

Exploring New Frontiers in Traditional Bunraku Puppetry "Sonezaki Shinju: *The Love Suicides at Sonezaki*" The first-ever overseas tour to start on September 27, 2013

The Japan Foundation and the Odawara Art Foundation proudly present the world premiere European tour of the Ningyo Joruri Bunraku (Japanese puppet theatre) performance "Sugimoto Bunraku Sonezaki Shinju: *The Love Suicides at Sonezaki*" over a month from September to October, 2013. The Japan Foundation is also pleased to announce the press conference and bunraku lectures and demonstration events to be held in conjunction with the performances.

Madrid: Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28, 2013

*Total of 2 performances at Teatro Español

Press conference: Morning of Thursday, September 26, 2013 (TBA)

Bunraku lecture and demonstration

Date: 12:00pm - 2:00pm, Saturday, September 28, 2013

Venue: Teatro Español

Program: Lecture and demonstration by puppeteers

Rome: Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5, 2013

*Total of 2 performances at Teatro Argentina

Press conference: 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Bunraku lecture and demonstration

Date: 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Venue: Instituto Giapponese di Cultura

Program: Lecture and demonstration by the narrator, shamisen (a three-stringed Japanese banjo) player and puppeteers.

Lecture by an Italian scholar on Japan precedes the demonstration

Bunraku film screening: 6:30pm - 9:00pm, Thursday, October 3, 2013

Venue: Instituto Giapponese di Cultura

Paris: Thursday, October 10 - Saturday, October 19, 2013

*Total of 11 performances at Théâtre de la Ville, Paris

Bunraku lecture and demonstration

Date: 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Venue: Grande salle, Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris

Program: Lecture and demonstration by the narrator, shamisen player and puppeteers

Lecture by Hiroshi Sugimoto

Date: 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Venue: Grande salle, Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris



© Hiroshi Sugimoto, courtesy of the Odawara Art Foundation



© Hiroshi Sugimoto, courtesy of the Odawara Art Foundation

As the first overseas performances of the work, the European tour starts in Madrid as part of the commemoration of the "400th Anniversary of Japan-Spain Relations." Celebrating the 400th year since the Keicho Delegates reached Europe and cultural exchanges between Japan and Spain began, the piece will be presented at the renowned Teatro Español, a performing arts theatre with a history of 430 years located in central Madrid. After Madrid the performance will move to Rome to mark the 50th anniversary of the Istituto Giapponese di Cultura in Rome, which opened in 1962 as the first Japan Culture Center to be founded abroad. The venue, Teatro Argentina, is one of the most prestigious theatres in Rome, and known as the venue of the premiere of Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville*. And finally, eleven performances will be given at the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris as part of the main program during the Festival d'automne à Paris, a world-famous festival of the performing arts.

For details visit: <http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/culture/new/1306/06-01.html>

Information about the Performance

Kitagawa (Ms)

The Japan Foundation

Europe, Middle East and Africa Section, Arts and Culture Dept.

Tel : + 81-3-5369-6063 E-mail: Yoko_Kitagawa@jpf.go.jp

Press Contact

Taira (Ms) (TAIRAMASAKO PRESS OFFICE)

Tel: + 81-90-1149-1111 E-mail: info@tmpress.jp