Sights and Sounds of Japan

Old Traditions in New Contexts

Come and experience different aspects of Japanese traditional culture as it is lived today! Listen to Noh music performance and rakugo storytelling, and immerse yourself in virtual reality soundscapes from across Japan.

**KIMONO with Iitomi Hiroko**
The kimono, a symbol of Japanese culture and aesthetic refinement, is over 8,000 years old and still the garment of choice for coming-of-age ceremonies and weddings. This *workshop* explores various aspects of the kimono, such as the different styles worn by single and married people. There’s also a demonstration of how to put on a kimono. Please feel free to bring your own, if you have one!

Room 7, 1:15 – 2:30pm

**YANAGAWA GOTENMARI with Iitomi Hiroko**
For the Hinamatsuri (Girls’ Festival) in Kyushu, girls embroider balls, decorating them with patterns of seasonal flowers and cranes. This art of making ‘Yanagawa gotenmari’ has been transmitted from mother to daughter over many generations. You will learn about the culture and customs related to the Hinamatsuri and the *gotenmari*. You will be invited to embroider your own *gotenmari* ball to take home in this *workshop*.

Room 7, 3:00 – 4:30pm

**NOH KOTSUZUMI (shoulder drum) with Iitomi Akihiro**
*Nōgaku* is a form of musical theatre that developed between the 12th and 17th centuries and has been transmitted almost unchanged to the present day. In this *workshop*, Iitomi-san of the Ohkura School of Noh theatre, gives a performance using the *kotsuzumi* with vocal accompaniment and explains the history of Noh. You will learn about the role of music in Noh and try out the shoulder drum for yourself.

Rooms 8&9, 1:15 – 2:30pm

**RAKUGO with Matthew Shores**
Matthew Shores of the University of Cambridge introduces *rakugo*, Japan’s traditional art of comic storytelling, relating amusing anecdotes from his time as a ‘live-in apprentice’ with master of *rakugo*, Hayashiya Somemaru IV. He will present a *workshop* on how to perform *rakugo* and perform a full *rakugo* story in English.

Rooms 8&9, 3:00 – 4:30pm

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**11th March 2016**

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies,
University of Cambridge

Open to all
Free to attend
Book online
Iitomi Akihiro with Japan Sound Portrait

Iitomi-san and Japan Sound Portrait give a **lecture and performance** of Noh music with digital sound portraits. Japan Sound Portrait is a new project by Nick Luscombe and Neil Cantwell, the co-director of *KanZeOn*. Nick and Neil will perform an improvisational merging of Iitomi’s performance with new productions by young Japanese artists. They will also play recordings of distinctive Japanese sounds, showing how the project has an important role to play in preserving Japan’s intangible cultural heritage. (In Japanese with English translation by Yongsuk Song.) **Rooms 8&9, 5.00 - 6.30pm**

**Sound and Vision: Experience the Virtual Reality of Japan**

Japan Sound Portrait presents a series of **virtual reality experiences** of Japanese natural soundscapes developed in collaboration with the creative-design studio Amoeba. Using an Oculus Rift headset, you will visit a series of Japanese landscapes whilst immersed in ambient sounds. The landscapes include the Okunoin Cemetery on Mount Koya, the entrance to Takeshita Street in Tokyo and a Tokyo alley. **Rooms 8&9, 12:00 – 1:00pm; Common Room, 1:15 – 5:00pm**

**Mini Symposium: Sound-culture in Early Twentieth Century Japan**

**Noh-style Techniques in Natsume Sōseki’s Kusamakura** (Iitomi Akihiro)

Natsume Sōseki (1867-1916) was a novelist, critic and scholar of English literature. *Kusamakura* is an experimental work based on Sōseki’s theories of art that he developed while studying abroad in London, contrasting Asian with Western arts. This talk will focus on *Kusamakura* and Sōseki’s use of Noh-style techniques in his writing. (The lecture is in Japanese with English translation. Interpreter: Yongsuk Song, University of Cambridge.)

**Aesthetics & Technology: The Japanese Cinema’s Transition to Sound**

(Johan Nordström, Meiji Gakuin University)

During the early 1930s, Japanese cinema underwent a gradual transition from silent to sound film. Innovative sound technology gave birth to a new genre of light entertainment, infused with music and song. This presentation examines the different strategies employed by filmmakers to utilize the new sound technology to its fullest potential and explores the relationship between early Japanese musicals and the vaudeville stage. **Room 7, 10:00am - 12:00noon**

To book your place at any of these workshops and lectures, and to see full details of workshops and participants, visit the event Website: [www.ames.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/east-asia/japanese-studies/sightsandsounds](http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/east-asia/japanese-studies/sightsandsounds)

Organiser: **Brigitte Steger**

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