

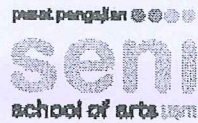
JAL 40th Anniversary Special



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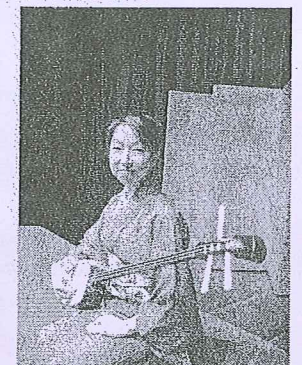


Supported by:



RAKUGO in English

-Japanese Traditional 'Sit-Down' Comedy-



PENANG

Date & Time:

17 August 2007 (Fri), 8:45pm

Venue:

Dewan Budaya ,
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

KUALA LUMPUR

Performance in Japanese:

18 August 2007 (Sat), 3pm

Performance in English:

18 August 2007 (Sat), 8:30pm
19 August 2007 (Sun), 3pm

Venue:

The Actors Studio @ BSC

Synopsis (performance in English)

Newly written story "The Ninja" by SHOFUKUTEI KAKUSHOW

"Hatsu-Tenjin" by HAYASHIYA HIKOICHI

A father takes his son to a festival. His son asks the father to buy him candy and grilled chicken. Though the father refuses, the father buys them and starts acting like a child at the end...

"The Zoo" by KATSURA ASAKICHI

A lazy man gets a job at a zoo. But his job is to play a tiger. At the end of the day, the tiger must fight against a lion!

"Gonsuke's fish" by OSHIMA KIMIE

The wife asks her servant to find out about her husband's affair. But the servant is so naive that he ends up going home telling nonsense excuses to the wife...

演目 (performance in Japanese)

創作落語「立体西遊記」by 笑福亭 鶴笑

「ちりとてちん」by 林家 彦いち

知ったかぶりをする生意気な男をギャフンといわせるために、腐った豆腐を地方名物としてだまして食べさせる噺。

「時うどん」by 桂 あさ吉

賢い男の真似をして、うどん屋で勘定をごまかそうとする噺。ところがこの間抜けな男、ことごとく上手く行かずに結局損をしてしまう。

What is RAKUGO 落語?

RAKUGO or described as **Japanese traditional "Sit-down" comedy**, is the monodrama with funny stories. Having its origin in 16th century and established during Edo era (17-18th century), RAKUGO has been verbally passed down through one generation to another.

Performers sit on a small mattress in front of the audience and act out stories with a comic style and structure. In RAKUGO, the performer can be a narrator, but usually performs the actual characters in the story. These characters converse without a narrator coming between them. The challenge for the performer is switching from one distinct character to another. Each character represents exaggerated aspects of the human personality, which we can all readily related to. The predicaments, which they find themselves in, are part of everyday life.

About RAKUGO performers

RAKUGO apprentices or "Deshi" must stay for three or four years with the Master either in Tokyo or Osaka. They usually live in the Master's house and do everything that the Master orders. They are not allowed to have any privacy and must learn everything following the Master during their stay in the "family".

When the apprenticeship is completed, the Master gives them their names as a professional RAKUGO performer or "Rakugo-ka" by taking the family name of each "Rakugo-ka" family tree and one syllable from their own first name. For example, from the names, we knew that KATSURA Kaishi & KATSURA Asakichi learned from the same 'family'. A performer's name immediately signals his artistic lineage.

There are only a few "families" of RAKUGO performers, like Katsura, Hayashiya, Shofukutei, Shumputei, Yanagiya etc but about 650 professional Rakugo performers. However, among 650 professionals, there are just a few performers can perform Rakugo in English too, including Katsura Kaishi & Katsura Asakichi. English Rakugo performances are most welcomed abroad because of the language used deepen the understanding of this traditional performing art among foreign audiences.