

PERFORMING ARTS

2025-26 SEASON



JAPAN
SOCIETY

From the Artistic Director

"Who is the most famous artist in this / that genre?" is a question usually open to fervent debate. Nonetheless, it is unarguable to name Yukio Mishima as one of the world's most impactful authors of postwar literature. Because of his untimely death (it is often said that if he hadn't died prematurely at 45, he would have received the Nobel Prize), more than half a century has already passed since Mishima's last published work. It is therefore within our mission to revitalize this significant Japanese author's contributions to the world of the arts.

We are thrilled to open this season fittingly with a Japan Society-commissioned work based on the novel that launched Mishima to international stardom, *Kinkakuji*

(*The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*). This world premiere is followed by a French-born dance/theater production based on Mishima's modern noh play and a work adapted from a lesser-known short story, created in Tokyo. Other offerings include Mishima-related film screenings and discussions of Mishima's legacy, with a set of traditional noh plays that inspired Mishima culminating the series. The spring brings a slate loaded with Japan's best and latest theater, dance and music. Welcome aboard for this exciting season!



Yoko Shioya
Artistic Director, Japan Society



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YUKIO MISHIMA CENTENNIAL Series EMERGENCES

Five-time Nobel Prize-nominated author, playwright, poet, film director, bodybuilder, Shintoist, ultranationalist and the leader of an attempted *coup d'état* that culminated with a gruesome public act of *seppuku*—the great postwar-era Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima was a deeply complex and divisive figure. Recognizing his immeasurable global influence, Japan Society honors Mishima 100 years after his birth with a series of world and North American premieres inspired by his brilliant and era-defining writings, alongside classic works of noh theater that served as an ancient muse for the artist.

- p. 6 • **Yukio Mishima's KINKAKUJI**
September 11-20
- p. 12 • **Le Tambour de Soie (The Silk Drum)**
October 24 & 25
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November 15 & 16
- p. 16 • **Mishima's Muse – Noh Theater**
December 4, 5 & 6



Save 20% when you purchase a ticket to 3 or more performance programs in the Yukio Mishima *Emergences* Series. Offer only valid for tickets purchased in the same transaction.

CONTEMPORARY THEATER
JAPAN SOCIETY COMMISSION
★ **WORLD PREMIERE**

Yukio Mishima's **KINKAKUJI**

Adapted from the novel *Kinkakuji*
(*The Temple of the Golden Pavillion*)
for the stage by **Leon Ingulsrud**
and **Major Curda**.
Stage Design by **Chiharu Shiota**.



CONTEMPORARY THEATER | WORLD PREMIERE

Yukio Mishima's KINKAKUJI

Yukio Mishima's tour de force novel is now adapted as a feverish stage spectacle by a distinctive international creative team consisting of **Leon Ingulsrud** (SITI Company co-founder), rising young Korean-American actor **Major Curda** and Berlin-based **Chiharu Shiota**, one of the most celebrated visual artists of her generation. Mishima's spiraling psychological drama, based on a true, horrifying post-war incident of arson in which an alienated young Buddhist monk burned the 14th-century temple of sacred beauty to the ground, explores the motivations of disaffected youths yearning to "burn it all down." Curda stars as the titular monk under Ingulsrud's direction, while Shiota's starkly beautiful stage design – brought to the U.S. for the first time – offers an unprecedented level of immersion in a Mishima dreamscape.



Leon Ingulsrud



Major Curda



Chiharu Shiota

Thurs., Sept. 11 at 7:00 pm

—A Gallery opening reception takes place immediately following, open to all ticket holders and Japan Society members

Fri., Sept. 12 at 7:30 pm

—Preceded by a Gallery talk (tickets purchased separately)

Sat., Sept. 13 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm

Sun., Sept. 14 at 2:30 pm

Tues., Sept. 16 at 7:30 pm

—Preceded by a pre-performance lecture at 6:30 pm (free for ticket holders)

Wed., Sept. 17 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by an Artist Q&A

Thurs., Sept. 18 at 7:30 pm

Fri., Sept. 19 at 8 pm

Sat., Sept. 20 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm

Tickets:

****September 11: \$70/\$44 members**
(ticket includes entry to the Gallery opening event following the performance)

All other dates—\$58/\$44 members
(inclusive of fees, where applicable)

*Produced by Japan Society through special arrangement
with Concord Theatricals Corporation.*

**“Encountering... [Shiota's]
work is like entering
another dimension...”**

– Forbes

GALLERY EXHIBITION

Chiharu Shiota: Two Home Countries

September 12, 2025 – January 11, 2026



Japan Society Gallery presents the first New York solo museum exhibition of contemporary artist Chiharu Shiota (b. 1972). Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, *Chiharu Shiota: Two Home Countries* centers on a newly commissioned, site-specific installation that explores wartime experiences and memories. Placing the original installation in dialogue with other works from Shiota's oeuvre, the exhibition creates parallels between the humanitarian tragedy of war and the artist's personal struggles.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE-THEATER | NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Le Tambour de Soie (The Silk Drum)

Adapted from Yukio Mishima's modern noh play

Fri., Oct. 24 at 8 pm

—Followed by a Private Gathering for Artists and Members

Sat. Oct. 25 at 8 pm

—Followed by an Artist Q&A

Tickets:

\$55/\$42 members

(inclusive of fees,
where applicable)

Presented in partnership with L'Alliance New York's *Crossing The Line* Festival.

**"...Ito has become a versatile headliner
within France's contemporary dance scene..."**

– The New York Times

Drawing from Yukio Mishima's adaptation of the classic Japanese noh drama *Aya no Tsuzumi*, distinguished artists **Yoshi Oida** and **Kaori Ito** have co-created the spellbinding dance-theater work ***Le Tambour de Soie* (The Silk Drum)**. Premiering to acclaim at the 2020 Festival d'Avignon in France, this alluring piece begins with an old man sweeping a theater stage—played in this U.S. production by New York's Big Dance Theater co-founder **Paul Lazar**—who falls for a beautiful dancer rehearsing for a show – a role reprised by Ito. Set to a musical tapestry woven by Provence-based musician **Makoto Yabuki**, this darkly seductive dance strips the original fable down to its core drama between an old man desperate to feel loved again and an indifferent young woman made complicit in his downfall.

Production: Maison de la Culture d'Amiens – France; International art production and distribution center.



MISHIMA: EMERGENCES Series 13

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

★ **WORLD PREMIERE**

The Seven Bridges (Hashi-zukushi)

Adapted from Yukio Mishima's short story

Acclaimed for converting great authors' novels into disarmingly charming yet satirical performances told almost entirely through movement, Tokyo-based **CHAIROIPLIN** (a pun on Charlie Chaplin's name) takes on Yukio Mishima's little-known short story for its North American debut. In *The Seven Bridges*, following a fanciful superstition that crossing seven bridges without conversing with anyone on a full moon night will make their wishes come true, four women set out on a journey under the watchful gaze of the Moon. Obliterating the line between dance and theater, CHAIROIPLIN, founded and led by young choreographer **Takuro Suzuki**, infuses eye-popping color, catchy music, arresting movement and slapstick humor into Mishima's compact reflection on ritual and desire. Which woman will cross the seventh bridge—and, for what kind of wish?

Sat., Nov. 15 at 7:30 pm

Sun., Nov. 16 at 2:30 pm

—Followed by an Artist Q&A

Tickets:

\$48/\$36 members

(inclusive of fees, where applicable)

\$100 Ticket Bundle:

*Buy three tickets to receive a group/family bundle discount.***



**Offer only valid for tickets purchased in the same transaction; cannot be combined with Yukio Mishima Centennial Series 20% discount offer.



TRADITIONAL NOH THEATER

Mishima's Muse – Noh Theater

Hosho Noh School's American Debut

Thurs., Dec. 4 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by a ticketed soiree**

Fri., Dec. 5 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by an Artist Q&A

Sat., Dec. 6 at 7:30 pm

Yukio Mishima immersed himself in Japan's traditional arts and, notably, traditional noh theater, enchanted by its noble elegance and refined beauty. His love for noh resulted in a series of venerated dramatic works, *Modern Noh Plays*. Now, the distinguished **Hosho Noh School**, originating in the early 15th century and led by 20th Grand Master **Kazufusa Hosho**, brings this elegant art form to the U.S. In accordance with centuries-old tradition, each evening features a rotating offering of the authentic classic repertoire of noh alongside comedic kyogen theater (performed by the prominent **Yamamoto Tojiro Family**). Each play selected for this program served as a source of inspiration for Mishima to adapt as modern stories centuries later.

Dec. 4:

Noh Music: *Shishi (Lion Dance)*

Kyogen: *Busu (Poison)*

Noh: *Aoi no Ue (Lady Aoi)*

Dec. 5:

Noh *Shimai* (unmasked excerpt): *Kantan*

Kyogen: *Busu (Poison)*

Noh: *Aya no Tsuzumi (The Silk Drum)*

Dec. 6:

Noh *Shimai*: *Yoroboshi*

Kyogen: *Busu (Poison)*

Noh: *Aoi no Ue (Lady Aoi)*

Performed in Japanese
with English supertitles.

A pre-performance lecture on
noh theater begins one hour
prior to the start of each show.

****Performance + Soirée tickets:**

\$98/\$76 members

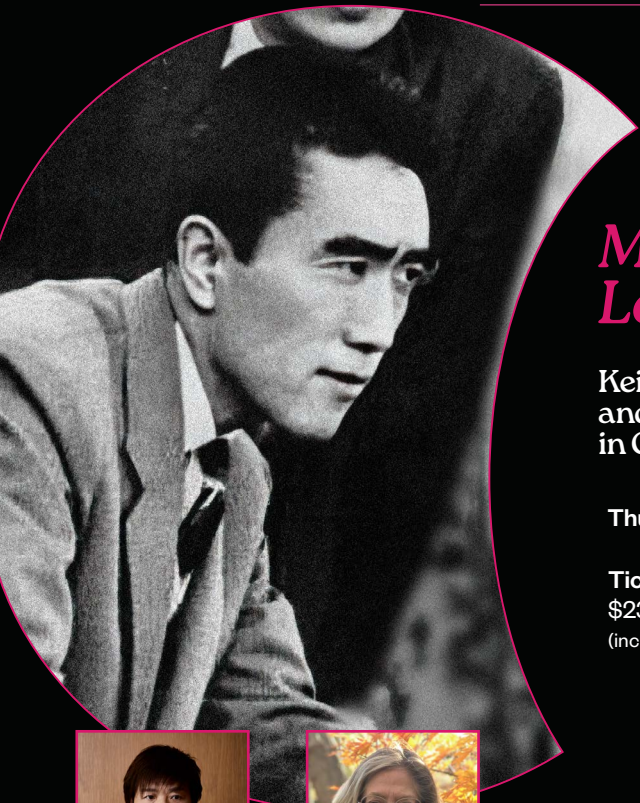
(inclusive of fees, where applicable)

Performance only:

\$88/\$68 members

(inclusive of fees, where applicable)





MISHIMA: Legacy

Keiichiro Hirano
and Susan Napier
in Conversation

Thurs., Nov. 6 at 6:30 pm

Tickets:
\$23/\$16 members
(inclusive of fees, where applicable)



Keiichiro Hirano



Dr. Susan J. Napier

Keiichiro Hirano, an esteemed novelist known for being a deep admirer of Yukio Mishima, sits down with noted Mishima and anime/manga scholar **Dr. Susan J. Napier** to discuss the phenomenal life

and global impact of the eminent author Yukio Mishima. Join these experts as they exchange thoughts on this master postwar stylist, his complex body of work and his influence on Japanese literature and pop culture—alongside Mishima's career, sexuality, political beliefs and highly controversial death.

MISHIMA Film Screenings



Conflagration

Sat., Sept. 27 at 7 pm

*Dir. Kon Ichikawa, 1958, 99 min., 35mm, b/w, in Japanese with English subtitles.
With Raizo Ichikawa, Tatsuya Nakadai, Ganjiro Nakamura.*

Involving the spiritual and psychological breakdown of an introverted, troubled youth whose desire for pure beauty leads him to Kyoto's Shukaku temple, Kon Ichikawa's adaptation of Mishima's *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion* is the pinnacle of the master filmmaker's literary adaptations, rendered in stunning *chiaroscuro* compositions by cinematographer Kazuo Miyagawa.

Additional Mishima-related film screenings to coincide with the *Emergences* series will be announced soon.



CONTEMPORARY THEATER | NORTH AMERICAN COMPANY DEBUT

Kinoshita Kabuki's *Kanjincho*

Thurs., Jan. 8 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by an opening night reception

Fri., Jan. 9 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by an artist Q&A

Sat., Jan. 10 at 7:30 pm

Sun., Jan. 11 at 2:30 pm

Tickets:

\$63/\$48 members

(inclusive of fees, where applicable)

A group of refugees fleeing to safety. An uncompromising inspector whose life depends on apprehending a fugitive. Recognized as a masterpiece of kabuki theater, *Kanjincho* draws its tale from the 12th century, featuring deception, quick wit and a riotous and nail-biting tit-for-tat with impossibly high stakes as its centerpiece. **Kinoshita Kabuki** gleefully charges across the boundary between bombastic traditional kabuki drama and contemporary theater in a hip and pop culture-drenched take on this surprisingly evergreen tale about crossing and transcending borders.

Created by young dramaturg **Yuichi Kinoshita** with in-demand guest director **Kunio Sugihara**, experience the international sensation that has cemented Kinoshita Kabuki's place among sterling modern theater companies.

Performed in Japanese with English supertitles.





CONTEMPORARY DANCE | NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Hiroaki Umeda: *assimilating & Moving State 1*

Fri., Mar. 20 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by a Private Gathering for Artists and Members

Sat., Mar. 21 at 7:30 pm

—Followed by an artist Q&A

Tickets:

\$51/\$38 members

(inclusive of fees, where applicable)

***“Engaging... Like a tin man with oil
flowing freely through his veins...”***

— The New York Times

Critically acclaimed for his almost impossibly fluid movement style bordering on street dance—subtle, radical and provocative—**Hiroaki Umeda**’s dance pieces frequently synthesize ultramodern video, dramatic lighting and crackling soundscapes as interlocking components interacting with moving bodies on stage. Now, this slick avant-garde mastermind returns to Japan Society with a double bill of his latest cutting-edge projects from Tokyo. ***Moving State 1***, performed by four protege female dancers from Umeda’s **Somatic Field Project** who have fully absorbed his sleek, oiled movements and ***assimilating***, Umeda’s signature solo performance, operate within a dance aesthetic where refined physicality merges with digital design and cyberart.

PLAY READING SERIES

Contemporary Japanese Plays in English Translation

Earthly Bones

By Kei Ando

Translated by Kazue Peck

Directed by Lauren Zeftel

Mon., May. 4 at 8 pm

— Followed by an artist Q&A

Tickets:

\$21/\$14 members

(inclusive of fees, where applicable)



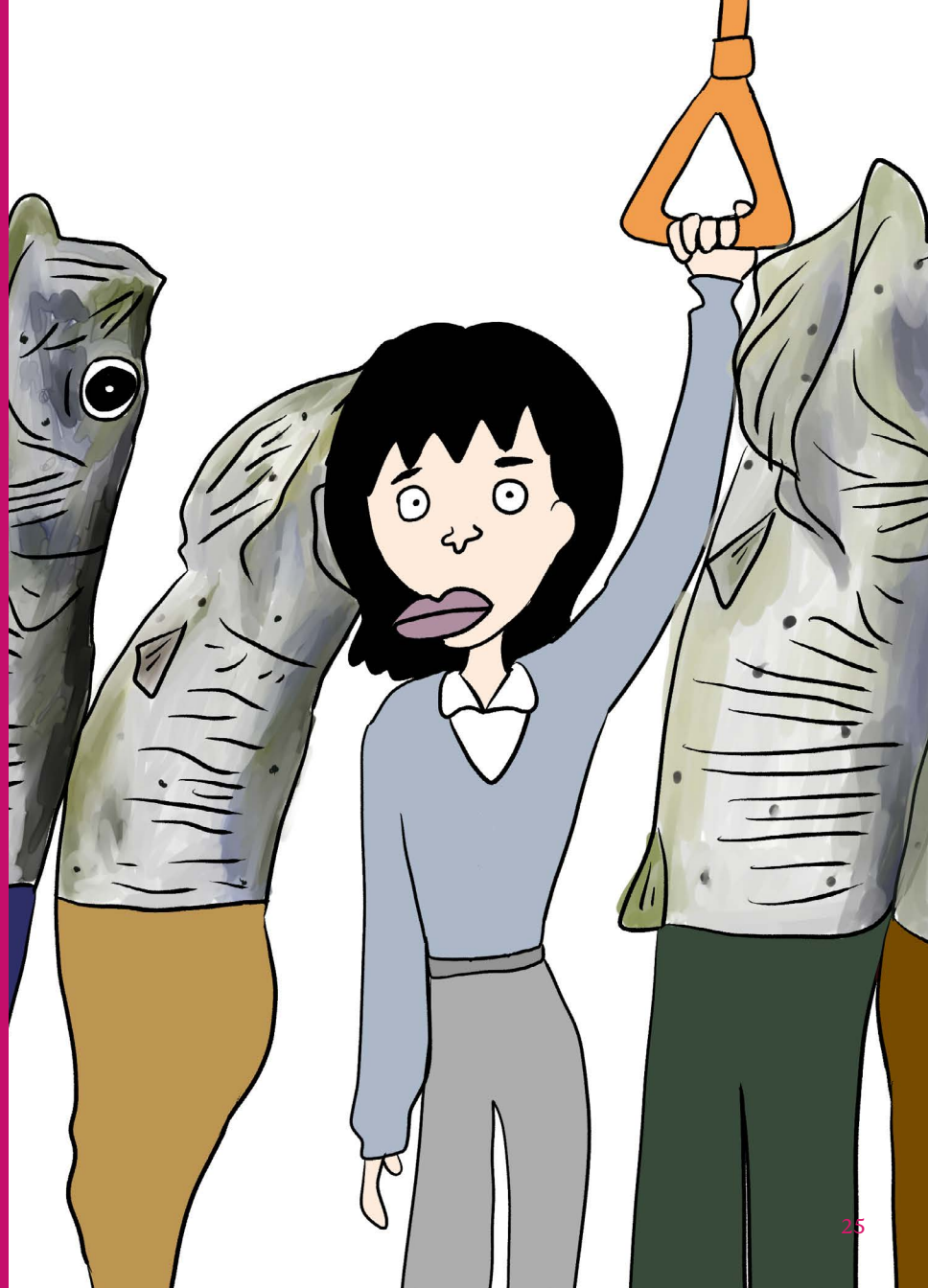
Kei Ando



Lauren Zeftel

One late night in an overworked office, Miyabi is offered a bite of home-cooked fish and politely turns down the offer with a white lie. As acts of extreme politeness and Japanese office etiquette begin to stack on top of this innocent lie, office workers are stretched to the breaking point, until a sudden change overtakes Miyabi's team... In her signature style for finding the farcical in the mundane structures of Japanese society, Kishida Kunio Drama Award winner **Kei Ando's** play *Earthly Bones* dives deep into the inherent absurdities of Japanese office life. NYC-based director **Lauren Zeftel** and her cast of local actors take audiences on this mad joyride of distinctly Japanese dark humor in an English-language reading.

The 20th installment of Japan Society's annual *Play Reading Series* introduces topical plays from up-and-coming playwrights in Japan to artists and audiences in the U.S.



CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC

OKI DUB AINU BAND

Thurs., June 4 at 7:30 pm

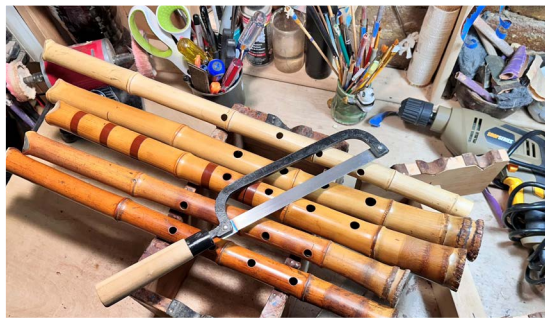
—Followed by a Private Gathering
for Artists and Members

Tickets:

\$43/\$32 members
(inclusive of fees, where applicable)

Back by popular demand after his 2022 sold-out tour—Ainu musician **OKI** (Okī Kano) returns to Japan Society for a one-night-only blowout concert with his **OKI DUB AINU BAND!** OKI's band brings its globally-praised trademark fusion of reggae, African rhythms, electronic dub and folk music of the Ainu, Japan's northernmost indigenous people. Resurrecting the *tonkori*, a five-string instrument native to the Ainu, OKI has travelled across five continents on his quest to share reconstructed sounds from Hokkaido that were nearly lost to the world. Now, OKI's full band throws a musical revelry to kick off Japan Society's summer 2026 Ainu Gallery exhibition opening.

Workshops



Noh Movement Workshop with Hosho Noh School

Sat., Dec. 6 at 1 pm

Tickets: \$65/ \$52 members (inclusive of fees, where applicable)

Members of the distinguished **Hosho Noh School** lead a workshop on noh theater's stylized movements, music and *utai* chanting, sharing their expertise in this revered centuries-old art form. Workshop participants will act out basic movement patterns from a noh story on stage and learn noh's unique vocalization style—and even have an opportunity to see noh masks and costumes up close.

ENCORE! Build Your Own Shakuhachi: Crafting Workshop

Sun., Mar. 1 at 1 pm

Tickets: \$100/ \$78 members (inclusive of fees, where applicable)

Shakuhachi craftsman and musician **Perry Yung** returns for an encore workshop, guiding participants in crafting their own shakuhachi from raw bamboo stock, cutting, drilling and shaping a functional instrument. After instruction on basic playing technique, participants will be able to leave with their own functional, natural instrument!

Talk Story: Sharing Ainu Culture with OKI

Fri., June 5 at 6:30 pm

Tickets: \$28/ \$20 members (inclusive of fees, where applicable)

OKI, an avid storyteller and one of the most prominent performers of Ainu folk music in the world, shares personal experiences, anecdotes and Ainu lore alongside talking about the traditional music of the *tonkori*. OKI also chats about his recent forays into film directing, and his ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the unique culture of the Ainu people.

Offsite Workshop: Family Dance Workshop with Kaori Ito

Sat., Oct. 25 at 10:15 am

Featured in *Le Tambour de Soie (The Silk Drum)*, Kaori Ito is a France-based Japanese dancer, choreographer and director of the TJP Strasbourg—one of France's premiere theaters for young audiences. Ito leads an offsite family dance workshop at L'Alliance New York (22 East 60th Street, New York). For further details and registration, please visit lallianceny.org.

Ticketing

EVENT	DATE	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER
<i>KINKAKUJI</i>	Sept. 11 Sept. 12 - 20	\$70 \$58	\$44 \$44
<i>Le Tambour de Soie (The Silk Drum)</i>	Oct. 24 - 25	\$55	\$42
<i>MISHIMA: LEGACY</i>	Nov. 6	\$23	\$16
<i>The Seven Bridges (Hashi-zukushi)</i>	Nov. 15 - 16	\$48	\$36
<i>Mishima's Muse - Noh Theater</i> Performance + Soirée Performance Only	Dec. 4 Dec. 4 - 6	\$98 \$88	\$76 \$68
<i>Kinoshita Kabuki's Kanjincho</i>	Jan. 8 - 11	\$63	\$48
<i>Hiroaki Umeda:</i> <i>assimilating and Moving State 1</i>	Mar. 20 - 21	\$51	\$38
<i>Earthly Bones</i>	May 4	\$21	\$14
<i>OKI DUB AINU BAND</i>	June 4	\$43	\$32

WORKSHOPS

<i>Offsite Workshop:</i> <i>Kaori Ito Dance Workshop for Families</i>	Oct. 25	Visit l'allianceny.org	
<i>Noh Workshop with Hosho Noh School</i>	Dec. 6	\$65	\$52
<i>ENCORE!: Build Your Own Shakuhachi:</i> <i>Crafting Workshop</i>	Mar. 1	\$100	\$78
<i>Talk Story: Sharing Ainu Culture with OKI</i>	June 5	\$28	\$20

Members pre-sale begins at 11 am on July 17.
General tickets go on sale at 11 am on July 31.

Programs are subject to change. All sales are final.



ORDER INFO

(212) 715-1258

japansociety.org/performing-arts

Box Office Hours

Monday—Friday: 9 am—5 pm





Mayunkiki: Reclaim



In summer 2026 Japan Society Gallery opens the first solo U.S. museum exhibition of Ainu artist Mayunkiki (b. 1982). A groundbreaking multimedia artist, musician, language teacher, and advocate of Ainu culture, Mayunkiki's work explores traditional and contemporary Ainu identity. She calls for a reassessment of how Ainu art and culture is exhibited in museums, challenging the typical presentation of Ainu artifacts by mobilizing indigenous voices and living memory. *Mayunkiki: Reclaim* features the artist's compelling artistic language—both visual and musical—to advocate for a deeper, more nuanced understanding of Ainu art and culture.

Name a Seat

Every seat has a story.

Create a meaningful legacy by naming a seat in our historic auditorium!



japansociety.org/name-a-seat

For more information, contact us at
membership@japansociety.org
or (212) 715-1270.



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Join our Giving Circles at \$1000 or above and ...

Meet visiting artists from Japan, kampai with the Artistic Director before performances, and gain exclusive access to private rehearsals.

Your generosity ensures the future of world-class performances at Japan Society.



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2025-26 Performing Arts Season Support

Major support is generously provided by Doug and Teresa Peterson, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jun Makihara and Megumi Oka, and Robin B. Stern. Endowment support is provided by the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund, John and Miyoko Davey Foundation, and a leadership gift from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



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A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed in honor of Yoko Shioya's 20th anniversary and ensure the continued success of the Performing Arts Program, including the Globus Family, Cheryl Henson, Laurent Hermout, Merit E. Janow, Eri Kakuta, Jun Makihara and Megumi Oka, Doug and Teresa Peterson, Richard and Momona Royce, Lyndley and Samuel Schwab, Shiseido Americas, Robin B. Stern and Jeffrey Stern, and Lance Stuart.

All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd. is the official airline of the Japan Society Performing Arts Program. Yamaha is the official piano provider of Japan Society.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

2025-26 Japan Society Season Support

Japan Society arts and culture programs are supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



Council on
the Arts



Japan Society's 120th anniversary initiatives and related programs are generously supported by Champion Sponsor, MUFG Bank, Ltd.; Advocate Sponsor, Mizuho Americas; and Friend Sponsor, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas).



Program Support & Partners

The **Yukio Mishima Centennial Series: *Emergences*** is supported by Doug and Teresa Peterson.

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Mishima's Muse - Noh Theater is supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council. The program is also supported, in part, by the John and Miyoko Davey Foundation.

Kinoshita Kabuki's *Kanjincho* is supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council, and subsidized by JLOX+, with funding from The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

Hiroaki Umeda's *assimilating & Moving State 1* is supported by a grant from The Harkness Foundation for Dance.



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