



## Introducing Japanese Theater: a New Digital Anthology in Four Parts

Editor in Chief: Samuel L. Leiter, Ph.D.

### Table of Contents

#### 1. Lectures

- a. **Introduction to Kabuki** by Samuel L. Leiter (Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, CUNY, Emeritus).
  - i. Historical Background
  - ii. Conventions
  - iii. Theaters
  - iv. Plays and Dances
  - v. Actors and Acting
- b. **Introduction to Noh** by John Oglevee (Nohgaku Theater, Tokyo).
  - i. Historical Background
  - ii. Theatrical Divisions: *Mugen* and *Genzai*
  - iii. Main Categories: *Gobandate*
  - iv. Acting and Actors
  - v. Hayashi: Music and Musicians
  - vi. The Stage
- c. **Introduction to Modern Theater** (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries) by David Jortner (Baylor University)
  - i. Meiji Era (1868-1912)
  - ii. New Drama: *Shinpa* and *Shingeki*
  - iii. Kantō Earthquake and after
  - iv. Post-World War II
  - v. 1960s
  - vi. 1980s-2020
  - vii. Special Focus: Tadashi Suzuki
  - viii. Special Focus: Shimizu Kunio

- **Duration of lectures:** approximately 70-90 minutes each, split into short sections (10-15 min. each).
- **Lectures include:** images, clips of performances, and archival materials (such as production photos, sketches, and more).
- **Supplementary materials:** summaries, glossaries, bibliographies, and “further reading” lists.

#### 2. Practice Demonstrations – Noh

Short videos (5-10 minutes each) providing practical demonstrations of various aspects of Noh given by shite actors Teruhisa Oshima and Kinue Oshima (Kita School) and kotsuzumi player Kayu Omura (Ko School).

Videos include:

- Masks: Ko-omote, Shakumi, Deigan, Hannya, Kantan-otoko, Shin-men.
  - Utai (chant): Wagin and Gogin
  - Ōgi (fans)
  - Kotsuzumi (shoulder drum)
  - Chant and Drum: Kiri from *Shōjō*
  - Shimai from *Yashima*
  - Shimai from *Hagoromo*
- All videos are in Japanese, with English subtitles.
- All videos include short opening text “slides,” for context and overview.

### 3. Workshops

A series of workshops for learning basic movement patterns and techniques.

- a. **Nihon Buyō** by Kaya Yamazaki: 10 video tutorials (5-7 minutes each), and a special short dance recital at the end.
  - i. Introduction
  - ii. Seated Bowing
  - iii. Nihon buyō and Kabuki
  - iv. Female-Role Postures
  - v. Head Movements
  - vi. Ma: Interval and Timing
  - vii. Female-Style Walking
  - viii. Male-Role Postures and Movements
  - ix. Using the Fan
  - x. Mai and Odori
- b. **Noh Kata** by Kinue Oshima: the basics of eight different kata (in Japanese with English translation): Kamae, Suriashi, Hakobi, Shikake, Hiraki, Sashi, Mawashi, Shiori.

### 4. Interviews

Four interviews, each 15-25 minutes long (the first three are in Japanese with English subtitles).

- a. Female shite actor Kinue Oshima discusses her art and practice in a still widely male-dominated art form.
- b. Shite actor Teruhisa Oshima discusses his journey in the world of Noh.
- c. Female kotsuzumi player Kayu Omura discusses her life and work as a Noh musician.
- d. Japanese expatriate director Izumi Ashizawa (State University of New York, Stony Brook), who uses traditional Japanese concepts in her productions.

Notes:

1. Planned expansion: Kyōgen, Bunraku, and 21<sup>st</sup> century theater.
2. All content is in HD video format, non-downloadable, exclusively on Theater.Academy.