

What is Kyôgen?

Kyôgen, said to be the source of all Japanese theatre, which developed Muromachi period, 1380-1466, in conjunction with and alongside of the tragic Noh drama.

It's also called the art of laughter, and is sole example of comedy among the traditional Japanese theatre. It was registered as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2001.

Some of the Kyôgen are farcical, but they never are a farce. They are short folk plays portraying the less complex emotions and everyday experiences of simple personalities in their own languages. The way would want to be, the way of aspiration: this is Noh. The way we are, the way to acceptance: this is Kyogen. Both roads lead to wisdom.

You will know there is more to Kyôgen than funny stories played for entertainment.

The Izumi school

There are two schools of Kyôgen in existence at present time, the Izumi school and the Okura school. The Izumi school is made up of the Izumi (the headmaster family) and Miyake and some other families. The main branch now is headquartered in Tokyo, where the current lemoto, the 20th in the direct line of descent from the Ashikaga shogunate, is Motoya Izumi, born in 1974 as the son of the 19th lemoto, Motohide Izumi, whose father, the 9th actor to bear the stage name Tokuro Miyake, was designated in his lifetime as a "living national treasure" by the Japanese government.

The Izumi family has been maintaining their 578 year tradition with performances in Japan and in more than 13 countries.

special guest for kyogen presentation
Tokuro Miyake The second daughter of the 19th-generation headmaster of one of the two traditional schools of Kyôgen, the Izumi school, which has 578 year history. She is the second woman to perform Kyôgen professionally in Japan, following her elder sister Junko Izumi. She first appeared on stage at the age of three. In 1989 she inherited her grandfather's stage name Tokuro Miyake also received a letter of appreciation from the Minister of Education. She regularly performs on stage and holds educational workshops for students throughout Japan.



Mary Mariko Ohno has received the "Gordon Ekvall Tracie Award" from the Ethnic Heritage Council. This Award is presented to an ethnic performing artist who has made significant contributions in the development and presentation of traditional arts in U.S.A. She is not only the first Japanese recipient but also the first Asian Artist to be chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award. Mary Mariko Ohno studied classical Japanese dance for 60 years and has earned the professional license and its title of "Hanayagi Fumiryu". She has also studied classical Japanese music, "Naga-uta style shamisen" and earned the professional title "Kine-ie Yanacho".

Madi Sato and composer **David Michael Tardy** spin a powerful & entranced tapestry of ancient ancestral songs and new songs of the Earth—all offered as prayer.



Tom Berkes, entrepreneur and musician, studied at the College of Santa Fe Contemporary Music school. He became interested in the shamisen in Kyoto under the tutelage of master shamisen and koto sensei, Keiko Nakagawa.

Hinoki Dream is the taiko ego of Jon Whitsell. Hinoki is a soft, aromatic wood that bachi (Japanese drum sticks) are made of. The cypress type wood is also used to make shrines.



Santa Fe Wadaikô explores and performs Taiko featuring festival and improvised ensemble drumming that deeply integrates percussion and focused movement. We draw inspiration from the exchange of ideas with the greater taiko community of teachers groups around



ALJo6 is a bi-cultural dance group from Albuquerque, aged 6 to 18. They perform both traditional or "idol" style dance. All 6 members have an American and a Japanese parent. The group was formed with a dream to express who they are in their unique way.

Senshigomi Cosplay is a two-person group of Rei (EverEnduring Cosplay) and Nikoel (Princess Detective Cosplay). Most of the Cosplay they do together is inspired by their favorite characters from Bishoujou Senshi Sailor Moon, Sailor Mars and Sailor Neptune. They are also founding members of the Albuquerque Steampunk Society and have hosted the Rad Gadgets Exhibit night at the Albuquerque Fine Art Museum.



Mary Mariko Ohno (杵家弥七蝶 / 花柳美美龍)
 Kine-ie Yanacho - shamisen Hanayagi Fumiryu - dancer



Shamisen:
 Paul Sawyer (Kine-ie Yachoji) 杵家弥蝶司
 Tommy Yu (Kine-ie Yahakucho) 杵家弥伯蝶
 Cecil Brower

Vocalist:
 Kine-ie Yakakiyo (杵家弥佳清)
 Kine-ie Yakafumi (杵家弥佳文)

Dancers:
 Charlie Johnson
 Akina Dennison
 Hanaka Dowling

Kabuki Academy



Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan

presents the art of Kyôgen
 The "Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan" program launched in June 2014 and, so far, 12 teams (45 people in total) have visited the U.S.. From an 18-year-old student to an 82-year-old woman, from academics to business people, there is a wide variety of volunteers. While sharing views with people from the U.S., they have also presented explanations and opinions on Japan's foreign policy, economic policies, culture and other issues.

On stage*

10:00 Welcome Satori Murata
 Aikido Kaiju
 AKKA Lion Dance

10:45 Greetings
 Honorary Consulate General of Japan at Albuquerque
 Davis Begay and Ikuko Begay
 Consulate General of Japan at Denver
 Makoto Ito and Grace Ito
 Consul Akihiro Izumi

11:00 ALJo6 dance medley

11:10 Joel Nakamura

11:15 Cosplay

11:25 Kyudo Art of Zen Archery

11:40 Madi Sato with David Michael Tardy
 Tom Berkes Shamisen

12:20 What's Ka-bu-ki?
 Exploring traditional kabuki theater
 Satori Murata

12:30 Taiko Santa Fe Wadaiko

1:05 Making of Matsuri

1:15 Kenpo AKKA Karate USA

1:35 "In Memorium" Tribute

1:40 ALJo6 dance medley

1:55 Odaiko Carl Tollander

2:00 Kabuki Academy: ACT 1

Songs from Kabuki
 都鳥 Miyakodori _ Plover Dance
 鼓の舞 Tsuzumi-no-Mai _ Drum Dance
 Shamisen medley:
 鏡獅子大薩摩 O-zatsuma from Kagami-Jishi
 勸進帳滝流し Takinagashi from Kanjincho

2:20 Iaido Spirit of the Sword
 Damon Apodaca

2:40 Hinoki Dream taiko and fue

2:50 Let's Learn Kyôgen: Tokuro Miyake
 Ancient Art of Laughter



3:20 Kabuki Academy: ACT 11

Dance Hits Medley including
 藤の花 Fuji-no-Hana _ Wisteria Flower
 越後獅子 Echigo Jishi _ Lion of Echigo
 京鹿子娘道成寺 Musume Dojoji _
 Maiden at Dojo Temple

3:50 Finale

4:00 Hachijô

* Program subject to change