Embassy, in case the receipt is provided. Issuance expense for Certificate of Eligibility in Japan will be paid by the Organizer.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Awaji Art Circus Executive Committee

E-mail: 4awajiartcircus@gmail.com

Website: <https://en.awajiartscircus.com/>

13. QUESTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION FORM

(The link to the Application Form will appear only after the payment is completed. We recommend preparing your answers before filling out the Application Form.)

1. Artistic name / name of artistic group
2. Number of members (maximum 3 people)

3. Native country (for each artist, in case of a group)
4. Performance genres (Please mention here all your capabilities as an artist. In case of a group, describe each member separately)
5. Links of your artistic pages on your Website and Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
6. Performance photo (2-3 photos)
7. Links of the performances you propose (only ONLINE access - YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive)

About application video.

It shouldn't be too edited to understand the contents of the performance (especially if you use words in your performance). If you are in a group, please send a video which shows the same number of performing members as you intend to arrive with. (e.x. you shouldn't send us video of 25 participants if you apply with 3). The video should be clear, easy to understand, and impactful. Be aware that the quality of the video creates the image of your performance and that is the primary way of understanding your work.

8. Why do you want to participate in Awaji Art Circus? (2-3 sentences)
9. How did you find out about Awaji Art Circus? (if you heard about us from a previous participant, please write his/her name)

Technical performance information

1. Time of performance (minimum and maximum)
2. Short technical description of your performance/performances (what do you do and what props do you use. In case of plurality of your capabilities, please, shortly describe each of them).
3. Minimum dimensions of needed space for performance in meters (width x depth x height)
4. Technical equipment provided by the artist/group
5. Technical equipment that should be provided by the Organizer
6. Dimensions of your luggage with equipment (to know how much space do we need in the car/bus for DAILY TRANSPORTATION)
7. Minimum time needed for preparations on the spot before performance (equipment setting, changing clothes, make-up, warm up, etc.)
8. Minimum time needed on the spot after performance for packing up.
9. Other comments (if you have more performance proposals you can mention them here)

Contact information of the person in charge

1. Name of the contacting person
2. Date of birth (contacting person)
- 3.1 Sex (contacting person) 3.2 Names, sex and dates of birth of the other members (in case of group)
4. Country and city you live in 5. Phone number