

What is Kyōgen?



Nōgaku theatre was proclaimed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. As a word, "Nōgaku" integrates the meanings of both Noh and Kyōgen. While Noh is characterized by the usage of distinctive masks and by tragic and profound themes, Kyōgen does not rely on masks and its comedic themes are rooted in ordinary life. Thus, Noh and Kyōgen represent different forms of expression that have their own unique appeal.

Classical Kyōgen plays depict plots that range from failures occurring in the daily life of the common people, to stories involving demons or spirit. Another characteristic of Kyōgen is that it deals with familiar subjects. Moreover, the characters are nameless, ordinary people, while the content varies from parody to puns.

Perhaps it is exactly the fact that anything that humans can think of is turned into a bright and unrestrained laugh that gives Kyōgen its sense of familiarity.



Members introduction

'Izumi-style' Kyogen performer

IZUMI Shinya

Born in 1977 in Osaka
Currently residing in Kyoto
Kyōgen and Noh actor of the Izumi school
Member of the Nōgaku Association, Yorozu Kyōgen Kansai branch
Studied under Manzō Nomura IX and Tadashi Ogasawara
Graduated from the Osaka Nōgaku Yōsei-kai (Osaka Nōgaku Training Society)



In addition: performed in Noh and Kyōgen plays all over Japan, taught Kyōgen at the Tōhai Theater Company, Theater Academy (Japan), Izumi Kyōgen Class, Hikone Castle Kids Summer School, various elementary schools in Kyoto, etc.

◀ <https://www.facebook.com/Kyogenperformer.IZUMIshinya/>



'Izumi-style' Kyogen performer

YAMAMOTO Hidekazu

Born in 1961 in Shiga Prefecture
Currently residing in Shiga Prefecture
Kyōgen and Noh actor of the Izumi school
Member of the Nōgaku Association
Deputy director of the Yorozu Kyōgen Kansai branch
Studied under the late Manzō Nomura VIII and Tadashi Ogasawara



'Izumi-style' Kyogen performer

YOSHIKUMI Kō

Born in 1976 in Fukuoka Prefecture
Currently residing in Fukuoka Prefecture
Kyōgen and Noh actor of the Izumi school
Member of the Nōgaku Association, Yorozu Kyōgen Kyūshū branch
Studied under Manroku Nomura II and Manzō Nomura IX



Coordinator

MATSUO Noriaki

Born in 1980 in Fukuoka Prefecture
Currently residing in Gifu Prefecture
Center for Japanese Language and Culture, Gifu University
Japanese language lecturer



Come and join us!



Inquire here for more information about the workshop

Mail : info@izumishinya.com

◀ URL <http://izumishinya.com>



Kyogen and its Charms

Discovering the charm of Kyōgen! Workshop information

Have you ever heard about "Kyōgen"?

It is the oldest form of Japanese comedy theater, born approximately 650 years ago.

Let us introduce you to the world of Kyōgen, as popular now as in the past.

Translated by Alin Gabriel Tirtara



Kyogen workshops so far

We organize Kyōgen workshops in numerous places so that everyone can become familiar with this traditional form of Japanese theater.



• 2014 •

Lectured during the “Kyōgen workshop for international students” at Konan International Exchange Center

• 2017 • • 2018 •

Organized Kyōgen workshops at Rangsit University and Satriwitthaya 2 Highschool (Thailand)

• 2018 •

Lectured during the “Kyōgen workshop and demonstration for international students” organized by the students of Kobe Gakuin University

• 2019 •

Organized Kyōgen workshops and performances at Satriwitthaya 2 Highschool, Naresuan University, and Seekan Highschool (Thailand)

Organized a Kyōgen workshop in Hiraya Village, Nagano Prefecture as part of a regional revitalization program.

‘Vocalization Workshop’ held at Kobe Gakuin University

• 2019 • • 2020 •

Lectured during the “Kyōgen workshop and demonstration” organized at Osaka University’s Center for Japanese Language and Culture for international students

‘Kyogen Picture Book Online Workshop’ held at Hiraya village in Nagano prefecture

Kyōgen workshops are also held at libraries, elementary schools, cafes, etc., mainly in the Kansai region.

A look at workshops in Japan



A look at workshops in Thailand



What is going to happen during the Kyōgen workshop?

Wah-Hahaha /



Introduction: An example of a Kyogen workshop

01



What is Kyōgen in the first place?

An easy explanation of the origins of Kyōgen and how to enjoy it.

02



“Mitate” technique in Kyōgen is amusing!

Introducing the “mitate” technique of using the fan to represent something else.



Pouring sake



Arrow



Saw

03



Walking patterns in Kyōgen

Explaining the movement patterns in Kyōgen (known as “kata”) while including actual performances.



Stance



‘Kusabira’ Walking Pattern (resembling a mushroom)

04



Onomatopoeia in Kyōgen

The various animal-sounds (onomatopoeia) used in Kyogen



Hen

05



Let’s try it together!

We will practice the “kata” movement patterns while using the loud voice characteristic to Kyōgen to express laughter and weeping.



Laughter



Cry

06



The long-awaited, first Kyōgen experience!

You will be able to enjoy a 15 minutes long Kyōgen play, after we will explain the story in an accessible manner.



See workshop video here



YouTube

