



# 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.



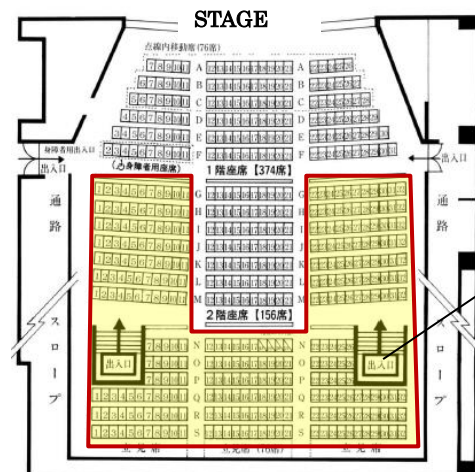
※Only those who are seated at yellow zone can take photos

※No Flash

**Join Us!**

Post Kagura photos

you take and make Kagura more popular



Photography Zone

# 【Oomori Kagura Troupe】

Yuki-town Saeki-ward Hiroshima -city

## Story line of the first program “Tsuchigumo”

### ◆Curtain up 7pm

Minamoto no Raiko, the head of the samurai is ill in bed suffering from ague. Urabe no Noritake and Sakata no Kintoki come to see him. Raiko tells them he is OK because he sent his maid Kocho to the doctor for medicine and that she should be back soon. They leave. Kocho comes back, and gives Raiko the medicine she got from the doctor. Raiko takes the liquid medicine. The medicine does no good, in fact Raiko collapses. Kocho is really a Tsuchigumo which bears a grudge against Raiko and tries to kill him. Late at night Kocho asks after him, thinks it is the time, throws off its mask and attacks Raiko. Raiko with a famous sword named “Higekirimaru”, slashes at the Tsuchigumo. The wounded demon flees away. Urabe no Noritake and Sakata no Kintoki hear the turmoil and trace the bloodstain to Mt. Katsuragi, spot the demon. They defeat the Tsuchigumo after a fierce battle.



## Intermission: 7:40pm~8pm

## Story line of the first program “Modori-bashi”

### ◆Curtain up 8pm

During the mid Heian Period a demon appears at Ichijo Modoribashi Bridge in Kyoto every night, and annoys passersby. Minamoto no Raiko, commander of the Imperial Guard orders Watanabe no Tsuna, one of his four prominent retainers to vanquish the demon. Tsuna asks Abe no Seimei, an *yin-yang* master for some help. From Seimei Tsuna gets *Shikigami* which in case of emergency will protect Tsuna and goes to Modoribashi. He happens to see a lady there. She asks him to take her to Gojo-Omiya. When they set out, Tsuna sees the reflection of the lady’s figure on the surface of the river. That is a demon! The demon throws off its mask and attacks Tsuna. Thanks to the *Shikigami* given from Seimei, Tsuna succeeds in cutting off the left hand of the demon. The demon losing its left hand flees back to Oeyama.

