

August 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Experimental reading project to be held this fall

Haru no Tayori (Spring Letter)

from “Noh: Sugamozuka”

Written/produced/directed/casted by Hiroshi Sugimoto

Odawara Art Foundation is pleased to present a new experimental reading program including Noh poems and music this November. This is based on the Noh script that Hiroshi Sugimoto wrote a few years ago and this reading project is a part of his process of creating a complete Noh performance.

Performance

Title: *Haru no Tayori* (Spring Letter) from “Noh: Sugamozuka”

Dates: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 from 15:00 and 19:00

Venue: Owl Spot (Toshima Performing Arts Center)

Written/produced/directed by Hiroshi Sugimoto

Cast:

Hiroshi Sugimoto

Kimiko Yo

Teruhisa Oshima (Noh performer)

Yusuke Kuribayashi (Flute player)

Kyosuke Tanabe (Small hand drum player)

Yosuke Kamei (Large hand drum player)

Organized by Odawara Art Foundation

Planned and produced by Odawara Art Foundation

Co-organized by Owl Spot (Toshima Future Culture Foundation)

In cooperation with NHK Art

Tickets

4,500 yen / 4,200 yen for people who live/work/study in Toshima (with valid I.D.)

Tickets are available at Owl Spot Ticket

<http://www.owlspot.jp/english/index.html> or tel: 03-5391-0516 (10:00-19:00)

Hiroshi Sugimoto's Thoughts on *Spring Letter*

The dramatic reading of *Haru no Tayori* (Spring Letter) was written as a plot of the Noh piece entitled *Sugamozuka*.

Needless to say, one of the most significant characteristics of a Noh-style performance is that characters can appear as spirits transcending time. I wanted to transform the memories of the last world war in the form of Noh by using this method. In this country, history can be passed down only when it is put in the form of Noh.

Seventy years have passed since the defeat in the war. It is almost the same length of time as from the downfall of the Heike family to the story singing about them written in the Kamakura period. History with a raw memory can become a story only through the filtration of time. Now I feel that the time has come to filter.

Haru no Tayori (Spring Letter) is a pun in Japanese on the Hull note (officially Outline of Proposed Basis for Agreement Between the United States and Japan), presented to the Japanese government by Secretary of State Cordell Hull in 1941. I had a wish to sing Seishiro Itagaki's will in the form of Noh. Itagaki was incarcerated as a class-A war criminal of World War II in Sugamo Prison. His long will was written in the form of a classical Chinese poem. From inside the prison in the motherland that was reduced to ashes Itagaki's spirit begs that no other spring letters will be delivered to this country. As he wished, this country lives as a county frozen in eternal winter.

It seems as if I hear from somewhere the music of a biwa (classical Japanese lute) played by a blind monk.

About Hiroshi Sugimoto

Born in Tokyo in 1948, Sugimoto has lived in NYC since 1974. Sugimoto has acquired an international reputation as a photographic artist and has exhibited his works in major art

museums throughout the world. In 2008, he founded the New Material Research Laboratory, an architectural design office, and has carried out several commissions, beginning with the interior of the Izu Photo Museum in Shizuoka Prefecture and including the entrance space for oak omotesando, the Sahsya Kanetanaka café, and Isetan Salone (Tokyo Midtown). His recent written works include "Sense of Space" published by Magazine House, and "Origin of Art" by Shincho-sha. As a connoisseur of domestic and international antiquities and traditional theater arts, Sugimoto has led the direction of the sambaso production as well as Sugimoto Bunraku which toured to Rome, Madrid and Paris in 2013. A solo exhibition on Sugimoto is scheduled to open at Chiba City Museum of Art this fall. Sugimoto was awarded the 21st Praemium Imperiale in 2009, Medal with Purple Ribbon by the Japanese government in 2010, and conferred the Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (The Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government in 2013.