



**KOREAN ARTS LEADER DUK HYUNG YOO  
RECEIVES JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER 3RD AWARD**

Duk Hyung Yoo is the recipient of the Asian Cultural Council's 2015 John D. Rockefeller 3rd Award. This \$50,000 award is made biannually in recognition of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the international understanding and appreciation of the arts of Asia.

As one of Korea's most important cultural leaders today, Mr. Yoo joins a distinguished roster of previous awardees, including ground-breaking Filipino composer José Maceda, "mother" of off-off Broadway and American Theater pioneer Ellen Stewart, and celebrated dancer and choreographer Lin Hwai Min in Taiwan (for a complete list of awardees, and more information about the award please see [here](#)).



*ACC Founder John D. Rockefeller 3rd meeting with Duk Hyung Yoo in 1973 in Seoul, Korea*

Duk Hyung Yoo is a prominent cultural figure in Korea and the visionary leader of the Seoul Institute of the Arts, a professional arts training academy renowned both regionally and internationally. While JDR 3rd Award winners are chosen for the major contributions they have made to the international understanding, practice, or study of the arts of Asia and do not need to have had a prior affiliation with ACC, Mr. Yoo and the Asian Cultural Council have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship. One of ACC's first grantees from Korea, Mr. Yoo received a series of grants from the organization in the 1960s and 1970s for such personally-transformative endeavors as study at the Dallas Theater Center, the completion of his master's degree in theater at Yale University, and the chance to observe theatrical activities throughout the U.S.



*Duk Hyung Yoo rehearsing Jilsa by Oh Tae-Suk, presented at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in February 1974*

After returning to Korea permanently, Mr. Yoo took over leadership of the Korean Drama Center, founded by his father, acclaimed playwright Yoo Chi Jin. Over the next several decades, Mr. Yoo transformed the school into the all-encompassing professional arts academy now known as the Seoul Institute of the Arts (SIA). Outside of Korea, Mr. Yoo has developed



*Duk Hyung Yoo at the Seoul Institute of the Arts*

robust educational and artistic links with other arts schools in Asia, the U.S., and Europe. He also spearheads SIA's Culture Hub project, which "seeks both national identity and global universality to create and promote world-class culture and arts." The project is dedicated to creating strongholds through which Korean culture and arts can be exchanged around the world.