

Yamamoto Noh Theater



Founded in 1927, Yamamoto Noh Theater is the oldest existing Noh theatre in Osaka, designated as a Tangible Cultural Heritage of Japan. The theatre hosts and organizes various events, mostly in the field of the Japanese traditional and classical performing arts. Yamamoto Noh Theater combines traditional architecture with modern technology, such as LED lighting and multilingual subtitles, thus entertaining and educating not only a broad Japanese, but also international audience. One of the theatre's main goals is to present the Japanese classical Noh drama as a still living and relevant ancient performing art. Since 2010, Yamamoto Noh Theater has been introducing Noh outside Japan annually, with more than 30 performances and 40 workshops carried out in countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, France, Finland, North Macedonia, Albania etc. The theatre has been collaborating with local cultural and diplomatic institutions.

Performances abroad:

September 2010: Noh Workshop in Sofia, Bulgaria

Place: Sofia Puppet Theatre, Zaimov Park stage

A small-scale lecture + workshop, introducing the basic concepts of Noh drama.



September 2011: Noh Art Workshops in Sofia, Bulgaria

Place: 18th school for Foreign Languages "William Gladstone"

A series of 3 workshops for the elementary school students from 18th school "William Gladstone." The workshops were in preparation for the planned November performances, in which children were to participate in the roles of migratory birds during the interlude section of the play "The Fairy of Water."



November 2011: Noh Performances in Sofia, Bulgaria

Place: Sofia Theatre

Two large-scale performances of Noh plays for the annual Japanese Culture Festival in Bulgaria. The performances were sponsored by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs and organized by the Japanese Embassy in Bulgaria. Yamamoto Noh Theatre performed the plays “The Fairy of Water” and “The Feather Robe.”

November 2011: Noh Workshops in Pescani, Slovakia

Place: Pescani Event Hall

A small-scale lecture + workshop, introducing the basic concepts of Noh drama. The workshop had a secondary goal of assessing the possibilities of a full-scale Noh performance in Slovakia.

July 2012: Noh Workshops in Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Place: Sofia - NATFA “Krastyu Sarafov”

Place: Plovdiv - Plovdiv History Museum

Mid-scale lecture + workshops, introducing the basic concepts of Noh drama. The workshops had the goal of preparing the Bulgarian audience for the upcoming performances





July 2012: Noh Workshops in Bratislava and Nitra, Slovakia

Place: Bratislava Event Hall

Place: Nitra Synagogue

Mid-scale lecture + workshops, introducing the basic concepts of Noh drama.



August 2012: Noh Performances in Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Place: Sofia – Summer stage National Palace of Culture

Place: Plovdiv – Antique Roman Theatre

Two large-scale outdoor LED lit Noh performances. The performances were sponsored by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs and locally supported by the Japanese Embassy in Bulgaria. Yamamoto Noh Theatre performed the auspicious play “The Fairy of Water” in Sofia and the demonic play “Lady Aoi” in Plovdiv’s antique roman theatre.



August 2012: Noh Performances in Bratislava and Nitra, Slovakia

Place: Nitra – Nitra City Park summer stage

Place: Bratislava – Old Town Square summer stage

Two large-scale outdoor LED lit Noh performances. The performances were sponsored by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs and organized by the Japanese Embassy in Slovakia. The Yamamoto Noh Theatre performed one of the most-popular and auspicious plays - “The Feather Robe” in Nitra and the demonic play “Lady Aoi” in Bratislava.



August 2013: Noh Performances in Bratislava and Kosice, Slovakia

Place: Bratislava – Bratislava Castle Courtyard

Place: Kosice – Historic Town Hall

Two large-scale outdoor LED lit Noh performances. The performances were sponsored by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs and organised by the Japanese Embassy in Slovakia for the 20th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Slovakia and Japan. The Kosice performance was an event within the European Capital of Culture Kosice 2013. The Yamamoto Noh Theatre performed the plays - “The Feather Robe” and “The Ground Spider”.



October 2014: Workshops in Sofia Bulgaria

Place: NATFA “Krastyu Sarafov”

A series of 3 small-scale workshops aimed to teach the basic skills in Noh drama to emerging actors and dancers in Bulgaria through teaching fragments of the play “Shojo”.

October 2015: Noh Performances and workshops in Sofia, Bulgaria

Place: National Opera Theatre, Sofia

Place: Arsenal Hall, Kazanlak

Two large-scale performances of classical Noh plays “Momijigari” and “The Ground Spider” – both demonic plays. The Yamamoto Noh Theatre involved local students from the National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts, as well as professional actors in the play “Momijigari” and gave them a chance to experience the stage through the perspective of Noh.



June 2016: Noh Performances in Romania and Bulgaria

Place: Bucharest National Theatre, Romania

Place: "Thalia" Hall, Sibiu, Romania

Place: "Sava Ognyanov" theatre, Ruse, Bulgaria

Three large-scale performances of the classical Noh play “Adachi-ga-hara” – a demonic play. The focus of the tour was to present Noh to the international audience in Sibiu International Theatre Festival.



June 2017: Noh Performances in Romania and Finland

Place: "Thalia" Hall, Sibiu, Romania

Place: "Kuopio Conservatory", Kuopio, Finland

Two large-scale performances of classical Noh plays “Hagoromo” and "Shojo". participated for the second time in Sibiu International Theatre Festival and for the first time in Kuopio Dance Festival.



October 2017: Noh Performances in France

Place: "Graslin" opera house, Nantes, France

Place: Villefavard Cultural Hall, Villefavard, France

A tour of France, revolving around the ceremony of fraternization between Osaka Castle and Nantes Castle. We presented the play "The Ground Spider", as well as workshops and numerous smaller outdoor and indoor performances.



June 2018: Noh Performances at FITS

Place: Cisnadioara Fortress, Cisnădie, Romania

Place: Habermann Market Square, Sibiu, Romania

Description: Third time participating as special guests at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival. A series of large-scale performances, workshops and lectures. Yamamoto Noh Theater had two performances of the play "Atsumori" at the altar stage of the medieval fortress of Cisnădioara and two performances of the play "Tsuchigumo" at the outdoor stage at Habermann Market Square. We conducted a series of special workshops for professional actors at the Sibiu University Cultural Center.



June 2019: Noh Performances at FITS

Place: Lulu stage, Fabrica de Cultura, Sibiu, Romania

Place: Habermann Market Square, Sibiu, Romania

Description: Fourth time participating as special guests at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival. A series of large-scale performances, workshops and lectures. Yamamoto Noh Theater had one performance of the play "Kanawa" on Lulu stage at Fabrica de Cultura, and one performance of the play "Makiginu" at the outdoor stage at Habermann Market Square.

September 2019: Noh Performances in Bulgaria, Macedonia and Albania

Place: Antique Roman Theatre, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Place: National Theatre, Sofia, Bulgaria

Place: National Opera, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Place: National Theatre, Skopje, North Macedonia

Place: Orthodox Church Hall, Tirana, Albania

Description: Yamamoto Noh Theatre created and performed the new Noh play "Orpheus" as a part of the European Capital of Culture - Plovdiv 2019 programme. As a natural continuation of our previous project, we trained local actors to take part in the performances. During the tour we also performed traditional Noh plays in many cities around the Balkans.

