



PRESS RELEASE

May 26, 2015

Arts Council Tokyo

Decision to hold Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Foreigners

Announcement of the Traditional Culture Program Lineup

As a new initiative this year, **Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)** has decided to hold accessible short programs that offer foreigners the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of traditional culture and performing arts around tourist attractions in Tokyo. In addition, we provide programs, which combine hands-on experience with the viewing of performances, as well as giving school children throughout Tokyo the opportunity to come into contact with Japanese traditional culture and performing arts, thereby enabling to deepen their understandings of the value of Japanese culture. Arts Council Tokyo will also continue the traditional culture and performing arts programs which have been held up as before. We welcome you to visit these programs and cover them in the media.



Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program

1. Programs for Foreign Visitors I

This accessible program allows participants to experience authentic traditional culture and performing arts in a short period of time. All programs are conducted with explanations in English.

(Handouts in Chinese and Korean are available.)

Organized by: Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Supported and Cooperated by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

《 *Engei* Workshop 》

Contents: Experience various performing arts that are still popular such as *Yose* vaudeville performances with a professional serving. We plan to hold *Engei* experiences that will allow participants, for instance, to make simple *Kamikiri* crafts, paper cutting and to try *Kasamawashi*, umbrella rotating.

Period: Every Saturday from April 25, 2015 to March 2016

*Excluding December 26, 2015

Venue: Edo-Tokyo Museum (Permanent Exhibition Area)

How to Participate: Participation is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Capacity: 50 for each workshop

Starting Time: 2:45pm / 4:00pm / 5:15pm (30 minutes each)

Admission Fee: Free

*Admission fee is charged for the museum.

Supported by: RAKUGO GEIJYUTSU association



“Umbrella Rotating”



“Paper Cutting”



“Japanese Magic”

《 Traditional Japanese Dance Workshop 》

Contents: This program features *Nihon Buyo*, traditional Japanese dance while wearing *Yukata*. Participants can also appreciate a part of *Fuji Musume*, Wisteria Maiden and take photos with the instructors at the end.

Period: Every Sunday from May 3, 2015 to March 2016

*Excluding May 24, July 26, and December 13 2015, and January 10,

February 14, February 28, and March 13 2016

Starting Time: 11:00am / 1:00pm / 3:00pm (1 hour each)

Capacity: 20 for each workshop

Venue: Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center

How to Participate: Numbered tickets will be distributed 30 minutes in advance of each workshop, on the day held.

Admission fee: Free

Co-organized by: Taito City

Supported by: The Japanese Classical Dance Association (Tokyo Branch Joto Block)



“*Nihon Buyo*”

《 *Nagauta* Workshop 》

Contents: Appreciate *Nagauta*, traditional Japanese music and instruments experience

Period: Every Second Saturday and Sunday from December 2015 to March 2016

Starting Time: To be confirmed (Details will be notified on the website.)

Venue: Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center

How to Participate: Numbered tickets will be distributed 30 minutes in advance of each workshop on the day held.

Admission fee: Free

Co-organized by: Taito City

Supported by: Nagauta Association

《 *Kado* Workshop 》

Contents: A simple explanation of *Kado*, flower arrangement will be provided along with an opportunity for hands-on *Kado* experience. After the workshop, participants will be able to take the flowers home.

Period: Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11, 2015

*Held at the same time as the Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony 2015

Starting Time: To be confirmed (Details will be notified on the website.)

Venue: Hama-rikyu Gardens

How to Participate: Apply on the day of program (Details will be notified on the website.)

Admission Fee: Free

*Admission fee is charged for gardens.

Supported by: Tokyo Metropolitan Kado and Sado Association

2. Program for Foreign Visitors II

Performances combine culture, performing arts appreciation and hands-on experience in order to deepen understanding of Japanese traditional culture and performing arts.

Organized by: Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Supported and Cooperated by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

“Let’s All Enjoy the World of *Nihon Buyo*”

Fostering an appreciation of *Nihon Buyo*, traditional Japanese dance, and *Hogaku*, traditional Japanese music including *Koto* music of *Nagauta* and *Sokyoku*, this program is comprised of demonstrations, lectures easy to understand and valuable hands-on experience. Audiences will be invited to try their hand playing traditional Japanese musical instruments such as *Shamisen*, *Taiko* and *Koto*. You will learn how to handle a selection of stage props used by dancers. The program includes a demonstration of *Kumadori*, women’s style *Kabuki* makeup and an opportunity for participants to try on costumes. At the end of presentation, all elements will come together in a stunning *Nihon Buyo* performance.

Time and Date: December 20, 2015, Sunday from 2:00pm (to be confirmed)

Venue: Shibuya Cultural Center Owada, Densho Hall

How to Participate: To be confirmed (Details will be notified on the website.)

Admission Fee: Free

“*Noh Theater: Beyond Words, Beyond Borders*”

This program consists of a behind-the-scenes “experience corner” combined with special performances of *Noh* in both English and Japanese highlighting *Noh*’s international accessibility. For foreign visitors to Japan, a hands-on “experience corner” will allow visitors to try on masks and costumes as well as play instruments before the performance with guidance from *Noh* professionals and *Noh* specialist English translators. The performance section of this program features Japanese, English and bilingual selections from *Noh* and its comedic counterpart, *Kyogen*. Performers from the Kita School of *Noh* and performers from Theatre Nohgaku will present Japanese and English versions of *Shimai* (short dance selections). This will be followed by a bilingual *Kyogen* performance from members of the Shigeyama School of *Kyogen*. The program culminates with an exciting presentation of the Kita School’ s version of

the demon *Noh Kurozuka*, with a special English *Kyogen* section. Following the performance, there will be a question and answer period with featured performers in Japanese and English.

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2015

Venue: Kita Noh Theatre

How to Participate: To be confirmed (Details will be notified on the website.)

Admission Fee: To be confirmed (Details will be notified on the website.)

3. Programs for Children

Within the framework of school education, we will organize programs taught by young performers, combining hands-on experience with the viewing of performances in order to give children the opportunity to come into contact with Japan's traditional culture and performing arts, thereby providing them with a deeper and broader understanding of the value of Japanese culture.

Venue: Elementary schools, junior high schools, and senior high schools within Tokyo.

Period: Throughout the year

Organized by: Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Supported and Cooperated by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Produced by: Japan Council of Performing Rights & Performing Arts Organizations [Geidankyo]

Supported by: Nagauta Association, Nohgaku Performers' Association,
Japan Sankyoku Association, Japanese Classical Dance Association
Rakugo Association, RAKUGO GEIJYUTSU association
(By the order of the Japanese syllabary)

4. Lineup of other programs

We have selected a various type of performances, for instance, *Noh*, *Hogaku*, *Nihon Buyo*, *Yose* and *Daidengaku* so that foreign visitors and young generation become familiar with those authentic traditional cultures.

Supported and Cooperated by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Organized by: Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

“Classical Performing Arts Festival - *Memories of Asia* - Treasures of Japan”

While Japan has roots in Asia, its classical performing arts have developed together with Japan's unique culture that has matured and fermented in line with the natural features of Japan. Visitors to this performance will be able to gain an appreciation for the various classical performing arts, such as *Bugaku*, *Noh*, *Kabuki Buyo* and *Bunraku*, representing classical

performing arts in one sitting. The program also features *Shingigaku* that is participated in by the general public, as well as appreciating authentic performances by first-rated instructors.

Date: Sunday, October 25, 2015

Venue: Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Main Hall

“Enjoy *Kagurazaka*, Have Fun at *Kagurazaka*”

This program is accessible even for people that feel traditional performing arts may be too highbrow as it offers two different performing arts, namely *Nihon Buyo* and *Noh* Theater that can be easily enjoyed as a part of short trip to *Kagurazaka*. The second half of the dynamic *Nihon Buyo* performance *Bishamon* that features ‘*Bishamonten*’, One of the Seven Gods of Good Fortune connected with *Kagurazaka* is performed along with the second half of the *Noh* Theater performance ‘*Ema*’ that features the hiding of *Amaterasu Omikami*, goddess of the sun in the Heavenly Rock Cave.

Date: Sunday, November 1, 2015

Venue: Yarai Noh Theater

“The World of *Edo Ito Ayatsuri Ningyo* - The Beauty of *Onnagata* Puppet”

Edo Ito Ayatsuri Ningyo has been designated as an intangible cultural heritage for Tokyo and selected as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan. Explanations will be provided by a narrator in Japanese and English as we deliver a world with 380 years of tradition in a format that is easy-to-understand for traditional performing arts beginners. We hope that you will be able to fully enjoy this world through a performance that uses beautiful *Onnagata* (female) Puppets.

Date: Saturday, December 19, 2015

Venue: Koganei Miyajigakki Hall (Koganei Civic Center), Main Hall

“FUJIYAMA - Festival of Japanese Beauty and Traditional Performing Arts”

In the motif of famous characters ‘*Yaji* and *Kita*’ from ‘*Tokaidochu Hizakurige*’ (Shank’s Mare) which is published in *Edo* era, this travel story featuring two men who explore Japanese beauty and culture is full of *Nihon Buyo*, *Swordfight*, *Rakugo*, and other exciting features. This entertaining performance enables us to study the past to discover new things through the traditional performing arts that were born inspired by Fujiyama, *Mt. Fuji* – symbol of Japanese beauty - which is always by the side of *Yaji* and *Kita*.

Date: Saturday, January 2, 2016

Venue: Meijiza Theater

“*Rakugo*”, Traditional storytelling and Traditional *Geisha* Dances

Part 1 is a small stage of *Yose*, a Japanese style vaudeville theater. The main performance will be *Rakugo*, a traditional one-man comic storytelling show. Part 2 is a traditional dance performance by *Geisha* from 6 of the entertainment districts in Tokyo. *Geisha* are traditional, female Japanese entertainers. They perform traditional dance and music, and are trained the art of conversation and other arts in order to serve guests at private banquets.

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2015

Venue: Tokyo International Forum Hall C

○ ***Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour (Japanese Traditional Culture Festival)***

By providing accessible introductions to Japan’s diverse forms of traditional culture, we will create opportunities that make it easy for people in a wide range of age brackets to come into contact with our nation’s traditions. In the *Kagurazaka* district, where tradition is blended with cutting-edge modernity, we will hold a variety of events that offer sophisticated, stylish encounters with traditional performing arts, including a stamp rally (a program in which people visit a range of locations to collect stamps, in order to get *Tenugui*) and street-corner traditional music performances on *Kagurazaka-dori*.

Venue: *Kagurazaka* area

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2015 (Eve)

Sunday, November 15, 2015 (Main Festival)

Organized by: Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Supported and Cooperated by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

○ **Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony 2015**

In one of Tokyo’s famous gardens and an open-air museum, we will hold large-scale tea ceremonies that bring together a number of tea schools to provide guests from both Japan and other countries with an introduction to tea culture and the *Edo-Tokyo* culture that nurtured it. As well as conventional indoor tea settings, this event features *Nodate* outdoor tea ceremony, in which guests can enjoy a bowl of tea under the autumn sky, not to mention tea ceremony workshops for beginners, making the culture of tea more accessible and enjoyable for foreign visitors and others unfamiliar with the Way of Tea.

Venue ①: Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum

Date ①: Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4, 2015

Venue ②: Hama-rikyu Gardens

Date ②: Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11, 2015

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

○ **Traditional Performing Arts for Kids**

This long-term *Okeiko* program aims to inspire the next generation to cultivate the heart to cherish the traditional performing arts, through authentic hands-on experience. *Okeiko* is a traditionally established lesson style that performers and their apprentices respect as an important aspect of their learning. In this program, children will be taught in the *Okeiko* style over several months by leading performers from the worlds of *Noh* theater, *Nihon Buyo* dance, *Sankyoku* music and *Nagauta* music and their experience culminates in on-stage performances with professional stage sets. Throughout the program, the focus is children's encountering and assimilating authentic and profound cultures of the traditions. There will be classes specially aimed for junior and senior high school students, as well as community-based short-term *Okeiko* programs that features the essence of the long-term program that children can experience during the summer vacation.

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Japan Council of Performing Rights & Performing Arts Organizations [Geidankyo]

***All Programs may be subject to change.**

Each program is introduced on the following website.

<http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp>

〈 Inquiry 〉

Tokyo Tradition Office, Arts Council Tokyo

Hiroshi Sato

TEL: 03-5369-4541 (10:00 ~ 18:00)

FAX: 03-3225-1006

E-mail: admi1@tokyo-tradition.jp

〈 Inquiry from Public 〉

Tokyo Tradition Office, Arts Council Tokyo

TEL: 03-5369-4541 (10:00 ~ 18:00)

FAX: 03-3225-1006

E-mail: info@tokyo-tradition.jp

【Notes in Edo-Tokyo Museum】

- Please wear “PRESS PASS” at the most visible place when doing news gathering activities such as interviewing and shooting. “PRESS PASS” will be given at the entrance if you have submitted application form in advance.
- If you bring still or movie equipment, please submit “Press Pass Application Form” to Tokyo Tradition Office, Arts Council Tokyo by FAX, until noon the day before your preferred date.
- Please do not run inside the building as there is a risk to bump into other visitors or exhibits.
- Please do not touch exhibits except models for hands-on experience.
- You are not able to use electricity of the building.
- If you are using a tripod, please pay attention not to interfere with other visitors. Also, please refrain from using when it is congested. You are not allowed to use the stepladder at all.
- During the use of lighting, please do not throw light on the exhibits, except models and disturb visitors during tour.
- If you wish to park vehicle in parking lot of museum, please let us know the number and type of the vehicle, and the vehicle registration number in advance.

【Overview of Edo-Tokyo Museum】

The Metropolitan Edo-Tokyo Museum opened its doors in March 1993 as a space to reflect on the history and culture of Edo-Tokyo and envision the city and life of the future. The permanent exhibition, showcasing original objects and replicas, offers visitors a journey through the 400-year history of Edo-Tokyo since Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo. In addition to the permanent exhibition, the museum holds special exhibitions at the first floor gallery five to six times a year and carries out various other events, including lectures and workshops on the history and culture of Edo-Tokyo.



《Access》

Address: 1-4-1 Yokoami, Sumida-ku, Tokyo 130-0015

- 3-minute walk from West Exit of Ryogoku station, JR Sobu Line
- 1-minute walk from Exit A4 of Ryogoku Station (Edo-Tokyo Hakubutsukan-mae), Toei Subway Oedo Line
- Toei Bus: 錦 27, 両 28, 墨 38 bus routes
Sumida City circulation bus “Sumida-Hyakkei Sumimarukun / Sumirinchan (Southern Route)
Get off at “Toei Ryogoku Eki-mae (Edo-Tokyo Hakubutsukan-mae)” and walk 3 minutes. *This stop is different from the “Ryogoku Eki” stop.

【Notes in Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center】

- Please present “PRESS PASS” when doing news gathering activities such as interviewing and shooting. The pass will be given at the reception.
- If you bring still or movie equipment, please submit “Press Pass Application Form” to Tokyo Tradition Office, Arts Council Tokyo by FAX, until noon the day before your preferred date.
- You can bring and use a tripod on 6th floor only, according to the provisions of Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.
- You are not able to use electricity of the building.
- Parking lot is unavailable. Please use public transportation or nearby parking lot such as Kaminarimon underground parking, which charges the fee but is the nearest to the Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center.

【Overview of Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center】

Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center is located in front of Kaminari-mon and provides information and services helpful to visitors of Taito City in four languages - Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean. In addition, terrace in 8th floor commands the view of Tokyo Sky Tree and Asakusa town.

《Access》

2-18-9 Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0034

- 5-minute walk from Asakusa Station Tobu Isesaki Line (TOKYO SKYTREE Line)
- 1-minute walk from Exit 2 of Asakusa Station, Tokyo Metro Ginza Line
- 2-minute walk from Exit A4 of Asakusa Station, Toei Asakusa Line
- 10-minute walk from Exit A1 of Tsukuba Express Asakusa Station
- Toei Bus Asakusa Kaminari-mon (the location of bus stop varies by route)
- Taito City circulation bus “MEGURIN”: Noth MEGURIN
Get off at “1. Asakusa Station” and walk 5 minutes.
- Taito City circulation bus “MEGURIN”: Eastern and Western MEGURIN
Get off at “31. Kaminari-mon mae” and walk 1 minute.



Inquiry from Press and other Media

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