

# Program Notes

For the first time ever outside of Japan, audiences have the opportunity to enjoy *The Mibu Kyōgen*, a fascinating form of medieval folk play. Performed by masked actors without spoken dialogue, it is ideal for presentation abroad with no language barrier.

Mibu Kyōgen [full name: Mibu Dainenbutsu Kyōgen) has been performed every year for 700 years at the Mibu Temple in Kyōto, every Spring, from April 21 to 29, and in the Fall, in late September or October over a three-day weekend. Designated officially as an important cultural treasure, Mibu Kyōgen differs greatly from the Noh Kyōgen that has been performed several times in Hawai'i. For one thing, no spoken dialogue is used in the performances. Masked actors perform to the accompaniment of gongs, flutes, and taiko drums. Some of the dramas are uniquely Mibu

Kyōgen, while others have been derived from Noh and Noh Kyōgen.

Engaku Shonin is said to have originated Mibu Kyōgen in the Kamakura period to convey to large outdoor crowds stories that illustrate some of the lessons of Buddhist sermons. People could not hear the dialogue, so communication became non-verbal. All of the actors are lay persons who work in other occupations, while practicing and studying this rare artform at the Mibu Temple. Prior to the University of Hawai'i's invitation to them, the 16-member group had been reluctant to go on a tour outside of Japan, so we rejoice in having them make this historic journey.

"I am looking forward to seeing how much the non-Japanese viewers will see in Mibu Kyōgen, which expresses emotions by way of small movements. The Hawai'i performances will be a good opportunity to further the appreciation of traditional Japanese art outside

Japan," says the
Reverend Shunkai
Matsuura, chief priest of
the Mibu Temple in Kyöt
and leader of the performing group.

From a repertory of 30 different plays, two have been specially selected for this premiere performance: Tsuchigumo (which involve a spider, with a spectacular scene in which the spidermasked actor sends out long strands of cobwebs) and Oharame (The Women of Ohara) — Ohara is a section of Kyôto famous for its cherry blossoms. Enjoy!

*—Victor N. Kobayashi* Dean of Summer Session



# Mibu Kyōgen Hawai'i Tour

The Reverend Shunkai Matsuura, Mibu Temple (est. 991 A.D.)

壬生寺貫主

松浦俊海

Koh Ishihara

石原浩

Kikuo Yagi

八木喜久男

Ken Suetomo

末友研

Hiroshi Sagiyama

鷺山博嗣

Masahiro Yamane

山根正広

Kojiro Ogino

荻野孝治郎

Masaaki Arata

荒田政明

Hidenori Torigoe

鳥越英徳

Seiya Yagi

八木聖弥

Toshiaki Matsuura

松浦俊昭

Eiichi Nekado

根角栄一

Seiichiro Yagi

八木勢一郎

Yasuaki Matsuura

松浦康昭

Takahisa Yagi

八木孝久

Keiko Onishi

大西佳子

# PROGRAM プログラム

for all three performances

# **Oharame**

INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

# **Tsuchigumo**

Presented by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Summer Session in collaboration with the University's Center for Japanese Studies and the Department of Theatre and Dance: Leeward Community College; and the Hawai'i Okinawa Center. Supported in part by the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the Japan Foundation, and The East Asia Institute, Summer Session, University of Hawai'i Foundation.

# 大原女

公浦三回共

休憩 (15分)

# 土蜘蛛

共催

ハワイ大学マノア本校 サマー・セッション 日本研究センター 演劇ダンス学部 リーワード・ カミュニチ. カレッジ ハワイ沖縄センター

### 助成

ハワイ州文化芸術財団 **国際交流基金** 東アジア・

インスチチュート サマー・セッション **ハワイ大学財団** 

# **Oharame (The Women of Ohara)**

CHARACTERS: A rich man, his servant, mother and three daughters

The setting is Ohara, located northeast of Kyōto. The women of Ohara have the unique custom of carrying goods by balancing them on their heads. They peddle such items as flowers in the city of Kyōto.

In this comedy, a wealthy man visits the outlying hamlet of Ohara to view the flowers, and is made a fool by an old woman.

Accompanied by his servant, this man has a party while flower viewing. He becomes fascinated by the young girls who are with their mother, and is especially struck by the second daughter. He has his servant ask the mother to invite the daughters to join him. During the festivities, the servant and the mother



have humorous exchanges. When the mother learns that the rich man is attempting to seduce her second daughter, she draws the daughter into the merry-making while the other women are dancing. After the mother exchanges her clothing with that of her second daughter, she returns to the scene of the party, hiding her face. When the young women leave the party, the unsuspecting rich man pulls aside the disguised mother

and proposes to her and sh consents. When the rich ma discovers that the "daughte is the mother, he flees.



# **Tsuchigumo (The Spider)**

CHARACTERS: Minamoto no Raikō, a spider, Watanabe no Tsuna, Hirai Hōshō, and a sword-bearer.

The story is one of the masterpieces of Mibu Kyōgen.
Audiences are thrilled by the
costumes and the climatic
moment when the spider spews
out its webs. There are also Noh
and Kabuki versions of
Tsuchigumo. In Japanese
mythology "Tsuchigumo" also
referred contemptuously, to
people who lived in the
outlying regions of Japan who
did not submit to the Yamato
Court.

A spirit of a spider torments Minamoto no Raikō day and night. He orders his followers, Watanabe no Tsuna and Hirai Hōshō, to trace the spider to its nest and have it destroyed.

Minamoto no Raikō has not been feeling well for some time. Together with his followers Tsuna and Hōshō, Raikō has a feast but becomes tired and lies down to rest. When his followers leave the room, a spider appears and spews his web and torments Raikō. When Raikō draws his sword and charges into the spider, it disappears. Hearing the commotion, Tsuna and Hōshō hurry to Raikō's side

but the spider is nowhere to be found. Raikō orders the two to kill the spider. The two prepare themselves for battle, putting on their tasuki and lighting their torches to chase after the spider. They finally destroy the spider which falls down spewing out a magnificent web. They decapitate the spider and depart.



### NOTES

It is interesting that Minamoto no Raikō (or Yorimitsu) (-1012 A.D.) was a general during the



mid-Heian period. A son of Tsunemoto, the oldest child of the sixth child of Emperor Seiwa (859-867 A.D.), he was a Governor of places like Settesu [Osaka] and was known for his bravery. He is associated with legends such as the killing of the ogre, Shutendoji, of Mount Oe (a story found in *kagura* performances including one performed for Summer Session several years ago).

Watanabe no Tsuna (953-1025 A.D.) was also a military man during the mid-Heian period, one of the "shitenno" (or 4 generals) of Minamoto no



Raikō. He is associated with legends of slaying the Shutendoji of Mount Oe and the ogre of Rashōmon.

The Reverend Shunkai Matsuura, Mibu Temple

# THE MIBU KYŌGEN

PRODUCED BY
Summer Session,
University of Hawai'i
at Mānoa

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Alan Hunley LIAISON: Peter Tanaka PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Michiko Ueno-Herr

Hawai'i Okinawa Cente Executive Director: Carolyn Mariko Miho and Staff

### Leeward Community College Theatre

THEATRE MANAGER:
Kathleen Cabral
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:
Donald Ranney
ASSISTANT TECH
DIRECTOR:
Zaff Bobilin
THEATRE CLERK:

#### Kennedy Theatre Summer Production Staff

Barbara Donios

CHAIR, DEPT. OF
THEATRE AND DANCE:
Dennis Carroll
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:
Mark Boyd
THEATRE MANAGER:
Marty Myers

# Coming Attractions

#### May 31 and June 1

JoAnne Brackeen— jazz piano "In a Hawaiian Mood"



#### June 2-5

Latin American films

#### June 8-12

Sweet Honey in the Rock a cappella singing sensations



### June 15-21

Hawai'i Guitar Festival '94 slack key, jazz, classical, and Latin/Caribbean styles

#### June 20-July 5

African American Visions— free public talks, readings, concerts, films, etc., featuring Maya Appeloy



ing Maya Angelou and John O'Neal

#### June 24-26

The Trojan Women directed by Yukihiro Goto

#### July 6-17

Filipino
Culture— more
talks, readings,
concerts, films,
and art



#### July 13

Lyle Ritz & Byron Yasui jazz ukulele

#### July 15-17

Onoe Kikunobu Dance Company— classical Japanese dance

#### July 16

TALES Concert— storytelling for the whole family

#### July 23

Sacred Music and Dance from Tibet



### July 30

SamulNori and Guests drum masters from Korea

### FREE

Summer Session

Publications

#### PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON:

- ☐ Summer at Mānoa Public Events (includes fibn schedule) The Public Events Tabloid is automatically distributed to UH faculty and staff on Oʻahu.
- ☐ FAVSI: Film and Video Summer Institute(workshops nd public talks) Available in June
- Senior Focus (for people 60 years and over) Available in June
- ☐ 1995 Summer Session Courses
- ☐ African American Humanities
  Institute
- Filipino Culture Humanities Institute

NAME	
ADDRESS	APT NO.
CITY	STATE ZIP

HONE

(Social Security Number (optional)

#### Send this form to: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Summer Session

P.O. Box 11450, Dept. PMK Honolulu, HI 96828-0450 Attn: Ran Ying Porter

Tel (808) 956-SUMMer (800) 862-6628 toll free from Neighbor Islands and continental U.S.A. Or FAX form to (808) 956-3421 Attn: Ran Ying Porter

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### **CAST LIST**

### Saturday, May 28, 8:00 pm Kennedy Theatre

#### **OHARAME**

Mother Attendant The Rich Man Daughter Daughter Daughter

Kinko (gong) Taiko (drum) Fue (flute) Fue (flute)

Prompter

Costumes

Koujirou OGINO Ken SUETOMO Masahiro YAMANE Seiichiro YAGI Toshiaki MATSUURA Yasuaki MATSUURA

Masaaki ARATA Koh ISHIHARA Eiichi NEKADO Hiroshi SAGIYAMA

Kikuo YAGI

Keiko OHNISHI

#### **TSUCHIGUMO**

Spider Raikō or Yorimitsu Tsuna Hōshō

Kinko (gong) Taiko (drum) Fue (flute) Fue (flute)

Sword-bearer

Prompter

Costumes

Hiroshi SAGIYAMA Hidenori TORIGOE Seiya YAGI Takahisa YAGI Yasuaki MATSUURA

Masaaki ARATA Ken SUETOMO Eiichi NEKADO Masahiro YAMANE

Kikuo YAGI

Keiko OHNISHI

### 5月28日土曜日午後8時 ケネディー劇場

### キャスト

おはらめ大原女

母親

供

旦那娘

娘

娘

金鼓

太鼓笛

笛

後見

衣装方

力ちぐも土蜘蛛

蜘蛛

頼光

綱

保昌

太刀持

太鼓

笛

笛

後見

衣装方

荻野 孝治郎

末友 研

山根 正広

八木 勢一郎

松浦 俊昭

松浦 康昭 荒田 政明

石原 浩

根角 栄一

鷺山 博嗣 八木 喜久男

大西 佳子

雅山 博嗣

鳥越 英徳

八木 聖弥

八木 孝久 松浦 康昭

荒田 政明

末友 研

根角 栄一

山根 正広

八木 喜久男

大西 佳子