

NOH+DENMARK 2017

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ABOUT THIS PROJECT

NOH+DENMARK 2017



NOH+DENMARK 2017 consisted of several events which presented Noh, the classical Japanese theater with a history of more than 650 years, in Denmark in September 2017. The project took place as part of the official program which celebrated the 150 year anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations between Japan and Denmark and was jointly organised by Isa Takeda (JP), Simon Roy Christensen (DK), and Yukiko Nakayama (JP).

Isa Takeda is a professional Noh shite actor and teacher of the Hōshō school, Simon Roy Christensen is a PhD fellow at the department of Aesthetics and Culture at Aarhus University, and Yukiko Nakayama is a former graduate student in Musicology at Tokyo University of Arts. While Isa Takeda is based in Tokyo, Japan, Simon Roy Christensen and Yukiko Nakayama are based in Aarhus, Denmark. Together they share a deep wish to present the Japanese Noh theatre to a wide Danish audience and to stimulate increasing dialogue and mutual inspiration between Danish and Japanese cultures.

As the Noh theater itself remains a largely unknown and rarely performed art form in Denmark, NOH+DENMARK 2017 aimed to introduce the rich and multifaceted tradition of Noh through a series of performances and workshops which could present the art of Noh from a variety of perspectives. More specifically, NOH+DENMARK 2017 consisted of two workshops and three regular performances in the course of three days (22/9 - 24/9). The workshops (22/9) included a total number of eighty participants comprised of students from Aarhus University's Japanese Department and Department of Aesthetics and Culture. The topics covered included instructions in Noh singing, dancing and musical performance as well as hands-on experiences of Noh kimonos and Noh masks enabling the students to interact closely with the

Japanese Noh performers and gain rare first-hand experiences of the Noh theatre in practice. The performances, held at Aarhus University (22/9), Designmuseum Denmark (23/9) and KoncertKirken (24/9) respectively, presented varied programs of traditional Noh plays and musical pieces. As a way to cross cultural borders and foster artistic exchange between Japan and Denmark, the final performance held at KoncertKirken included moreover a unique musical collaboration in which the Japanese Noh performers were joined by two contemporary improvising musicians based in Copenhagen, Danielle Dahl (NO) and Anders Vestergaard (DK).

As the organisers of NOH+DENMARK 2017, we hope to continue facilitating new opportunities to experience the Japanese Noh theatre in Denmark through an ongoing series of activities in the future. As one of the world's oldest performing art forms still alive today, while at the same time appearing surprisingly 'contemporary' onstage through its often radically minimalist and highly sophisticated forms of expression, Noh represents a unique artistic medium which allows all of us to reflect on cultural borders and aesthetic traditions in today's increasingly globalised world. Although the Noh theatre remains deeply rooted in Japanese culture, we believe its artistic merits also speak a universal language which is far from confined to any particular geography.

Isa Takeda
Simon Roy Christensen
Yukiko Nakayama

PROJECT OVERVIEW

NOH+DENMARK 2017

EVENTS

1) NOH+AARHUS UNIVERSITET

Date: 22/9/2017

Place: Aarhus University

Participants: 130

2) NOH+DESIGNMUSEUM DANMARK

Date: 23/9/2017

Place: Designmuseum Danmark

Participants: 150

3) NOH+KONCERTKIRKEN

Date: 24/9/2017

Place: KoncertKirken Blågårdsplads

Participants: 90

ORGANISERS

Isa Takeda (JP)

Simon Roy Christensen (DK)

Yukiko Nakayama (JP)

CO-ORGANISER

Aarhus Universitet

SUPPORTERS

Embassy of Denmark in Japan

Danish Arts Foundation

Toyota Foundation

EU-Japan Fest

København Kommunes Musikudvalg

Designmuseum Danmark

KoncertKirken Blågårdsplads

PERFORMERS

Shite (main role) and Jiutai (chorus)

Takashi Takeda (JP)

Isa Takeda (JP)

Hajime Tazaki (JP)

Shūga Fujii (JP)

Nohkan (flute)

Shuntarō Kumamoto (JP)

Kotsuzumi (small hand drum)

Kazuto Shimizu (JP)

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum)

Yasuyuki Shirasaka (JP)

Taiko (stick drum)

Akira Sawada (JP)

Saxophone

Danielle Dahl (NO)

Percussion

Anders Vestergaard (DK)

NOH+AARHUS UNIVERSITET

NOH+DENMARK 2017



NOH+AARHUS UNIVERSITET

Place : Aarhus Universitet (/Aarhus University)

Date : 22/9/2017

Time : 11:30~16:30

Performers : Takashi Takeda/ Isa Takeda/ Hajime Tazaki/ Shūga Fujii/ Shuntarō Kumamoto/ Kazuto Shimizu/ Yasuyuki Shirasaka/ Akira Sawada

Participants: 130

PROGRAM1) Noh Workshop for students of Department of Aesthetics and Culture (11:30-12:30)

1. Forms of Noh:

Introduction to the physical forms of Noh - how to express emotions and characters in the Noh theatre.

2. Instrumental music in Noh:

Instrumental players introduce musical performance styles and aesthetics of Noh.

3. Transformation in Noh:

Noh performers show how to dress and transform themselves into a Noh character before stage. With particular focus on the Noh piece *Hagoromo*.

2) Concert (13:00-14:20)

1. Introduction

Simon Roy Christensen

2. Shimai from *Aoi no ue*

Shite (main actor): Shūga Fujii; Jiutai (chorus): Takashi Takeda and Hajime Tazaki

3. Ichō kouta from *Hōkazō*

Utai (singing): Hajime Tazaki; Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

4. Oshirabe

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto; Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu; Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka; Taiko (stick drum): Akira Sawada

5. Subayashi Kagura

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto; Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu; Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka; Taiko (stick drum): Akira Sawada

6. Han-noh *Yashima*

Shite (main actor): Takashi Takeda; Jiutai (chorus): Hajime Tazaki and Shūga Fujii; Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto; Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu; Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

7. Han-noh *Hagoromo*

Shite (main actor): Isa Takeda; Jiutai (chorus): Hajime Tazaki and Shūga Fujii; Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto; Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu; Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka; Taiko (stick drum): Akira Sawada

3) Noh Workshop for students of Japanese Studies (15:00-16:30)

1. Noh practice:

Students learn to sing excerpts from the Noh play *Hagoromo* and receive instructions in basic physical forms (*kata*) of the Noh theater.

2. Dress like a Noh performer:

Students learn how to wear kimono and masks used in Noh theater plays.















NOH+DESIGNMUSEUM DANMARK NOH+DENMARK 2017



NOH+DESIGNMUSEUM DANMARK

Place : Designmuseum Danmark

Date : 23/9/2017

Time : 16:00~17:30

Performers : Takashi Takeda/ Isa Takeda/ Hajime Tazaki / Shūga Fujii / Shuntarō Kumamoto/ Kazuto Shimizu/ Yasuyuki Shirasaka/ Akira Sawada

Participants: 150

PROGRAM

1. Introduction

Simon Roy Christensen

2. Shimai from *Aoi no ue*

Shite (main actor): Shūga Fujii

Jiutai (chorus): Takashi Takeda and Hajime Tazaki

3. Subayashi Kagura

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto

Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

Taiko (stick drum): Akira Sawada

4. Maibayashi from *Yashima*

Shite (main actor): Takashi Takeda

Jiutai (chorus): Hajime Tazaki and Shūga Fujii

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto

Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

5. Ichchō Kouta from *Hōkazō*

Utai (singing) : Hajime Tazaki

Ōtsuzumi (hip-drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

6. Han-noh *Hagoromo*

Shite (main actor): Isa Takeda

Jiutai (chorus): Takashi Takeda, Hajime Tazaki and Shūga Fujii

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto

Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

Taiko (stick drum): Akira Sawada











NOH+KONCERTKIRKEN

NOH+DENMARK 2017



NOH+KONCERTKIRKEN

Place : KoncertKirken Blågårdsplads

Date : 24/9/2017

Time : 19:30~20:45

Performers: Takashi Takeda/ Isa Takeda/ Hajime Tazaki/ Shuntarō Kumamoto/
Kazuto Shimizu/ Yasuyuki Shirasaka/ Danielle Dahl/
Anders Vestergaard

Participants: 90

PROGRAM

1. Introduction

Simon Roy Christensen

2. Ichō from *Yashima*

Utai (singing): Takashi Takeda

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

3. Maibayashi from *Hajitomi*

Shite (main actor): Isa Takeda

Jiutai (chorus): Takashi Takeda and Hajime Tazaki

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto

Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

4. Improvisation

Saxophone: Danielle Dahl

Percussion: Anders Vestergaard

5. Collaboration piece

Mai (dance): Takashi Takeda

Nohkan (flute): Shuntarō Kumamoto

Kotsuzumi (small hand drum): Kazuto Shimizu

Ōtsuzumi (hip drum): Yasuyuki Shirasaka

Saxophone: Danielle Dahl

Percussion: Anders Vestergaard











PROFILES

NOH+DENMARK 2017



TAKASHI TAKEDA (b. 1954) / 武田孝史

Takashi TAKEDA was born as the second son of Hōshō Shite (main actor) Yoshinaga TAKEDA. He studied under Kurō HŌSHŌ and Fusao HŌSHŌ as his Noh masters. He also graduated from the Music Department of Tokyo University of the Arts. As a Noh performer, Takashi TAKEDA debuted as the Shite actor in 1974 in the Noh play *Zenji Soga*. He has since been starring as the Shite actor in major plays such as *Dōjōji*, *Shakkyō*, *Midare*, *Okina*, *Mochizuki*, and *Sumidagawa*. He is a designated Important Intangible Cultural Property holder by the Japanese Ministry of Culture and is deeply engaged in the Noh community. He has moreover performed numerous times abroad for international audiences.



ISA TAKEDA (b. 1990) / 武田伊左

Isa Takeda was born as the eldest daughter of Hōshō Shite (main actor) Takeda Takashi. She has studied Noh under Kazufusa Hōshō, as well as Shō Takahashi and Takashi Takeda. She debuted on the Noh stage in the play *Genjō* in 1994 and performed for the first time the full Noh play *Yoshino Shizuka* as the Shite actor in 2013. She graduated from the Music Department of Tokyo University of the Arts in 2015. During her studies at university, she was the recipient of the Ataka Award and Arkansas Music award and has performed Noh for international audiences in abroad as well.



SIMON ROY CHRISTENSEN (b.1988) / シモン・ロイ・クリステンセン

Simon Roy Christensen works at the interface of theory and practice in the fields of arts and aesthetics with a particular interest in intersections of Eastern and Western cultures. Christensen has studied several years in Japan, first at Kunitachi College of Music (2011-2012) and subsequently at Tokyo University of Arts (2014-2016), and is currently engaged as a PhD student at the Department of Aesthetics and Culture at Aarhus University. His present research focuses on the aesthetics of silence, in particular within traditional and contemporary Japanese art forms.



YUKIKO NAKAYAMA (b.1990) / 中山 由希子

Born in the southern part of Japan, Nakayama has lived in several places in Japan including Tokyo where she finished her studies at Tokyo University of the Arts with a bachelors degree in musicology. Through her university life, Nakayama cultivated her appreciation and understanding of Japanese classical arts, Gagaku (court music) and Shodō (Japanese calligraphy) in particular, the latter of which she continues to study with under calligraphy master, Hekisen Yanagi. Currently based in Aarhus, Denmark, Nakayama is ready to put her knowledge and experiences of Japanese culture into practice within the Danish community to facilitate cultural interaction between Japanese culture and Danish society.



HAJIME TAZAKI (b. 1988) / 田崎 甫

Born as a nephew of Hōshō Shite (main actor) Ryuzo Tazaki, Hajime Tazaki studied Noh under Fusateru Hōshō as well as Kazufusa Hōshō. He debuted on the Noh stage in 1994 in the plays *Kuramatengu* and performed for the first time as Shite actor in the Noh play *Kinsatsu* in 2011. He currently continues his Noh studies under the head of the Hōshō school, Kazufusa Hōshō.

SHŪGA FUJII (b. 1990) / 藤井 秋雅

Born as a the first-born son of Hōshō Shite (main actor) Masayuki Fujii, Shūga Fujii studied Noh under Fusateru Hōshō as well as Kazufusa Hōshō. He debuted on the Noh stage in 1994 of *Kuramatengu* and performed for the first time as Shite actor in the Noh play *Tamura* in 2015. He currently continues his studies of Noh under the head of the Hōshō school, Kazufusa Hōshō.

YASUYUKI SHIRASAKA (b. 1968) / 白坂 保行

Yasuyuki Shirasaka is a Ōtsuzumi (hip drum) player who is designated Important Intangible Cultural Property holder by the Japanese Ministry of Culture. Yasuyuki Shirasaka studied Ōtsuzumi under Shigezō Kakiyama and Takashi Kakiyama. He debuted on the Noh stage in 1977 in the kiri (the last part) of *Fujidaiko* and performed for the first time the full Noh play *Tsunemasa* in 1981. Apart from his strong interest in classic Noh pieces, Shirasaka has been passionate about performing new Noh pieces as well as reviving extinct Noh plays. He has moreover performed abroad numerous times.

SHUNTARŌ KUMAMOTO (b. 1980) / 熊本 俊太郎

Shuntarō Kumamoto is a Nohkan (flute) player of Morita school. He has learned the art of Nohkan under Morita school Nohkan player Hiroyuki Terai. He first debuted onstage in the Noh play *Tatsuta* in 2008. He has been performing the art of Noh many places abroad such as India, Canada, USA, and Malaysia.

AKIRA SAWADA (b. 1993) / 澤田 晃良

Akira SAWADA is a Taiko (stick drum) player of the Kanze school. After finishing his studies in the Music Department of Tokyo University of the Arts, he continues to study the art of Taiko as the student of Motonori Kanze.

KAZUTO SHIMIZU (b. 1994) / 清水 和音

Kazuto Shimizu is a Kotsuzumi (small hand drum) player. He has learned the art of Kotsuzumi under Kosuke Shimizu and Genjiro Ōkura. In 2006 he debuted on the Noh stage in the play *Okina* and performed for the first time the full Noh play *Tsuchigumo*.

Guest performers at KoncertKirken Blågårdsplass (24/9)

DANIELLE DAHL (b. 1989) /ダニエル・ダー

Danielle Dahl is a Norwegian composer, performer and improviser currently based in Copenhagen, Denmark. She obtained a BA in classical saxophone from the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus, Denmark, and holds a MA in composition from the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. She has toured Europe, Japan, and Australia extensively and works in numerous musical collaborations. Her works have moreover been performed around Europe at notable European festivals for contemporary music. Since 2014, in collaboration with Anders Vestergaard, Dahl has co-run the Copenhagen-based record label for experimental music, Abstract Tits.

ANDERS VESTERGAARD (b. 1989) /アンダース・ヴェスタゴー

Anders Vestergaard is a Danish drummer and improviser currently residing in Copenhagen, Denmark. He holds a BA in Music from the Rhythmic Music Conservatory in Copenhagen. As both sideman and solo performer, Vestergaard is engaged in various musical projects and has appeared on numerous albums in recent years. In 2016, as part of the quartet Boujeloud, he won a DMA Jazz award for Special Release of the Year. He has toured Europe, USA, and Japan on several occasions and continues to perform in numerous collaborations. Since 2014, in collaboration with Danielle Dahl, Vestergaard has co-run the Copenhagen-based record label for experimental music, Abstract Tits.

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