



HIROSHIMA KAGURA PERFORMANCE

~ Hiroshima Prefectural Citizen's Culture Center ~



Japan's Kagura

Kagura is a ceremony that conveys a feeling of gratitude for the bounty of nature. The ancestors of the Japanese people believed that everything that happened in the world was because of the gods. Therefore, in fall, harvested crops were offered in a holy place, preparations for festivals were completed, and the ceremony conveying gratitude to the gods came to be called "Kagura".

So, at the same time that Shinto Shrines were built around the country, Kagura spread as well, was continued by the Shinto priesthood and the local people, and has been preserved and passed on as a present day Japanese folk art in various places and forms.

The special characteristics of Hiroshima Kagura

The Kagura you will see today is called "Geihoku Kagura"(Northern Hiroshima) and has been preserved and passed along in Hiroshima Prefecture through approximately 150 groups. Furthermore, numerous competitions have been held and at present, it is the type of Kagura gathering the most attention.

Though the performers have to study and work, they attend practice two to three times a week and perform at festivals and events on the weekends.

Things to watch for

Please look carefully at the costumes with various embroideries on them.

The heavier ones can weigh up to 20 kg.

You will be able to take a close look after the performance during the commemorative photo session.

The Kagura musical accompaniment is performed by four Japanese instruments. However, there is no sheet music of the sounds. This is to ensure that every group's "sound" and "rhythm" are heard by the ears, remembered by the body and passed on.

Photo Session

With players and costumes on stage from 8:45p.m.



Join Us!

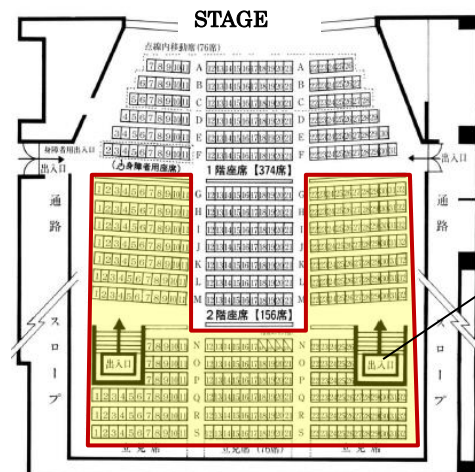
Post Kagura photos

you take and make Kagura more popular



※Only those who are seated at yellow zone can take photos

※No Flash



Photography Zone



【Asahigaoka Kagura Troupe】

Asakita ward Hiroshima-city

Story line of the first program “Minamoto Yorimasa ridding Nue”

◆Curtain up 7pm

Late Heian period two o'clock every morning black clouds rose up from Higashi Sanjyo forest with strange roar and covered Seiryō-den pavilion at the Imperial Palace.

Emperor had nightmare and was afflicted with a strange disease. Emperor ordered Yorimasa, excellent archer, to go and slay the monster. Yorimasa set out with his retainer Ino Hayata to the forest. Yorimasa prayed at the Shinmei Shrine for his victory. One day in May at moonlight night at two o'clock in the morning a strange black clouds were seen rising again, and something was seen moving.

Yorimasa put an arrow on the bow, and shot it saying a prayer to the Buddha. With a strange cry fell down on the ground a creature, Nue. Its head was a monkey. The body was a raccoon. The limbs were those of a tiger. The tail was a snake. Yorimasa successfully slew the monster, Nue.

Intermission: 7:40pm~8pm

Story line of the first program “Hinomisaki”

◆Curtain up 8pm

In the age of the gods, Goddess Tagoro who took after her father Susanoo's rough nature was expelled from the heavens. She was cast away to Izumo losing all her memory and speech.

Several years later when strange red clouds rose up in the sky, Tagoro all of a sudden remembered everything, asked Izumo Shrine for help to know the cause of the unusual phenomenon.

It was demon Hirokane that came from overseas to occupy the land. Tagoro was determined to stop it, changed her name to Juurasetsumyo, and became a guardian god of the community.