



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!

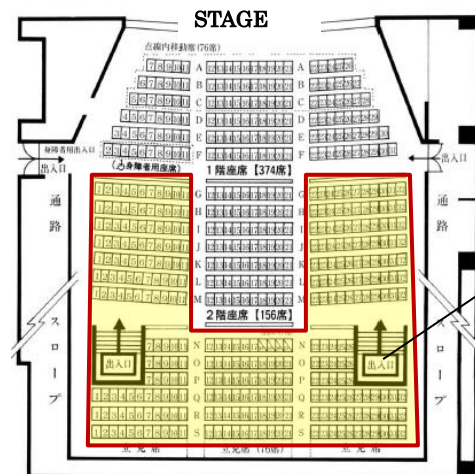
Post Kagura photos

you take and make Kagura more popular



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

※No Flash



Photography Zone



【Yoshida Kagura Troupe】

Akitakata-city, Hiroshima-pref

Story line of the first program “Takiyasha-hime”

◆Curtain up 7pm

Taira no Masakado who calls himself New Emperor of the East Country is defeated by Fujiwara no Hidesato and Taira no Sadamori in Tengyo Disturbance.

Satsuki hime, daughter of Taira no Masakado prays for vengeance to the God at Kifune Shrine in Kyoto. The God transformed Satsuki hime into a sorceress. She changed her name to Takiyasha and goes back to Souma village (present Kashiwa) in Shimofusa (present Chiba) connected with her father. She plots further rebellion with her evil henchmen.

When news of her plans reaches the capital Mitsukuni, a specialist in Chinese mystical arts is ordered by the court to neutralize the threat. Mitsukuni and his team travel to Souma and confront Takiyasha. In the final scene the sorceress is banished from the stage, her power broken by the imperial envoys.

Intermission: 7:40pm~8pm



Story line of the second program “Yamata-no-Orochi”

◆Curtain up 8pm

Once upon a time, in the Province of Izumo, there was an old couple with the names Ashinazuchi and Tenazuchi. They had eight daughters. A monstrous serpent appeared from nowhere and swallowed one of their daughters. They lost seven daughters the same way. Finally there was only one daughter left. The old couple and their daughter with the name Kushiinada-hime were lamenting their fate.

Then a god, Susanoh-no-mikoto descended from the high heavens. He heard the tragic story. The god told the old couple to prepare poisonous sake (rice wine) and had their daughter stand behind the barrels. The monster appeared and drank up all the sake, thinking that the daughter's image reflecting on the sake was the daughter herself. The monster soon drank itself senseless. The courageous god attacked the monster and vanquished it. When the god cut the belly of the monster, appeared a sword.

He named the sword Amenomurakumo-no-tsurugi and offered it to his elder sister, Amaterasu Ohmikami. He married the daughter he saved, and they lived happily ever after in Izumo.

