

UMEWAKA NAOYOSHI I FESTIVAL

Monday, October 12, 2026 (National Holiday) | National Noh Theatre, Tokyo | Doors Open 11:30 • Starts 12:30

HONORING UMEWAKA NAOYOSHI I (1911–1972)

A legendary Noh master celebrated for his spellbinding stage presence. Transcending physical gestures, his performances held a legendary ability to evoke vivid, tangible realities—from unseen weapons to ethereal tides—transfixing seasoned critics and newcomers alike. This 55th anniversary performance honors his enduring artistic legacy.

PART I: CLASSICAL PROGRAM (12:30 – 15:40)

12:30 Takasago (Maibayashi) (~15 min)

A celebratory dance invoking divine blessings, longevity, and peaceful harmony through the sacred twin pines.

Shite: KANZE Atsuo | **Musicians:** FUJITA Jiro (Fue), ARAKI Kensaku (Kotsuzumi), OMURA Shigeji (Otsuzumi), KOMPARU Souemon (Taiko)

12:45 Futari Shizuka (Maibayashi - Dance with Chanting) (~10 min)

A delicate dance depicting the spirit of Lady Shizuka possessing a village maiden as they dance in unison.

Shite: UMEWAKA Chozaemon | **Tsure:** UMEWAKA Toshiteru

12:55 Ataka (Maibayashi - Waterfall Dance Version) (~15 min)

A dramatic excerpt showcasing a striking choreographic movement where the principal dancer's fan floats within the cascading stream of a waterfall.

Shite: UMEWAKA Naohiko

13:10 Nomori (Maibayashi) (~10 min)

The mirror-holding demon guardian of the fields reveals visions of the celestial and underworld realms.

Shite: UMEWAKA Kagefusa

13:20 Kanjincho (Iccho - Vocal Recitation & Shoulder Drum) (~15 min)

A tense, dramatic chant excerpt from Ataka. Disguised as mountain monks, Benkei and his group face a strict checkpoint. To protect his master, Benkei demonstrates intellect and authority by flawlessly reciting a fictitious donation list from a blank scroll.

Chant: KANZE Tetsunojo | **Kotsuzumi:** OKURA Genjiro

13:35 Toru (Maibayashi) (~15 min)

The ghost of Minister Minamoto no Toru dances under the moonlight, yearning for the elegance of court life.

Shite: UMEWAKA Naoyoshi II

13:50 Shimai Selections (~25 min)

- **Yoroboshi:** YAMASHINA Yaemon (Shite)
- **Ugetsu:** UMEWAKA Shuichi (Shite)
- **Tsuchigumo:** UMEWAKA Motonori & UMEWAKA Masakazu

INTERMISSION (14:15 – 14:35)

14:35 Koi no Omoni (The Burden of Love) - Full Noh Play (~65 min)

Authored by Zeami (1363–1444), this tragic masterpiece recounts an elderly groundskeeper who falls in hopeless love with a high-ranking court lady. Cruelly offered a chance to see her if he can carry a silk-wrapped burden around the garden, he discovers it conceals a crushing stone. Dying of exhaustion, his vengeful spirit returns to haunt the court.

Shite: UMEWAKA Naohiko | **Tsure:** KANZE Atsuo | **Waki:** FUKUO Kazuyuki | **Kyogen:** YAMAMOTO Yasutaro

Musicians: FUJITA Jiro (Fue), OKURA Genjiro (Kotsuzumi), OMURA Shigeji (Otsuzumi), KOMPARU Souemon (Taiko)

Chorus: KANZE Tetsunojo, UMEWAKA Toshiteru, NISHIMURA Takao, UMANO Masaki, UMEWAKA Masakazu, MIZUTA Yugo, UMEWAKA Kagefusa, TSURU Katsuhiko

Stage Assistants: YAMASHINA Yaemon, UMEWAKA Chozaemon, AKAMATSU Sadatomo

INTERMISSION (15:40 – 16:05)

PART II: ROUND TABLE & CONTEMPORARY NOH (16:05 – 17:20)

16:05 Round Table Discussion (~35 min)

Theme: "Yūgen, Emotion, and the Energy of Nothingness: Can AI Perform Without an Intention?"

Using Noh's aesthetic of Yūgen—the subtle, unquantifiable presence that arises from physical performance—as an entry point, this interdisciplinary panel explores expression, emotion, and creativity in the age of artificial intelligence.

Panelists:

- Matthew J. WILSON, J.D. (Law; President, Temple University Japan Campus)
- KOIZUMI Hideaki, Ph.D. (Physics; Fellow, RCAST, The University of Tokyo)
- HOMMA Ikuo, M.D., Ph.D. (Physiology; Professor Emeritus, Showa University)
- Eric CHAN "EPPMON" (Digital Artist, Creative Entrepreneur)

Facilitator: UMEWAKA Soraya (Filmmaker, Entrepreneur)

16:40 Kiyotsune (Shimai Dance) (~5 min)
Drawing from The Tale of the Heike, Taira no Kiyotsune drowns himself in despair after battle defeat. His spirit reappears to his grieving wife to recount his tragic end and seek resolution.
Shite: UMEWAKA Naotomo

16:45 Ryugu Kozo (The Boy from the Dragon Palace) - Contemporary Noh Excerpt (~35 min)
Guided by a mysterious dream, a traveler journeys to the village of Kurumeki. There, a local woman shares the legend of Ryugu Kozo—a benevolent water spirit from the Dragon Palace who befriended the village but tragically perished. Moved to offer prayers at his grave, the traveler witnesses the boy's radiant spirit emerge to perform a final, breathtaking spring dance before returning to the earth.
Direction & Script: Directed by UMEWAKA Soraya | Written by UMEWAKA Naohiko
Special Collaboration: Eric CHAN "EPPMON" (Digital Artist, Creative Entrepreneur)
Craftsmanship: Mask by NAKAMURA Mitsue | Costume for Izumimori by UEDA Eiko

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Maibayashi: A refined highlight performance where the principal dancer demonstrates instrumental dance without traditional costume or mask, accompanied by live flute, drums, and vocal chant.

Ichcho: A specialized performance format featuring a dramatic duet between a single vocal soloist and one drum player.

VENUE INFORMATION

National Noh Theatre (国立能楽堂)
4-18-1 Sendagaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
(5-min walk from Sendagaya / Kokuritsu-Kyogijo Stn)

** A celebratory reception will follow the performance.*

ADMISSION CATEGORIES

SSS Seat	¥20,000
SS / S / A Seat	¥15,000 / ¥12,000 / ¥10,000
B Seat / GB (Unreserved)	¥8,000 / ¥5,000
Students (Waki Front) / Children	¥6,000 / ¥2,000