

## Display

### 雑子

#### Musical Instruments

The following musical instruments accompany a typical Noh performance: wooden flute (fu-eh), shoulder drum (ko-tsuzumi), hip drum (o-tsuzumi), and stick drum (taiko).

There are usually three or four musicians in the ensemble, each playing a different instrument.



Noh Flute



Shoulder Drum



Hip Drum



Stick Drum

### 能面

#### The Masks of Noh

Noh masks are very important symbolic properties of Noh as a masked drama. There are about 60 types of Noh masks.

The masks are sculpted in a way to ingeniously combine the reality and the imaginary for producing a form of beauty. A great effort is exerted to make each one conform to the actual performance.



Jo  
(Old Man)



Chujo  
(Noble Man)



Ko-omote  
(Young Woman)



Hannya  
(Jealous Woman)



Shojo  
(Tippling Elf)

### 扇

#### Fan

All actors who enter the stage carry a fan. There are two types of fans: Shizume-ogi, which are like ordinary fans; and Chuukei, which are made so that the outer tip is partly open, even when the fan is closed. There are various decorations painted upon the fans.



### 能装束

#### Costumes

The costumes of Noh visually express the spirit and substance of a Noh play. Woven mainly of silk, many costumes are made of a very thick material. They are made with sophisticated intricate detail and often come in various designs.



Kariginu  
(Formal wear for Man)



Choken  
(Outer robe for Woman)

# 能

## Experience Japanese Culture

### Noh Presentation by Tsurukameza

#### Programs

1. Introduction
2. Singing Shikainami
3. Greeting from the Chairman Mr. Tanaka
4. Description of Noh (CD)
5. Noh Viewing (Hagoromo by DVD)
6. Live Noh Performance
  - Suutai Performance (choir) [Takasago]
  - Dancing (solo) [Funa-Benkei]
  - Maibayashi Performance (with ensemble) [Hagoromo]
7. Noh Trial
  - Kotsuzumi (shoulder drum)
  - Noh masks
8. Talk-Back Session: Questions and Answers about Noh
9. Closing [Senshuraku]

**Date:** Tuesday October 8, 2013  
**Time:** 12:16-13:30  
**Place:** Auditorium of Mona Shores High School

**TSURUKAMEZA**



## Demonstration

### An introduction to the world of Noh

Noh, Japan's traditional performing arts, was developed in the 14th century.

Noh is a kind of symbolic drama, colored with the graceful aesthetic effect of quiet elegance that is expressed through the word Yugen (elegant, refined, and elusive beauty).

Its subjects are taken from history or classical literature, and it is structured around songs and dances. Its most obvious characteristic is that the main actor performs while wearing a mask of exceptional beauty.

The themes used in Noh are more concerned with very personalized human activities. Noh has developed into a highly stylized and refined performing art that takes place upon a very simple stage.

A Noh composition is based on the following four elements: song, dance, music, and drama. Each song, dance, and music can be performed individually if necessary.

### 素謡

#### Chant

About two-hundred Noh-chant books have been published. These books have been popular all over the country. A Noh chant is basically a story telling which is sung by a choir without a defined melody.



### 仕舞

#### Dance

The main actor (**Shite**) dances portions of a song, accompanied only by the choir.

Shite is dressed in the formal crested kimono (**Montsuki**) and a long pleated culotte-like Japanese trouser (**Hakama**).



### 舞囃子

#### Maibayashi

An actor performs several parts of a song without wearing the full Noh costume and mask, but the actor is still dressed in the Montsuki and Hakama. Musicians and the choir accompany the actor.



## Story

### 高砂

#### Takasago

On his way up to the capital, a priest stops at Takasago Bay, and starts talking with an old couple who are tidying the ground beneath an old pine tree. In their conversation, the priest asks why the pine at Takasago and the one at Sumiyoshi are known as the 'double pines' although they are located so far apart from each other.

A poem about the evergreen pine (the positive symbol of happiness, peace, and longevity) is quoted to the priest in reply: "though ten thousand leagues of mountain and river lie between, man and wife are ever close." Afterward, the old couple reveals their true identities, then sail off together in a boat.

The priest continues on to Sumiyoshi, and there the god Sumiyoshi-no-Myojin appears to him. He praises the beauty of the spring scenery and then performs a dance in honor of the reign in happiness.



### 船弁慶

#### Funa-Benkei ( Benkei in the Boat )

First, Benkei starts off explaining why Yoshitsune left the capital and came down to Daimotsu Bay. Yoshitsune's older brother Yoritomo (The Kamakura Shogunate) had recently had some doubts about Yoshitsune's intentions. Yoshitsune, with his lover Shizuka Gozen, decided to flee from the capital for safety.

Against her wish to stay with Yoshitsune, Benkei insists that Shizuka must return to the capital. After Shizuka performs a dance at the farewell party, she leaves Daimotsu Bay and travels alone to the capital.

Yoshitsune and his men then go out to sea in a boat, but suddenly black clouds form, the sea rises, and the ghost of Taira-no-Tomomori comes upon them. The ghost tries to seize Yoshitsune and carry him down into the sea to suffer the same fate as Tomomori himself. Benkei, with his priestly power, eventually drives off the ghost.



### 羽衣

#### Hagoromo ( The robe of feathers )

Some fishermen are walking through the pinewoods on Mio Bay when one of them finds a beautiful robe hanging from the branch of a pine tree.

He is about to take it home when an angel comes to claim it, explaining that it is a feather robe from Heaven.

This makes the fisherman determined to keep it as a national treasure, but the angel tells him that without it she can never again return to Heaven.

He is so moved by her distress that he agrees to return it if she will dance for him. He at first refuses to give it back before she dances for fear that she will fly away as soon as the robe becomes hers again. In reply, the angel tells him that only humans practice such behaviors. He shamefacedly gives up the robe.

Overjoyed now, the angel puts the robe on and dances. Then, as she gives unlimited blessings on the land, the angel returns to Heaven among the mists and clouds.

