



Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs,  
Government of Japan in the fiscal year 2010



Japanese Dance  
Tradition and Creativity  
The  
**KIKUNOKAI**

**THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN**  
in the Sultanate of Oman  
Presents



A Performance of  
**JAPANESE DANCE**  
By Dance Troupe

**KIKUNOKAI**

In close cooperation with the Oman Japan Friendship Association  
To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne  
and the future opening of the Royal Opera House

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010, 8:00 PM  
At Oman Auditorium, Al Bustan Palace



## KIKUNOKAI

### The Japanese Traditional Dance Troupe

The dance troupe "Kikunokai" was founded by Michiyo Hata in 1972, while we uphold the fundamental of classical Japanese dance, we place our utmost objective in creating dance pieces that befit the times as well as work to foster artists.

Ms. Hata herself trained for many years under Onoe Kikunojo I, who was the heir to the Onoe School of dance founded by the great modern Kabuki actor Onoe Kikugoro VI. Her first stage was a The New Year Lion Dance, playing a "Butterfly". In 1955, Michiyo Hata was granted the right to use the name, Onoe Kikunori, as a professional classical dancer, and was active as a choreographer and Buyo teacher, substituting for her headmaster for the Onoe School. She held a recital at the Takarazuka Girls' Revue Theater in 1963. In 1988, Hata choreographed the dance scenes for the movie "Yume" (Dream) which received a Special Oscar award and was directed by Akira Kurosawa, the master director of motion pictured in Japan. As the representative of the organizing original dance performances and training of young dancers, Hata won The 22nd Outstanding Performance Award of POLA in 2002. She was awarded a lot of prizes and so forth. She passed away in August 2010.

The most outstanding prize as Kikunokai was the Excellent Art Prize at the Cultural Festival sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan in 1976. Since then, with each local area of Japan as their starting point, the troupe, acting as a cultural envoy, has traveled and performed in European countries, America, India, Southeast Asian countries, in the Middle East and in Australia. For their services in this respect, they received an official commendation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1986. In 1988, Ms. Hata was widely praised by company dancers for her work as choreographer of the dance scenes in the Academy-Award winning film, "Dreams" directed by Kurosawa Akira. In 1993, Hata and Kikunokai were awarded by Matsuo Arts Foundation. Moreover, her 35 of disciples have won prizes in the "Japanese Dance Division" of the Tokyo Shimbun (News Paper) successively (1997 - 2007).

Then in 2001, Kikunokai performed in New York and Los Angeles for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture. Continuously Kikunokai gave performances in Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, in Turkey in 2004, Germany and The Czech Republic in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2007, Brazil (Ponta Grossa, Curitiba, Maringá, and São Paulo) in 2008, and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.

A Performance of  
**JAPANESE DANCE**  
By Dance Troupe

## KIKUNOKAI

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010, 8:00 PM  
At Oman Auditorium, Al Bustan Palace Hotel

In close cooperation with the Oman Japan Friendship Association  
To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne  
and the future opening of the Royal Opera House





**Message from H.E. Seiji Morimoto**  
Ambassador of Japan



As the Sultanate of Oman celebrates the 40th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said to the throne, the Embassy of Japan has decidedly dedicated itself to commemorate this auspicious year together with the people of Oman.

In this context, the Embassy has organized a series of cultural activities throughout the year 2010, and tonight I am delighted to enjoy together with you an enchanting dance performance by the "Kikunokai" Dance Troupe from Japan.

Established in 1972, the "Kikunokai" has created a number of original dance works based on Japanese classical dance incorporating various styles and techniques of folk dance that is peculiar to each region reflecting the climate, local beliefs and the way of life. It is their mission to pass on intangible cultural heritage of Japanese traditional performing arts to future generations as well as to leave their own creative legacy that will be embraced by their successors. Their dance performance is, therefore, typically dynamic and contemporary to appeal to a modern-day audience, yet it carries a plenty of charm of traditional folk art to express the "Spirit of Japan".

I believe that the splendid performance of the "Kikunokai" is worthy of the grand celebration that marks the 40 years of His Majesty's glorious reign, and hope that it will entertain everyone of the audience to remember this blessed occasion for many years to come.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the sponsors for their generous contributions and kind understanding and support towards the Embassy's initiative in strengthening the cultural bond between the Sultanate of Oman and Japan, without which this delightful event wouldn't have been materialized.



**MICHIYO HATA**

Founder of the Japanese dance troupe "Kikunokai"

Born in Kyoto, Hata studied the Onoe School of Japanese traditional dance for 20 years under Kikunojo Onoe I, the headmaster of the Onoe ryu school, who himself succeeded directly to the art of Buyo (Japanese classical dance) from Onoe Kikugoro VI, one of the greatest kabuki actors in the post Meiji period. Michiyo Hata was granted the right to use the name, Onoe Kikunori, as a professional classical dancer, and was active as a choreographer and Buyo teacher, substituting for her headmaster for the Onoe School.

She held a recital at the Takarazuka Girls' Revue Theater in 1963. In 1988, Hata choreographed the dance scenes for the movie "Yume" (Dream) which received a Special Oscar award and was directed by Akira Kurosawa, the master director of motion pictures in Japan. As the representative of the organizing original dance performances and training of young dancers, Hata won The 22nd Outstanding Performance Award of POLA in 2002. A lot of her disciples have won prizes in the "Japanese Dance Division" of the Tokyo Shimbun (News Paper) successively (1997 - 2007). She also won "So-shin Sho" from a publisher Hogaku-to Buyo in 2009 and "Buyo Geijutsu Sho" from Tokyo Shinbun (News paper) for the outstanding creative achievements up to this day. She passed away in August 2010.





## GREETINGS (OMAN)

Firstly, I wish to thank all the audience for joining us today to view the Kikunokai's performance. It is indeed an honor to have the opportunity given to the Kikunokai to perform for commemorating the 40th anniversary of H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said's accession. Thank you very much. As part of the events, with the tremendous support of H.E. Seiji Morimoto, Ambassador of Japan to Oman, and all the staff of the Embassy of Japan in the Sultanate of Oman, the Kikunokai has been given the honor to perform traditional and original Japanese dances for which we are deeply grateful. I would like to express my profoundest gratitude to our supporters.

The Kikunokai was founded thirty-seven years ago, and while we uphold the fundamental of classical Japanese dance, we place our utmost objective in creating dance pieces that befit the times as well as work to foster artists. In Japan, it is not as easy to manage a dance troupe for more than twenty years in the past ground. However we could come more than thirty years that I also wish to express my sincerest appreciation to whom supported us until today. Since our activities come to recognition in recent years, we could get the opportunity to perform under the government-financed aid project of Art-Creation Endeavors and for the promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan where we could make achievements of good reputation both home and overseas in more than 30 countries. Especially for Oman, it is indeed an honor to have an opportunity to give

performance introducing Japanese traditional culture. It is our greatest joy to be given a chance to visit Oman at this historical moment in such grandeur. All of us will dance today expressing our gratitude and joy to wish for a much further good relation between both countries.

In today's performance, Part I will feature two pieces of Japanese classical dance called "KOTOBUKI KIKU SANBASO" which is suitable for celebrating memorial performance, and "SHAKKYO". Followed by a Noh comedy "TSURI ONNA" (Fishing for wives), will show you the sense of Japanese humor. For part II, we have selected creative works and folkdances "TRADITION AND CREATIVITY" from regions in the north down to the south of Japan.

Once again, I thank all the audience for sharing their precious time for coming tonight to view our performance. We sincerely hope you enjoy it.



SATOSHI HATA  
Representative of the Kikunokai

## 【 ACT 1 】

### KOTOBUKI KIKU SANBA-SO

This is a song highly suitable for celebrating the memorial performance.

"Sanba-so" originates from the famous Noh play "Okina". It is to reassure farmers about their harvest and fishing, in addition to the world peace. The song has been performed during New Years festival and celebrations. This time, female dancers gracefully perform the first part of this piece, and the Suzu-no-dan sections.

### SHAKKYO (Lion Dance)

This is one of the typical classical Japanese dance pieces. There is a legend that the lion, the king of jungle, kicks its own cub over a cliff so that it can grow strong. The lion cub with a red mane has grown to be like his parent with a white mane. They dance together holding a branch of a peony – the king of flowers. Towards the end of the dance, five lions appear and dance elegantly and yet dynamically as they flourish their manes.

Noh comedy

### "TSURI ONNA" (Fishing for wives)

There are many couples in which the wife and husband have similar characters and also look alike. A daimyo (castle lord) and his servant, Tarokaja, both of whom are bachelors, have been praying that they would each find the perfect women. While they slept, Ebisu-saburo (one of the gods for the good catch bumper catch) sent them each a vision of their future wives. What kind of beautiful women do they find?

KOTOBUKI KIKU SANBA-SO

SHAKKYO (Lion Dance)

Noh comedy  
"TSURI ONNA" (Fishing for wives)







### **"GOIWAI"**

This piece comes from the ancient times that five males dance dynamically to rejoice a big catch of fishing.



### **"TSUGARU JONGARA BUSHI"**

The Tsugarushamisen, a genre of one of Japan's most representative instruments (3-stringed, long-necked lute) hails from the northern most section of Japan. This piece dances a highly rhythmic dance extolling the joys of youth to the light sounds of the shamisen.



### **"YASABURO BUSHI"**

It is not unusual for mothers-in-law to be cruel to their daughters-in-law. This piece describes one of common scenes of a family humorously.

### **"KASA ODORI" (Umbrella dance)**

Originally a prayer for rain, this dance was later utilized as a type of training for physical fitness. This masculine piece employs large colorful umbrellas made of special Japanese paper and bamboo.



### **Duet "ROKUCHO"**

Man and woman dance passionately to express their feelings on the up-tempo tune.



### **"AWA ODORI" (Awa Dance)**

Female dancers move elegantly while male dancers dynamically. Women dance in beautiful rows like flying kites and the men dance comically acting as the kite itself and the person flying the kite. In the mid part, the men dance swiftly through the women as though they are going through narrow alleys of a town. In the end, the men and women dance together energetically.





# Performers

## PERFORMERS' BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES (MEN)



**Satoshi Hata**  
(Representative)

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 10 during the time the Kikunokai was founded. He performed in more than 20 other countries. In 1990, he took a part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa and participated in as an assistant choreographer to Michiyo Hata. He was often selected to play an opposite to Michiyo Hata in the major plays of Kikunokai. In 1997, he won the first prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company), and also the Education Ministry Prize and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gubernatorial Prize. Thereafter he has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008 and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan. In September 2010, became a representative of Kikunokai.



**Nagamitsu Satake**

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 12. He performed in 20 other countries. In 1990, he took part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. In 1997, he won the first prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company), and also the Education Ministry Prize and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gubernatorial Prize. Thereafter he has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in 2006, and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



**Shigeru Edaki**

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 9. He has performed in Italy and 16 other countries. In 1990, he took part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. In 1998, he won the second prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (newspaper company). Thereafter he has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in 2006, and Brazil in 2008 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



**Hideharu Takeda**

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 9 during the time the Kikunokai was founded. In 1990, he took part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. In 2000, he won the first prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (newspaper company), and also the Education Ministry Prize and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gubernatorial Prize. Thereafter he has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in 2006, and Brazil in 2008 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.





Eiji Iida

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 11. In 1990, he took part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. His first visit of foreign country was England in 1991. Thereafter he has performed in Italy, India, and Korea. Continuingly performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008 and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan. In 2004, he won the first prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company), and also the Education Ministry Prize and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gubernatorial Prize. He is the leading figure of younger members.



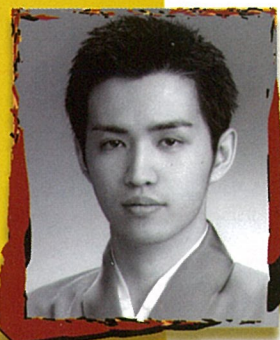
Norio Takei

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 11. He was selected to play an important role in the song and dance play "Ai no Hito" (A Woman Indigo). In 1990, he took a part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. His first visit of foreign country was England in 1991. Thereafter he has performed in Italy, India, and Korea. Continuingly performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008, and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan. In 2004, he won the first prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company), and also the Education Ministry Prize and the Tokyo Metropolitan Gubernatorial Prize.



Yoshinori Aota

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 3. He was selected to play in the role of a child in "Katcha Ikaneka Konomichi Wo" (major play of Kikunokai) at the age of 5. He gave performances at various places in Japan. Thereafter he has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006, and Brazil in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan. In 2005, he won the second prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (newspaper company).



Teruyuki Nakamura

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 16. He has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006 and Brazil in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan. In 2005, he won the second prize at All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (newspaper company).

## PERFORMERS' BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES (WEMEN)



Rika Miyazawa

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 13. In 1981, she was selected as the leading heroine in the dance musical "Bashamichi no Hitobito (People of the Carriage Road)." In 1984, she joined performance of Independence Ceremony in Brunei supported by Japan Foundation in 1984. In 1990, she took a part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. She came in the third place in the 1997 Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company). She has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, and Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008, and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Sayuri Yasue

Started dance lessons at age of 11, under Michiyo Hata from 1986. She has performed in England, Italy, India, Nepal and America. In 1990, she took a part in the film "Yume" (Dreams) directed by Akira Kurosawa. She performed in America in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, and Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006 and Brazil in 2008 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Asuka Tsuchiya

Started dancing lessons at the age of 7, under Michiyo Hata. She came in the third place in 2002 Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company). She has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, and Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008 and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Teruko Kasai

Started dancing lessons at the age of 5, under Michiyo Hata. She came in the third place in 2004 Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shimbun (Newspaper company). She has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, and Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008 and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.





Hiroko Sekiguchi

Started dancing lessons at the age of 15, under Michiyo Hata. She has performed in the United States in 2001, Taiwan and Singapore in 2003, Turkey in 2004, The Czech Republic and Germany in 2005, and Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006, Brazil in 2008 and Mexico in 2010 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Yukiko Nakajo

Started dancing lessons at the age of 10, under Michiyo Hata. Then she left for the United States for three years. She has performed in Turkey in 2004, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria in 2006 and Brazil in 2008 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Kanako Kudo

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 14. After graduation from college, she gained childcare certificate and worked for 4 years. Her first overseas performance is Brazil in 2008 for the Promotion of International Cultural Exchange sponsored by the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan.



Hiroko Yamasawa

Started dancing lessons under Michiyo Hata at the age of 3. She is often selected to play in the role of a child in major plays of Kikunokai. Placing fourth in junior competition of All Japan Dance Concourse sponsored by the Tokyo Shinbun newspaper at the age of 12, first prize at 14. Also the second prize in adult competition at the same concourse. First time performance abroad.

# Staff

## General Director

Michiyo Hata

## Lighting Director

Yoshio Terui

## Sound Director

Kenji Hayashi

## Set Director

Toru Horikawa

Kenichi Suga

## Stage Setting

Kabukiza Butai, co. Ltd.

Horikawa Butai Kogei

## Wigs

Osawa Co. Ltd.

## Costumes

Costume Division, Kikunokai

## Dresser

Kimiyo Sugawara

## Stage properties

Tanaka Kodogu

Stage properties Division, Kikunokai

## Stage Director

Shuji Umezawa, Senjukikaku Co. Ltd.

## Producer

Kumiko Tanimoto, Kikunokai

## Coordinator

Katsumi Makishi



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