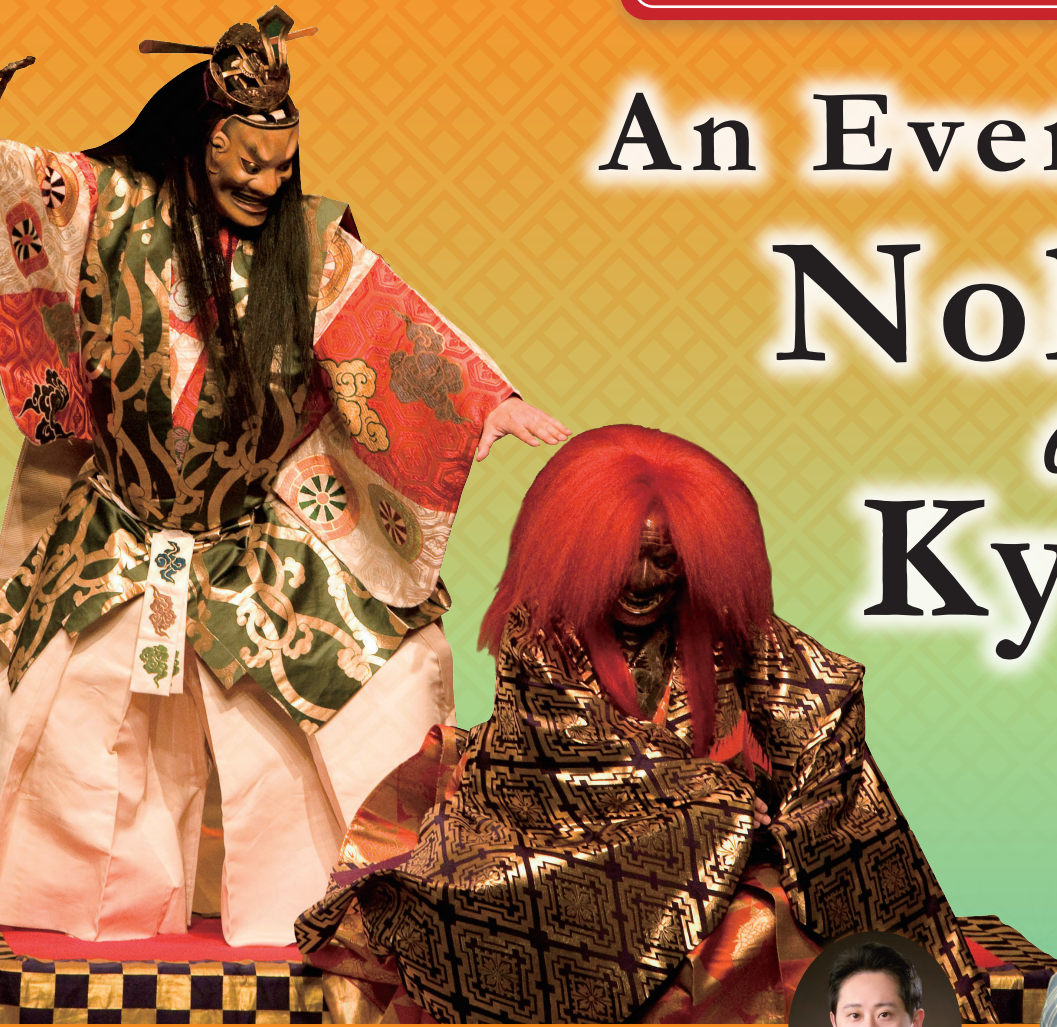


Free online video streaming

# An Evening of Noh *and* Kyogen



## Noh

Kanze School Noh actor KATAYAMA Kurouemon,  
*Shari* (*The Bones of The Buddha*)



## Kyogen

Okura School Kyogen actor SHIGEYAMA Sengoro,  
*Shimizu* (*A Servant for Better Working Conditions*)



Thursday, **December 24, 2020**, from 2 p.m.

Japan Foundation Official YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/thejapanfoundation>

※ Both productions will be presented with English synopsis.

Free for a year



Organized by :

The Japan Foundation Kyoto Office

With the cooperation of :

Katayama Noh and Kyomai Preservation Foundation • Shigeyama Kyogen Troupe  
Kyoto Kanze Association • Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

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# An Evening of Noh and Kyogen

## **Noh** Shari (The Bones of The Buddha)

As Indian legend has it, when the Buddha passed away in India, a fleet-footed demon called Sokushikki snatched the Buddha's teeth (called geshari) from his remains and ran off with them. This demon, however, was immediately chased by an even faster divinity called Idaten, who quickly caught him and recovered the relic.

Sennyuji is a Buddhist temple in Higashiyama, Kyoto. A reliquary hall stands there enshrining the Buddha's teeth, which were recovered by Idaten in India. The temple is a sanctuary for Buddhists searching for spiritual guidance. One day, a travelling monk stops at the temple to worship the relic. Then a man appears and joins the monk in prayer. Suddenly, there is a thunderclap, and the man, having snatched the relic, runs off with it. The man turns out to be the demon Sokushikki.

In answer to a temple servant's prayer, the guardian deity Idaten appears and finds Sokushikki as he is escaping through the heavens. Finally, the deity hunts down the demon and sends him down to the earth. When Idaten retrieves the relic, Sokushikki vanishes.

## **Kyogen** Shimizu (A Servant for Better Working Conditions)

A master has decided to invite people over for tea. He orders his servant Tarokaja to go to the spring in the field known as "Nonaka no Shimizu" and to draw some pure water needed for the tea ceremony, handing his treasured wooden bucket to him. Tarokaja, afraid of making it a habit for the master to ask him to go fetch the water, returns home without the wooden bucket, making up a story about a demon that appeared at the spring. The master, insisting that the bucket was his most treasured item, decides that he will go to the spring to retrieve it. Wondering what to do, Tarokaja hurries to the spring and awaits his master. Upon the master's arrival, Tarokaja puts on a demon mask, striking a menacing pose to frighten the master. Horrified, the master runs away and comes home. As the master recounts the incident to Tarokaja, he comes to realize that the demon and Tarokaja are one and the same. The master goes to the spring to look for his bucket again. Tarokaja attempts to stop the master, but the master pushes Tarokaja away and sets out. Tarokaja has no choice but to go to the spring once again.

Every year in autumn, The Japan Foundation Kyoto Office organizes an event called "An Evening of Noh and Kyogen" to give people an opportunity to experience traditional Japanese culture, inviting international students, Japan Foundation Fellows, and those enrolled at the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai to join us. This year, however, the outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in travel restrictions, making it difficult for students and Japanese Studies scholars abroad to come to Japan. To minimize the risk of virus transmission, we will take a new approach to this year's event. Performances will be filmed without an audience, and released for online video streaming, which will be made available to the public free of charge for a year.