



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!

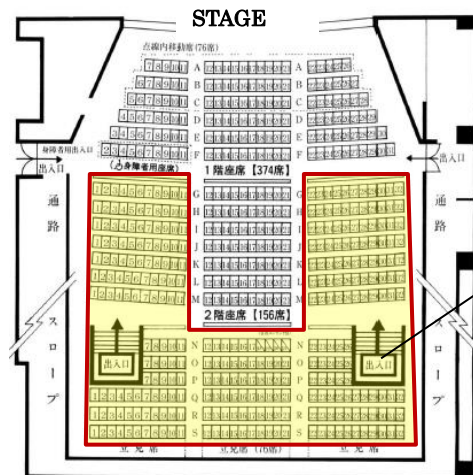
Post Kagura photos

you take and make Kagura more popular



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

※No Flash



Photography Zone



【Anagasa Kagura Troupe】

Miyoshi-city, Hiroshima-pref

Story line of the first program “Aguri-hime”

◆Curtain up 7pm

Aguri-hime was born as the third daughter of Asano Nagaharu, the first lord of Miyoshi, Bingo Province. At the age of fourteen, she married Asano Naganori, the third lord of Ako, Banshu Province.

In 1701 farmers' riot against Matsunami, reformist in Miyoshi broke out and bandits made an assault on a castle. Hearing the news, Aguri-hime decided to go to Miyoshi, with her bodyguard Ochiai Katsunobu, because her husband was away in Edo Castle to attend the ceremony to welcome imperial messengers. She met Asano Nagazumi, the third lord of Miyoshi on the way. They headed for Miyoshi with reinforcements. Aguri-hime, after seeing off troops lead by Nagazumi and Katsunobu, went to Hogenji Temple at Mt. Higuma and prayed for the end of the turbulence.

Thanks to Nagazumi and Katsunobu's efforts, the rebellion subsided. The bandits were pardoned by Aguri-hime's mercy, and went straight. She told two loyal warriors that her husband Naganori had drawn his sword and attempted to kill Kira in the Corridor of the Pines at Edo Castle. On the same day, he was sentenced to commit seppuku.

She went back to her residence at Akasaka, Edo, but felt so sad and became a nun changing her name to Yozen-in. Since then she devoted her life to praying for the soul of deceased husband, and supported Akoroshi known as forty-seven samurai. This Kagura program is original creation of our troop based on the theme of Aguri-hime, We had a great support from the chief priest of Hogenji Temple. We want everybody to remember Aguri-hime, pride of Miyoshi through this Kagura performance.

Intermission: 7:40pm~8pm

Story line of the second program “Oye-yama”

◆Curtain up 8pm

There lived a bunch of demons in Mt. Oye. Ibaragi-doji, henchman of Shutendoji changes himself to a city-folk and annoys people at Modoribashi Bridge every night. A lord in Kyoto, Minamoto-no-Raiko was dispatched by Emperor to banish the demons. Watanabe-no-Tsuna under Raiko goes to Modoribashi.

Ibaragi-doji this time changes himself to a woman. Umbrella vendor, Zenbei happens to walk by.

The woman approaches Zenbei telling she will buy one, and all of a sudden reveals herself, Demon!!

Watanabe-no-Tsuna walks by, the demon changes herself again back to a woman. She asks Tsuna to take her to Gojo Street in Kyoto. When they start to walk, the reflection of the woman on the river shows it is Demon!! The demon attacks Tsuna, he falls down, when Sakata-no-Kintoki backs Tsuna up with a magic wand with paper streamers from Iwashimizu Shrine. They slash off the demon's left arm, the demon flees to north sky, the direction of Mt. Oye.

