

3 Cups of Sake

**Kyogen Theatre of Japan
Beethoven Gedenkstätte
Jeneweingasse 17
1210 Vienna**

Monday, June 15, 2009, 7:30 p.m.



with Sennojo Shigeyama and Akira Shigeyama



Sennojo Shigeyama was born in Kyoto in 1923. The shigeyama family has been doing Kyogen theater since the middle of the Edo Period (about 1800). His father is Sensaku Shigeyama (given the cultural award of "Human National Treasure"). His stage debut came in 1926, when he was only two-and-a-half years old. He was given the name Sennojo.

In 1948, he appeared for the first time in radio and television broadcasts, breaking an age-old taboo in the world of Japanese traditional

theater. Thereafter, he branched out to film, other forms of theater and opera. Some of his most representative works are "Jigokuhen" "Ashiya Otome no Uta" "Onimusume Koikubihiki"...

In 1951, he founded the "Kyoto Takiginoh" organization, which promoted traditional theater and led to an enormous increase in Noh's popularity's ever since he has stayed on as a member of the organization's management.

Starting in 1960, he began to direct and participate in the creation of operas. Some of his works have been put on in Seattle(U.S.) and Parth(Australia) .

He has, all through the years, been active in performing and directing Kyogen Theater. More recently, he has been acting as vicepresident of the cultural and artistic association of Kyogen, a member of the head council of the Nohgakukai(Noh-Opera Association), as well teaching at the Nara Educational University.

Akira Shigeyama was born in 1952 as one the Shigeyama family of the Okura Kyogen School based and performed mainly in Kyoto. He performs traditional Kyogen plays in various places and occasions such as Noh performances, temple festivals, tourist demonstrations, civil-Kyogen recitals, high schools, and weddings. The significant of the Shigeyama



Kyogen is known as its charm to bring people's attentions back to this authentic performing art. In spite of westernized influence in Japanese daily life, with the powerful leadership of Akira's grandfather Sensaku III, Uncle Sensaku IV, and the father Sennojo, Shigeyama Kyogen has been attracting particularly young generations. Their outstanding performances can occasionally appears in movies, western opera, and modern plays. They have adapted Aristophanes' "The Clouds, a Grimm Brothers' fairy tale, and a science fiction short story to Kyogen.

As being the 13th generation of Shigeyama family of kyogen actor, Akira Shigeyama is known in his versatility of both traditional and modern plays. He even act as the fox in "The Fox and the Man from Outer Space" and the Spaceman in "Gorilla and the Spaceman" of those recent-written science fiction Kyogen. He dedicates his activities for international communication as well. He instructs Kyogen to non-Japanese students and co-produces bilingual Kyogen group. Also, through Akira Shigeyama International Projects, he has been producing Kyogen stages internationally.