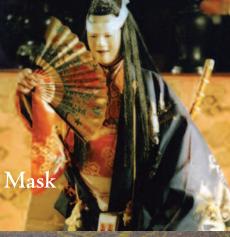




# Pathos Behind the Mask





Shizuka Mikata Noh Principal Actor Kanze School, Kyoto, Japan

niquely subtle and regal, Noh, one of the oldest forms of performing arts in the world today, has been performed since the 14th century in Japan. Veiled in a fog of intrigue and mystery, Noh features rhythmic musicians, choral chanters and masked actors as they tell the stories handed down over generations.

> In Noh, tradition dictates each performer to practice the fundamental movements, songs and dances independently, making

each performance fresh to the audience and performers. A hybrid of improvised tradition, "Noh: Pathos Behind the Mask" will examine and demonstrate the many unique cultural traditions that have been handed down for generations.

Shizuka Mikata was born in Kyoto in 1966 as the eldest son of NOH performer Ken Mikata. He made his first appearance on the professional stage at the early age of 5, followed by

his first leading role at 12. Mikata went on to apprentice with the legendary NOH master and Japanese living national treasure of Japan, Kurouemon Katayama.

Through the Japan Foundation's International program, Shizuka Mikata will be joined by four outstanding figures, actor Michiharu Wakebayashi, flute player Manabu Takeichi, Kotsuzumi drummer Ichiro Kichisaka and Otsuzumi drummer Masaru Kawamura. Together these classically trained Noh performers of the Kanze School will demonstrate with awe inspiring precision the true movements, sound and stories from the elusive art.

Accompanying this program will be a classically designed stage, wardrobe musical instruments and images of Noh performance in Japan.

The Los Angeles program is the only full theatrical presentation and is a ticketed event.

Supported by Consulate-Generals of Japan in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Denver Miyako Hotel Los Angeles Kanze School of Noh in Kyoto, Japan Japan America Society of Southern California Japan Society of Northern California



University of Colorado Denver College of Arts & Media

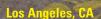


Portland State









Los Angeles, CA Friday, February 6, 2009, 7 pm Cultural and Community Center Aratani/Japan America Theatre 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 BOX OFFICE: (213) 680-3700 INFORMATION: (213) 628-2725 ext. 133

\$25 Orchestra, \$20 Balcony JACCC Members \$20, \$15 Student, senior & group price available

Sunday, February 8, 2009, 2 pm University of San Francisco
McLaren Room 252 San Francisco, CA 94117 CONTACT: Krysten Elbers (415) 422-635

# Portland, OR

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 7 pm Portland State University
The Dolores Winningstad Theatre 1111 SW Broadway (at Main Street) Portland, OR 97205 CONTACT: Dr. Laurence Kominz (503) 725-5288 (ph) (503) 725-5276 (fx)

Thursday, February 12, 2009, 7 pm Seattle Asian Art Mu Stimson Auditoriun 1400 East Prospect Stree teer Park Seattle, WA 98112-3303 CONTACT: SAM Box Office (206) 654-3121 RSVP to boxoffice@seattleartm

Saturday, February 14, 2009, 8 pm nneth King Academic & Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall nver, CO 80204 CONTACT: King Center Box Office (303) 556-2296

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