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PRESS RELEASE #01

Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations [GEIDANKYO]

Online Video streaming distribution
**A cross talk “Tracing the life of Minamoto no Yoshitsune
with three traditional performing arts**

(English subtitles will be added in December 2021)

Online Talk

平泉 中尊寺本堂より収録配信

芸能とたどる源義経

— 南部神楽・能楽・日本舞踊



牧澤神楽
吉田聖樹・阿部大樹

喜多流能楽師
佐々木多門

日本舞踊家
花柳源九郎

進行：津軽三味線奏者
浅野祥

Geidankyo has been developing the "NOBODY KNOWS" project, which rediscovers the charms of "Japan Heritage" * and local culture throughout Japan from the perspective of traditional performing arts, and connects them to tourism since 2019. NOBODY KNOWS project is proud to announce a release of the first video (archived online) this year. The theme is “Minamoto no Yoshitsune”, one of the greatest and the most popular samurai warriors of Kamakura era (1185 to 1333) and of Japan history. A cross talk is now available: “Tracing the life of Minamoto no Yoshitsune with traditional performing arts - Nambu Kagura, Nogaku, Kabuki, Nihonbuyo” at Chusonji Temple, designated as both Japan Heritage Site and World Heritage Site.

* Japan Heritage: An initiative by Agency for Cultural Affairs that certifies stories that tell Japanese culture and traditions as "Japan Heritage" through history and charms across the nation. The purpose is to revitalize regions and promote tourism by packaging tangible and intangible cultural properties in each region related to the story. As of June 2020, 104 locations have been certified.



“Tracing the life of Minamoto no Yoshitsune with performing arts - Nambu Kagura, Nogaku, Nihonbuyo” (English subtitles will be added in December 2021)

Date : 1st October,2021 ~ 31st March,2022 YouTube streaming distribution

U R L : <https://nobodyknows.tours/en/event2021-03.html>

Guest : Yoshida Seiki, Abe Hiroki (Magisawa Kagura) ,Sasaki Tamon (Noh) ,
Hanayagi Genkuro (Nihonbuyo)

MC : Asano Sho (Tsugaru Shamisen)

Yoshitsune deserved credit for success in the battle against the Taira clan by Minamoto no Yoritomo, his older brother, after he was under protection of the Oshu-Fujiwara clan. But he came into conflict with his brother, and he was expelled to Hiraizumi. It is said that he committed suicide there.

Yoshitsune, with a lot of ups and downs, has not only been performed in "Azumakudari (Descending East of Japan, Hiraizumi from Kyoto)" at the "Spring Fujiwara Festival"* held every year in Hiraizumi Town during Golden Week (early May), but also in Noh, Kabuki, and Nihonbuyo.

*"Spring Fujiwara Festival" in both 2020 and 2021 was cancelled to prevent the spread of Covid-19

Minamoto no Yoshitsune also is an essential theme in the Southern Kagura around Hiraizumi. This crosstalk features some experts:

- Yoshida Seiki and Abe Hiroki, performers of "Magisawa Kagura", one style of the Nambu Kagura.
- Sasaki Tamon, a Kita style Noh performer, who is closely related to Chusonji Temple.
- Hanayagi Genkuro, a Japanese Classical dancer.

They talk about Yoshitsune while they give demonstrations of their areas.

The discussion is led by Mr. Sho Asano, a Tsugaru shamisen player, who has a strong interest in local performing arts including folk songs. Through performing arts, the video unravels Yoshitsune's history to Hiraizumi and the richness of expression of him.



Azumakudari, Nihonbuyo (Nagauta) "Gojobashi", Noh "Funabenkei"

Magisawa Kagura

Has been handed down to Mashiba District in Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture. Inherits some characteristic programs from Nambu Kagura, sacred Shinto dance, and is performed at the local events or festivals. They started teaching Tori-mai, a special dance for prayer, at Mataki Junior High School in 1963, and then taught at the Children Association of Magisawa District. They also have instructed Takizawa Elementary School since 2002. Mataki Junior High School was combined into Ichinoseki East Junior High School in 2008, but their instruction still has been continuing. They focus on regular practices and successor trainings. Overseas performance in Bhutan and the exchange performances are played actively.

Sasaki Tamon

Became a Noh actor of the Kita school from his father's generations. His father was from Sakura Moto-bo, Enjoin Temple, where actors performed for the stage of Chusonji Temple. In addition to his activity at Kita Noh Theater in Tokyo, Tamon focuses on promotion of Noh in Tohoku area, such as Chusonji Takigi Noh, Sendai Aoba Noh, and Hekisuien Noh in Shiraishi City, and performs both in Japan and overseas. He enlightens children in school, has lectures to promote Noh in various places. He has performed some large-scale pieces such as "Shojoran", "Dojoji", and "Okina" at Chusonji Hakusan Shrine Noh Theater, which has long connections with him.

Hanayagi Genkuro

Born in Nara. Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2003. Is known for his colorful and powerful performance style which fascinates people, and is active in many public performances based on traditional dance. Won the Incentive Award of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2017. Received the new face award from Association of Dance Critics in 2013. Has participated in Hieizan Takigi Kabuki, Ninagawa Yukio's work, and Takarazuka Live as an assistant choreographer. In "NOBODY KNOWS" he composes and directs the stages using the story of Japan Heritage Site.

Asano Sho

Born in Miyagi prefecture, 1990. Graduated from Keio University. At the age of 14, he was the youngest to win the highest rank A level of the All-Japan Tsugaru Shamisen Contest and won for three consecutive years up to 2006, recognized in its Hall of Fame. With his astounding performance skills and natural charm, he conveys the fascination of Shamisen music. He collaborates with "MIKAGE PROJECT" which composes and arranges folk song and classic music by oral tradition from various parts of Japan in contemporary style, also with "ART Kabuki-dan," a band which consists of Japanese traditional musicians. He opens up the new music scene.

A project to develop a new form of regional tourism in local areas
with “Japan Heritage” 【 NOBODY KNOWS 】



NOBODY KNOWS Concept Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StNXIbQcpC4>

NOBODY KNOWS is a project to develop a new form of regional tourism in local areas with “Japan Heritage”, rediscovering culture of each region, such as the unknown history, lifestyle, craftsmanship and cuisine, from the perspective of traditional performing arts derived from its expressions and form of prayer. Sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Geidankyo has been implemented as a “Japan Cultural Expo” project* since 2019.

In 2020, the spread of COVID-19 cancelled the majority of local festivals and events. Under the continuing tough situation which didn't allow people to get together, NOBODY KNOWS carried out a project to explore a new form of tourism by covering local performing arts and historical culture in three areas. "Prayer", for the extinction of plague and a good harvest, has been a part of daily life of Japanese people. It was a root of many of the folk performance that have been passed down for generations in various areas of Japan.

* “Japan Cultural Expo” project: Projects, deployed throughout Japan, to promote Japanese cultural arts and spread its diverse and universal appeal in anticipation of fostering momentum for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and increasing foreign tourists.



【FY2021 New (3 areas)】

Disseminate unknown charms of each region through video

Hiraizumi, Iwate Pref. : October 1 (Fri) YouTube streaming distribution

A cross talk "Tracing the life of Minamoto no Yoshitsune with performing arts -Nambu Kagura, Nohgaku, Nihonbuyo"

Komatsu, Ishikawa Pref. : November 13 (Sat) 14 (Sun) Screened at the Japan Heritage Summit/YouTube streaming distribution

Tokushima & Ishii, Tokushima Pref. : YouTube streaming distribution

【Continuation (2 areas)】

Tours and Events

Satsumasedai, Kagoshima Pref. : November 6 (Sat)

Isehara, Kanagawa Pref. : December 18(Sat) 19(Sun)

Characteristics of the 2021 "NOBODY KNOWS" project

- ▶ Experience the scenery, history and culture of the area, the state of the festival, etc. with beautiful images and discover new attractions of the area.
- ▶ Deep comprehension of the story with fun about "Japan Heritage" through folk performance handed down in each area and traditional performing arts by professionals.
- ▶ Guides and performer to give you clear understanding on charms of "Japan

NOBODY KNOWS

Organizer: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council, Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations Co-organizer : The local governments of the Japan Heritage Recognition, etc Support: Ministry of the Environment

<https://nobodyknows.tours/>

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