



ノホ Noh

**Noh-a Japanese
classical
performance-
played by master
performer from
Japan**

Organizers ;
Embassy of Japan in Austria
Permanent Mission of Japan
to the International Organizations in Vienna
Weltmuseum
Theatermuseum

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Noh Experience in Austria

Vienna:

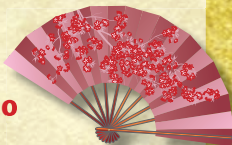
**4 November 14:00
Theatermuseum**

**4 November 19:00
Permanent
Mission of Japan**

**5 November 19:00
Weltmuseum**

COMMENTARY

高砂 Takasago



"Takasago," one of the masterpieces of Sh gen-noh (Noh for celebration), has been widely appreciated since the Muromachi era 1336–1573. Even those who have never seen Noh dramas might have heard this name.

In this piece, the pine tree plays an important role. From ancient times in Japan, people have believed that deities dwell in the pine tree which is often called "Chitose (thousand year)" in Japanese poetry because of its evergreen nature. The pine, therefore, represents the celebration of longevity. It also has different sexes, which reminds people of husband and wife. Zeami created this piece based on a phrase in Kanajo preface (The Japanese preface was written by KI no Tsurayuki.) to the Kokinshū, "Two pines of Takasago and Suminoe seem to be a pair." He set as the characters of this drama aged man and woman who lived far apart in Takasago in Harima Province and Sumiyoshi in Settsu Province respectively yet still keeping their harmonious marital relationship. Zeami honored the longevity and harmonious relationship of the old couple, and compared the blessed longevity of the pine tree to the eternal prosperity of the art of Japanese poetry. His efforts generated a superb piece, involving beautiful verses and crisp movements and dance.

This play is one of the best of the masterpieces, persisting in the idea of blessing and celebration, extremely bright, and full of the atmosphere of nobility, dignity, and purity. The audience can enjoy this piece by simply seeing, listening, and feeling it. People can experience purification through seeing Takasago.



猩々 Shojo

Once upon a time in China, a man lived in the village of Y zu, at the foot of Mount Kanekin-zan*. The man, whose name was K f, was filial to his parents and cared them very much. One night, he had a dream which advised him that he would become rich and prosperous if he sold liquor at the market in Y zu. Following the advice in the dream, he began to sell liquor and became richer and richer. Something mysterious happened at the market where K f ran his liquor stall. A certain customer regularly came to buy liquor from K f and drink it, but no matter how much he drank, his face never turned red. Wondering about this, K f asked his name, and the man revealed that he was Sh j, who lived in the ocean.

That day, K f went to the beach of the Yangtze River carrying liquor and waited for Sh j to appear. Appearing in front of him was Sh j, who was drunk and became red in the face. Sh j expressed his delight that he could meet his friend K f, and he drank and danced. He lauded the amiable K f and presented him with a crock, from which the liquor automatically springs forever, in order to express his appreciation for the liquor until that day. Then, he lay down in a drunken stupor. This meeting actually happened in K f's dream. However, the magic crock was left with him, and his family enjoyed prosperity for a long, long time. This is a truly happy story.

Provided by "the-noh.com" (<http://www.the-noh.com/>)

BIOGRAPHY OF KYUTARO HASHIOKA



Shite Player (Protagonist Noh player) of the Kanze School, the 9th Generation of Hashioka Family Kyutaro Hashioka Member of the Association of Noh Representative of Hashioka Kai (Hashioka Company) Chairman of Kyushu-Kai (Kyushu Company), Buyoh-Kai (Noh School) In September 1958, born in Tokyo (Akasaka) as an eldest son of Kyuma Hashioka, the 8th of Hashioka family who was famed as a genius Kanze Shite player and the Important Intangible Cultural Synthesis Designation Holder. Since debut at the age of 3 in April 1962, he has been playing numerous Noh programs including "SAGI", "DOJOJI" that are especially known as being esoteric and difficult to perform.

In May, 1995, he succeeded to the name of Kyutaro Hashioka from his grandfather who was the 7th generation of Hashioka Family and famed as a master of Kanze Shite player, also a member of Japan Art Academy and former Chairman for the Association of Noh. He has been contributing to international cultural exchanges and popularization of Noh through the commitment to the performing activities in 30 cities of 10 countries; not only playing Noh programs but also providing lecture-workshops at universities and cultural organizations in Japan and overseas. While preserving the traditional style of Noh, he has also been actively challenging new style by way of collaboration with prominent artists or performers of other genres of art genre.

<http://www.catv296.ne.jp/~hashioka/>