

Takasago & Between the Stones

Classical and Contemporary Noh Theatre

2020 EUROPEAN TOUR: SOUTHBANK CENTRE LONDON • WATERGATE THEATRE
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London • Kilkenny • Wexford • Paris

Produced by Unanico, Jannette Cheong and Richard Emmert in association with the Oshima Theatre and Theatre Nohgaku. With the support of The Japan Foundation Performing Arts Japan Programme for Europe 2019-2020. An official event of the Japan-UK Season of Culture.

Collaborating Artists



A book to celebrate the life of Richard Emmert, with tributes from his friends and colleagues around the world, will be presented to mark his 70th year on the opening night of *Between the Stones*.

Jannette Cheong. Author of *Between the Stones*, *Pagoda* and *Opposites-InVerse*. Poet, writer, designer, curator and Theatre Nohgaku affiliated artist. Born in London, she has worked nationally and internationally in higher education and creative arts collaborations for over 25 years. She was the first British person to write an English language noh play using traditional noh techniques. *Pagoda* premiered in 2009 at the Southbank Centre, London, her first collaboration with Richard Emmert, the Oshima Theatre and Theatre Nohgaku, toured to Dublin, Oxford and Paris. In 2011, *Pagoda* toured again to the National Noh Theatre in Tokyo, then to Kyoto, Beijing and Hong Kong. Both tours included other activities with theatres, universities, schools, museums and festivals. In 2017, she co-produced with Unanico 'Noh time like the present...' a tribute to professional noh actor Akira Matsui at LSO St Luke's, London. The programme included her cross-cultural collaboration work *Opposites-InVerse* composed by Richard Emmert and featuring Akira Matsui with dancer Peter Leung, opera singers Li Meili and Piran Legg, and noh musicians Eitaro Okura, Kayu Omura and Emmert. *Between the Stones* is her third collaboration with Emmert.

Richard Emmert Composer of *Between the Stones*. Founder and former Artistic Director, Theatre Nohgaku. Professor of Asian performing arts at Musashino University in Tokyo, and certified Kita school noh instructor. He has studied, performed and taught classical noh drama in Japan since 1973. In Tokyo he directs an ongoing noh workshop. For 20 years, he led the Noh Training Project in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania and presently leads the annual summer intensive Noh Training Project UK at Royal Holloway, University of London. He co-organises the Noh Training Project Tokyo, a summer intensive workshop organized by Theatre Nohgaku with the Kita School of Noh. He is co-author of a series of seven volumes entitled *Noh Performance Guides* and author of a separate series of six volumes entitled *The Guide to Noh of the National Noh Theatre*, both published by the National Noh Theatre. He has led noh performance projects worldwide, most recently in Mexico City. He has composed, directed, and performed numerous English noh pieces including Ashley Thorpe's *Emily*. He co-produced the special tribute to Akira Matsui at LSO St Luke's London, and composed music for both Jannette Cheong's *Pagoda* and *Opposites-InVerse*.

Hideta Kitazawa Noh maskmaker and second generation traditional woodcarving artist. After majoring in forestry studies at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, he studied woodcarving with his father Ikkyo Kitazawa, as well as noh maskmaking. In 1997, he was awarded the Outstanding Young Artisan Award for Tokyo, and in 2003, the Yokohama Noh Theatre Director's Prize. His work was commissioned for Japan's Imperial Household Agency's recent imperial succession ceremonies. Internationally, he has demonstrated maskmaking techniques and exhibited widely including at Singapore's Asian Civilizations Museum, London's V&A Museum, Paris' Maison de la Culture du Japon, and Würzburg's Siebold Museum. He has taught maskmaking at the University of Hawaii, North Carolina School of the Arts, Australia University of Technology, University of Ljubljana and the University of Winnipeg. His masks are in the permanent collections of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, the Oriental Museum of Durham University, and Art Gallery New South Wales in Sydney. His many newly created masks for English noh can be seen at www.betweenthestones.com/past-events.



Ryoichi Kano Kita school main role (*shite*) performer and the leading Kita actor of his generation. Born in 1967, the son of Kita main role actor Shuho Kano, as a child he studied noh with his father in Kumamoto in Kyushu and performed numerous child roles. At the age of 13 he moved to Tokyo to become a live-in disciple of the late 15th Kita School head Minoru Kita. He later studied with Kita school main role actor Akio Shiotsu. He has since performed the main role in numerous noh plays including notably *Shojo Midare* (1994), *Dojoji* (2001), *Shakkyo* (2005) and *Okina* (2006). In 1992, his father Shuho donated a noh stage to Aix-en-Provence and thereafter he gave a number of workshops, demonstrations and performances in France. He has also performed with noh troupes in Germany, the United States, Norway, Poland, the Baltic States, Vietnam, China and Hong Kong. A member of the Kita Shokubun-kai, he has been designated an Important Intangible Cultural Asset by the Japanese government.

Akira Matsui Kita school main role (*shite*) performer. Born in 1946 in Wakayama, south of Osaka, he began studying noh at the age of 7. At age 12, he moved to Tokyo to become a live-in apprentice to Minoru Kita, the 15th generation head of the Kita school. Matsui returned to his hometown of Wakayama at age 21 where he is now based. He has since been active for over 50 years teaching and performing in over 25 countries, offering master classes at universities and collaborating with dancers, actors and musicians in Asia, Europe and the Americas in a variety of genres. In July 2016, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Royal Holloway, University of London. In 2017 he performed all the lead roles in a major production at LSO St Luke's, London as a tribute to mark his 70th year. This included Samuel Beckett's *Rockaby* narrated by the actor Hugh Quarshie, and Jannette Cheong's *Opposites-InVerse*, a three-part work written specially for him. Matsui is a member of the Kita Shokubun (full professional) Association. He is designated an Important Intangible Cultural Asset by the Japanese government and has been awarded the four main cultural prizes from Wakayama Prefectural and Wakayama City governments.

Jubilith Moore is a performer, director, writer, teaching artist and producer for the theatre and has devoted her professional life to exploring the ongoing life of traditional Japanese and contemporary American theatre. She has studied noh with Richard Emmert, Akira Matsui, Shiro Nomura, Masayuki Fujii and Kinue Oshima and kyogen with Yukio Ishida and Yuriko Doi. She is a Founding Company Member of Theatre Nohgaku and was Artistic Director of Theatre of Yugen from 2001 to 2014. Noteworthy roles are the Old Man in William Bulter Yeats's *At the Hawk's Well*, Elvis and Judy in Deborah Brevort's *Blue Moon over Memphis*, the waki in Greg Giovanni's *Pine Barrens* and Jannette Cheong's *Pagoda* (2009, 2011). She directed the world premiere of Carrie Preston's *Zahdi Dates and Poppies* and recently played the ai in Elizabeth Dowd's *Gettysburg* and sang in the chorus of Ashley Thorpe's *Emily*. She is the recipient of a Japan Foundation Fellowship, TBA's CASH and CASH Creates awards, TCG's 'Future Collaborations and Leadership University' grants as well as an 'Investing in Artists' grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation.



John Ogglevee is a theatre artist and founding member of Theatre Nohgaku. He has studied and performed noh since 1996 with Richard Emmert, Sadamu Omura, Akira Matsui and Kinue Oshima of the Kita School and Mitsuo Kama of the Ko School. He received an MFA from the University of Hawaii and is currently writing a PhD dissertation. He received a BFA in Drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts after which he performed extensively in Europe, North America and Asia with Bread and Puppet Theater and GALE GATES et al, and worked with directors Richard Foreman and Peter Schumann. After moving to Japan in 1999, he has performed with Yoji Sakate's Rinkogun in the award-winning Darumasan ga Koronda, Joen Sarenakatta Sannin Shimai, Cowra Honcho Kaigi, as well as the Japanese premiere of David Hare's *Power of Yes*. His prominent noh roles with Theatre Nohgaku have been in *At the Hawk's Well*, *Crazy Jane*, *Blue Moon Over Memphis* and *Emily*, as well as *Oppenheimer*. He has co-directed both *Blue Moon Over Memphis* and *Gettysburg*.

Eitaro Okura Okura school hip drum (otsuzumi) drummer. Eitaro Okura is the 16th generation noh musician in a line descending from Okura Shichizaemon. He studied extensively with his father, Okura Sanchu, as well as the late Yasufuku Tatsuo, a Japanese National Living Treasure of the Takayasu school of otsuzumi. He began studying and performing noh at the age of 6. In 1996 he entered the noh performers division of Tokyo University of the Arts. After graduation, he became a member of the Nohgaku Performers Association and has since performed in most of the major plays of the noh repertory. He has performed with several international tours including English noh performances of *At the Hawk's Well* (2002), *Moon of the Scarlet Plums* (2005), *Pagoda* (2009/2011), *Oppenheimer* (2015), *Sumida River* (2015), and the noh collaboration of *Opposites/InVerse* (2017). He presently teaches and performs regularly in professional performances throughout the Tokyo region.

Iori Oshima Born in October 2008, he is the son of main role actor Teruhisa Oshima. He first performed on the noh stage the dance from the play *Oimatsu* when he was three and a half years old. Since then he has performed the child role in numerous plays including *Jinen Koji*, *Hyakuman*, *Sumidagawa*, *Mochizuki*, *Funabenkei*, *Kantan*, *Ama*, *Ikkaku Sennin* and *Tokusa*. He has danced numerous short dances (shimai) and several longer dances (maibayashi). He danced his first full noh, *Tsunemasa*, in 2016 in the memorial noh programme for his great grandfather, Hisami Oshima. His performance in the new English noh *Between the Stones* is not only his first English noh performance but also his first time to perform outside of Japan.



Kinue Oshima Kita school main role (shite) performer. Born in Fukuyama in 1974, she is a fifth generation performer of the Oshima Noh Theatre. She first performed on stage at age two and studied both with her grandfather, Hisami, and her father Masanobu. After graduating from high school, she moved to Tokyo and entered the noh performers division of Tokyo University of the Arts where she studied the instruments of noh. After graduation, she began teaching noh in several universities and high schools in Hiroshima prefecture. Internationally, she has taught at the National Art Academy of Taiwan and joined Kita school performing tours to the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Bulgaria, and the Baltic Countries. In English noh, she has performed the main role in both *Pagoda* tours in 2009 in London, Dublin, Oxford and Paris, and in 2011 in Tokyo, Kyoto, Beijing and Hong Kong. In 2015 she played the main role in the Theatre Nohgaku production of *Sumida River*, the English version of the classical Japanese play *Sumidagawa* in San Antonio and Houston, Texas. In 1998, she became the first Kita school female member of the Noh Performers' Association. In 2005, she was awarded the Hiroshima Prefectural Culture Award.

Teruhisa Oshima Kita school main role (shite) performer. Born in Fukuyama in 1976, he is a fifth generation performer of the Oshima Noh Theatre. He began performing at the age of three studying with his grandfather Hisami and father Masanobu. In 1989, he performed his first full noh in a special "three generations" programme with his father and grandfather. After graduating from high school, he moved to Tokyo to become a full time disciple in the Kita school studying under Kita performer Shiozu Tetsuo. In addition to numerous performances within Japan, he has participated in noh tours to Lithuania and Poland (1999), Taiwan (2000, 2001), Holland and Belgium (2002), Vietnam (2003) and Scandinavia (2009). He performed in the European tour of *Pagoda* (2009) and again in the Asia Tour of *Pagoda* (2011). He has performed the typical plays that are considered a major part of the noh performers training including *Shojo Midare* and *Dojoji*. He is member in the Kita School Shokubun (full professional) Association and is designated an Important Intangible Cultural Asset by the Japanese government. Since 2017, he has lead the Noh Training Project Tokyo summer intensive workshops for foreigners sponsored by the Kita School and Theatre Nohgaku.

Laura Sampson is a London-based storyteller and arts promoter. After a first degree in medieval literature from University College London, she worked as a literary agent before training in storytelling and performance. Recent storytelling credits include *In the Winter Wood* (Polka Theatre), *Alternative Tarot* (Crick Crack Club), *Legend of the Burning Bell* (British Library), and London Horror Festival, alongside events with Bloomsbury Festival, Buxton Fringe and Secret City Arts. In 2014, Laura became a member of Theatre Nohgaku: she has practised noh in Japan and the UK since 2011. Performances with Theatre Nohgaku include *Atsumori* (Ai narrator), *Blue Moon Over Memphis*, *Zahdi Dates & Poppies* (nohkan flute), *Sumida River*, *Gettysburg*, and *Emily* (chorus). For the last seven years, Laura has been co-producer and facilitator of annual summer school Noh Training Project UK, with Dr Ashley Thorpe, at Royal Holloway, University of London.



Naoko Takahashi Okura school shoulder drum (kotsuzumi) noh musician. She became an actor in contemporary theatre while studying at Kobe Women's University. In 1992 she began to study noh as a participant in the Traditional Theatre Training program in Kyoto. Later she began to specifically study shoulder drum with Okura school performer Shun'ichiro Hisada and entered the Osaka Performers' Training school. Presently, she performs professionally mainly in the Osaka area, as well as teaches amateur students throughout the Kansai area. She has previously performed in English noh performances of *The Gull* in Vancouver (2006) and the *Pagoda* tour of Asia (2011) in Tokyo, Kyoto, Beijing and Hong Kong.

Narumi Takizawa (Nohkan flute, Isso school) Majoring in musicology and ethnomusicology at Tokyo University of the Arts, Narumi Takizawa studied Isso school nohkan flute with renowned nohkan performer Isso Yukimasa. After graduating, she reentered the university to specialize in nohkan performance. In addition to playing traditional noh music, she has been interested in contemporary music and has performed newly composed musical pieces in concert besides traditional pieces. She is a member of the energetic contemporary music performing group Ensemble Muromachi, directed by Laurent Teycheney, for which she has played nohkan for many premiered pieces. She also composes for nohkan and other Japanese flutes. Internationally, she has performed in the USA, France, Germany, England, Canada, Austria, Australia, Turkey and China. She has performed in several English noh pieces including *The Gull* (2006), *Pagoda* (2009/2011), and *Oppenheimer* (2015). She is a former host of a seven-year long Satellite PCM Radio Program by Tokyo FM called Japanese Music Variety.

Ashley Thorpe began studying noh in 1997, and began practical training in 2011. He has been taught by Kita School performers, Richard Emmert, Akira Matsui and Teruhisa Oshima. He is a member of Theatre Nohgaku, Director of the Noh Training Project UK and Director of the Centre for Asian Theatre & Dance at Royal Holloway. He is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance, and has published six book projects in topics related to East Asian performance, most recently 'Performing China on the London Stage: Chinese opera and global power, 1759-2008'. In 2011, he directed Xiong Shiyi's *Lady Precious Stream*, an adaptation of a Chinese opera, first performed in London in 1934. *Emily* is his first English-language noh. He wrote, and played the role of Herbert Jones in the 2018 work-in-progress production, and the Traveller (waki) in the professional premiere of *Emily* at Tara Arts, London, in 2019. He is co-editing books on English-Language noh with Richard Emmert and city to city theatre collaboration in Asia with Rosella Ferrari, SOAS.

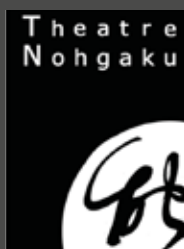


Shigenobu Uchida Kita school main role actor. Born in Tokyo in 1968, he is the son of Kita main role actor Anshin Uchida. He studied with his father as well as the late 15th Kita School head Minoru Kita. Later he studied with Kita school main role actor Akio Shiotsu. As a child he performed numerous child roles. As an adult, he has performed the main roles in numerous plays including *Shojo Midare*, *Shakkyo*, *Dojoji* and *Okina*. Outside of Japan he has performed in the United States, France, Germany and Hong Kong. A member of the Kita Shokubunkai, he has been designated an Important Intangible Cultural Asset by the Japanese government.

Kiyoshi Yoshitani Komparu school stick drum (taiko) noh musician. Born in 1964 in Fukuoka prefecture, southern Japan, at the age of 11 he began studying noh taiko with the late head of the Komparu school of taiko, Komparu Soemon the 22nd. After graduating from high school, he moved to Tokyo to become a live-in disciple of Komparu Soemon. He became independent in 1990, he spent ten years performing and teaching in the Tokyo area before moving back to Fukuoka in 2000 where he bases his present activities. Yoshitani was an early member of the Isso Yukihiro Group as well as the Okinawa Minyo Group of Oshiro Misako. In addition, he has performed collaborations with a variety of non-noh genres. He performed in the English noh *Oppenheimer* in Sydney Australia in 2015 and also in the Noh Reimagined Festivals in London in both 2016 and 2018. He has been designated an Important Intangible Cultural Asset by the Japanese government.

Unanico Group

Unanico is an internationally award-winning independent media company co-founded by Paul Laikin and Jason Jameson. Based in Central London, the head team are multi-cultural and multi-lingual, and bring decades of experience in the entertainment industry to projects and partnerships. Unanico Group has long-standing creative and financial partnerships in China and Japan, having professionally worked within Asia since 2009. Unanico Group is dedicated to the production of animated content, feature films, documentaries, live events, and interactive products, and is creating a world-class portfolio of IPs and brands for the entertainment sector. Unanico Group co-produced with Jannette Cheong and Richard Emmert the 2017 *Noh Time Like the Present* event at LSO St Luke's and has worked with Jannette Cheong and Richard Emmert on the production of all phases of the *Between the Stones* project.



Theatre Nohgaku

Theatre Nohgaku is an international company comprised of Japan, North America and Europe-based members who share a passion for noh, training in traditional noh theatre techniques, and a conviction that noh has profound power for audiences today. Theatre Nohgaku has created English-language noh in traditional noh style complete with hayashi musicians, masks, costumes and stage sets, as well as noh-influenced works. Theatre Nohgaku has performed original and traditional noh in Japanese and English in collaboration with Japanese noh masters. It strives to educate audiences, students and the general public about the arts of noh and provide training in its techniques.

Theatre Nohgaku was founded in 2000 by Richard Emmert and a group of English-speaking performers trained in the demanding techniques of noh. Its English-language performances thus far include *At the Hawk's Well* (2002), *Pine Barrens* (2006), *Crazy Jane* (2007/2010), *Pagoda* (2009/2011), *Blue Moon Over Memphis* (2013-2018), *Sumida River* (2014-2016), *Zahdi Dates and Poppies* (2016), *Gettysburg* (2018-2019) and *Emily* (2019). Its classical Japanese performances in association with the Noh Training Project in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania include *Kurozuka* (2004), *Funabenkei* (2009), *Atsumori* (2012), *Takasago* (2014) and *Hagoromo* (2014).

Theatre Nohgaku at present leads a summer Noh Training Project Tokyo (www.theatrenohgaku.org/noh-training-japan) in association with the Kita school and several of its performers. In the UK, it leads the Noh Training Project UK in association with Royal Holloway, University of London (nohtrainingprojectuk.org/).

Theatre Nohgaku serves as a unique cultural and artistic intermediary between Japan and the English-speaking world.

www.theatrenohgaku.org

Theatre Nohgaku performances of Pagoda (2009, London, Kinue Oshima photo by Clive Barda), Sumida River (2015, San Antonio, Kinue Oshima photo by David Surtasky), Blue Moon Over Memphis (2018, Earlham College, John Oglevee photo by David Surtasky).





Oshima Noh Theatre

The Oshima Noh Theatre is part of the Kita school, one of the five main actor (*shite*) noh schools. Within the Kita school there are now 34 actors from 20 different families who hold the title of *shokubun* indicating their position as professional noh performers of the highest level within the Kita school.

The Oshima family line began in the late 19th century with Shichitaro Oshima, a vassal of the Fukuyama fiefdom, which was a part of the feudal system that ended with the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Shichitaro was a disciple of Kita Roppeita, the 14th head of the Kita school. Shichitaro popularized noh in the region around the city of Fukuyama, which had become the main city in the eastern part of Hiroshima prefecture. His son, Hisataro, built a noh stage in Fukuyama in 1914. The third generational head of the Oshima family was Hisami Oshima who rebuilt the noh stage after it was destroyed in World War II. In 1971, he built a full-scale noh theatre and began a regular programme of performances and expanded classes for amateur students, and performed all the major noh plays in the repertory. The Oshima Noh Theatre is thus the only privately held noh theatre of the Kita school and one of the few such theatres in the entire noh world.

Hisami Oshima passed away in 2004 and was succeeded by the present family head, Masanobu Oshima. Masanobu's son, Teruhisa Oshima represents the fifth generation and he in turn has a son, Iori, who represents the 6th generation of Oshima performers. Kinue Oshima is Teruhisa's sister, and is the only female professional noh performer in the Kita school. Both Teruhisa and Kinue are highly respected performers within the noh world. Their younger sisters, Fumie and Norie, also are involved in various noh activities throughout Hiroshima prefecture.

www.noh-oshima.com



Page 34 and page 35 top right and bottom right. Photos courtesy of the Oshima Theatre and the Oshima family. Small insert photo left: Iori Oshima performing a *shimai* in 2014 (age 6). Small insert photo - three generations of the Oshima family (Masanobu, Teruhisa and Iori Oshima).

Page 35 Top left Photo of Teruhisa Oshima performing the *Tsure in Pagoda* 2009 by Clive Barda. Top middle photo of Kinue Oshima performing at a school in Hiroshima by Jannette Cheong.

