East Asia Seminar Series
At the University of Cambridge
Live subtitled Rakugo Performance
By Master Kyōtarō

Rakugo – The Art of Japanese Story-Telling
With the use of only two props, and performing alone on stage the rakugo-ka (rakugo actor) conjures evocative tales in this traditional Japanese art of storytelling. In the bat of an eye a rakugo-ka can turn from a precocious child to a dumb country boy; a sly prostitute to a rowdy craftsmen (or his strict wife!). Just like the Italian Commedia dell’Arte, rakugo has its own unique set of characters, which are interpreted differently by each rakugo-ka, often reacting on the spot depending on the audience, the season, his mood, and the atmosphere in the theatre.

The road to becoming a rakugo-ka is not an easy one, and requires many years of training as a master’s apprentice. We are delighted and honoured to welcome Master Kyōtarō to Cambridge. Master Kyōtarō is one of only 700 rakugo-ka in the whole of Japan today, where outside of Tokyo and Osaka, many Japanese people will almost never have a chance to see rakugo live. This performance will be in Japanese with English sur-titles.

Winner 1st Takada Fumio Cup Owarai Gold Rush II (1995)
NHK Shinjin Engei Taishō Championship
Sai-no-kuni Rakugo Award
Grand Prix at 2005 National Hanagata Engeikai Awards
Grand Prix at 2006 National Hanagata Engeikai Awards
MEXT Award for New Artists, Popular Entertainment Division
Grand Prix at 2007 National Hanagata Engeikai Awards

All are welcome // Monday 20 November 2017 // 5-7pm

Rooms 8/9
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