



Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2026 Unveils New Partnership

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is delighted to partner with SPRING Performing Arts Festival for the 8th edition of the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest), set to take place in Utrecht, the Netherlands in May 2026.

Press Release

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[Singapore, 29 January 2026] – The Asia-Europe Cultural Festival (AECFest) 2026 will make its debut in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in collaboration with SPRING Performing Arts Festival from 14 to 23 May 2026. This exciting new partnership marks a significant milestone in the festival's journey as a platform for cultural exchange and artistic collaboration between Asia and Europe.

The collaboration between ASEF and SPRING reflects a shared commitment to promote cultural dialogue and contemporary artistic practices. It broadens the festival's international engagement while raising awareness of diverse cultural perspectives, enabling international exchanges and providing spaces for dialogue between Asian and European communities. The 2026 edition will present a wide range of artistic expressions, including dance, theatre, film, installations, video art and multidisciplinary performances, featuring artists from Australia, China, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Viet Nam.

This edition also marks the 3rd consecutive year in which the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival will be hosted within a prestigious international platform, following previous editions presented in collaboration with festivals in Italy and China. Conceived as a “festival-in-a-festival”, AECFest is presented as a dedicated focus on Asia–Europe artistic exchange within SPRING’s wider programme, offering audiences a curated selection of works, dialogues, and encounters that foreground transnational perspectives.

Together, ASEF and SPRING invite audiences on a transformative journey that celebrates the diversity of human creativity, inspiring dialogue, and forging new connections that transcend geographical boundaries.

Since its inception in 2018, the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival has served as a testament to the rich tapestry of cultural exchanges between the two regions, fostering artistic collaborations and building lasting connections between continents known for their diversity and creativity. In a world where boundaries persist, the festival stands as a beacon of artistic unity, bringing Asia and Europe closer.

SPRING Performing Arts Festival is an internationally recognised festival dedicated to innovative and interdisciplinary performing arts. Known for its strong focus on contemporary creation, experimentation, and international collaboration, SPRING provides an ideal context for hosting AECFest 2026 and for engaging new audiences in conversations shaped by global artistic practices.

The full programme of the 8th Asia-Europe Cultural Festival, presented in collaboration with SPRING Performing Arts Festival, will be unveiled in March 2026. Stay tuned for updates on this upcoming edition, which promises to captivate, inspire, and unite audiences.



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health. ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Together with over 150 partner organisations, ASEF has conducted more than 250 projects, mainly conferences, seminars, and workshops. Over 40,000 Asians and Europeans have participated in its activities, and a much wider audience is reached through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

www.ASEF.org / www.ASEF.org/AECFest



SPRING Performing Arts Festival, based in Utrecht (The Netherlands), is a leading international platform dedicated to contemporary performance, theatre, and multidisciplinary arts. The festival showcases groundbreaking works, encourages artistic experimentation, and fosters dialogue between artists, audiences, and cultural institutions from around the world. SPRING supports the development of new performances, enables knowledge exchange, and promotes collaboration across artistic and cultural communities.

Since its inception, SPRING has presented a diverse range of performances, installations, and projects, engaging thousands of artists and audiences annually. Through its dynamic programming, the festival continues to strengthen networks and contribute to the global performing arts landscape.

www.springutrecht.nl