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Press Contacts:
Bridget Klapinski, Seven17 PR, 347-246-6182
bridget@seven17pr.com
Allison Rodman, Japan Society
arodman@japansociety.org

Japan Society
Presents

Kotei | Makura Jido
An Evening of Rare, Traditional Japanese Noh Theater

Featuring
Living National Treasure
Akiyo Tomoeda

Three Performances Only:
Thursday, December 1 – Saturday, December 3

Japan Society
(333 East 47th Street)

New York, NY, November 16, 2022 – Prominent members from the Kita Noh School, including Akiyo Tomoeda, Living National Treasure designated by the Japanese government, perform works from noh theater’s classical repertoire: Kotei (The Emperor) and Makura Jido (Chrysanthemum Boy). As each story addresses themes of health: Kotei recounts the joyous of cure of disease, and Makura Jido celebrates longevity, Japan Society asked the Kita Noh School to bring these two pieces as a prayer to hasten the end of the pandemic. Kotei (The Emperor) takes place at 7:30pm on Thursday, December 1 and Saturday December 3, while Makura Jido (Chrysanthemum Boy) will be one night only at 7:30pm on Friday, December 2. Performances take place at Japan Society (333 East 47th Street) and are performed in Japanese with English supertitles. A pre-performance lecture by Princeton University Professor Thomas Hare begins one hour prior to the start of each show (Free & Open to all ticketholders).

Set in the Tang Dynasty in China, Kotei tells the story of the deity Shoki, who rescues the ailing Empress Yang Guifei and pledges his allegiance to Emperor Xuanzong. Also set in China, Makura Jido is about a boy who has joyfully lived for 700 years by drinking an immortal elixir from the dew of a chrysanthemum leaf. The boy reveals that the dew has created a pool in the valley, which has become the headspring for medicinal water. Both programs are preceded by short pieces in the traditional formats to show excerpts of noh plays, including Mai-bayashi, in which a performer without a costume
or mask dances to live music; *shimai*, in which a performer without a costume or mask dances to chanting; and *su-bayashi*, featuring music only, performed by four noh musicians.

**Tickets & Information:**

**Kotei (The Emperor):**  
*Thursday, December 1 at 7:30pm—Followed by a ticketed soirée*  
*Saturday, December 3 at 7:30pm*

**Makura Jido (The Chrysanthemum Boy):**  
*Friday, December 2 at 7:30pm—Followed by an artist Q&A*  
Performance + Soirée Tickets are $95 / $76 Japan Society members.  
Performance Only Tickets are $72 / $58

Tickets can be purchased online at [https://www.japansociety.org/events/kotei-the-emperor-makura-jido-chrysanthemum-boy/](https://www.japansociety.org/events/kotei-the-emperor-makura-jido-chrysanthemum-boy/) or by calling the Box Office at 212-715-1258 (M-F 11:00am – 6:00pm). Japan Society is located at 333 East 47th Street, between First and Second Avenues (accessible by the 4/5/6 at 42nd Street-Grand Central Station or the E at Lexington Avenue and 53rd Street). For more information, call 212-832-1155 or visit [http://www.japansociety.org](http://www.japansociety.org)

**>> Related Event:**

**Noh Movement Workshop / Saturday, December 3; 11:00am – 1:00pm**  
Learn the basic movements used in one of Japan’s oldest formalized theatrical traditions – noh. Led by members of the illustrious Kita Noh School, explore the genre’s physicality with a chance to move about the stage in actual noh masks and view the exquisite noh costumes used up close. Please note: This program is currently sold out, but Observer Tickets are available at [https://www.japansociety.org/events/noh-movement-workshop/](https://www.japansociety.org/events/noh-movement-workshop/).


**About Japan Society**  
Since the inception of the Performing Arts Program in 1953, Japan Society has introduced nearly a 1,000 of Japan’s finest performing arts to an extensive American audience. This season, programs span the disciplines of opera, theater, traditional noh, puppetry, dance and more. In Fall 2022, Japan Society kicked off the season with an exclusive artist conversation focused on the North American Premiere of Catapult Opera’s reimagining of Yukio Mishima’s modern noh play *Hanjo* (September 14). Next, with *9000 Paper Balloons* (October 28 – 30), local creative duo Maiko Kikuchi and Spencer Lott deployed their singular puppetry styles in a captivating look at a secret weapons program in
Imperial Japan that floated across the Pacific during WWII. On November 10, Japan Society hosted a “behind the scenes” talk with Basil Twist about his work on Joe Hisaishi and the Royal Shakespeare Company’s staging of the beloved Studio Ghibli animated film My Neighbour Totoro, and to conclude 2022, the Kita Noh School returns to NYC with these two rarely performed noh plays from their traditional repertoire, Kotei and Makura Jido (December 1 – 3).

Launching Winter/Spring 2023, Japan Society presents the World Premiere of its opera commission note to a friend (January 12 – 15, part of PROTOTYPE Festival 2023), composed by David Lang and directed by Yoshi Oida, based on some of the last writings of legendary author Ryunosuke Akutagawa, who is regarded as the “father of the Japanese short story.” Next up, traditional puppetry master Koryu Nishikawa V and New York/Chicago-based puppet artist Tom Lee approach esteemed writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s deteriorating psyche through some of his most famous tales in AKUTAGAWA (February 23 – 25). The season rounds out with the annual Play Reading Series, this year featuring feminism-focused I’m Trying to Understand You, But… (March 13), written by Yuri Yamada and directed by NJ Agwuna (March 13); and a work-in-progress dance piece titled Extinction Rituals by Brooklyn-based and butoh-inspired ensemble LEIMAY (June 9 – 10).

Japan Society is the premier organization connecting Japanese arts, culture, business, and society with audiences in NYC and around the world. In over 100 years of work, the Society has inspired generations by establishing itself as a pioneer in supporting international exchanges in arts and culture, business and policy, as well as education between Japan and the U.S. This year, Japan Society is celebrating its heritage through the 50th anniversary of its landmark building, designed by the late architect Junzo Yoshimura, with the launch of a new distinct modern logo and visual identity.

Since the inception of Japan Society Performing Arts Program, the Program has brought 1000+ productions of and inspired by Japan to audiences in NYC and beyond through North American tours organized by Japan Society. Programs range from the traditional arts to contemporary theater, dance and music. Since the establishment of the Performing Arts Endowment in 2005, the Society also commissions non-Japanese artists to create Japan-related new works through fostering cross-cultural collaboration that has become part of its important mission.

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Support for 2022-2023 Performing Arts Season

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