

# Between the Stones (Phase 2)

## Getting to noh from 'page to stage'

Performance demonstration lecture: 8 February 2019, 7.30 - 9pm

at dlr Mill Theatre (Dublin, Dundrum)

[www.milltheatre.ie](http://www.milltheatre.ie) +353 01 296 9340



**Presentation by:**  
Kinue Oshima  
Richard Emmert  
Jannette Cheong

## What is noh? And how is a new noh in traditional style conceived and staged?

*'Noh' is classical Japanese theatre which combines dance, drama, music, poetic text, exquisite costumes and masks into a highly aesthetic form of art that has been performed continuously for 650 years.*

*This performance demonstration talk is designed to introduce audiences to the key elements of noh and to have a close up and interactive experience of how a new noh is developed from 'page to stage'.*

The focus of the new noh, *Between the Stones*, is 'from tragic loss to peace'. It explores how the burden of grief turns into an understanding and celebration of life, death, beauty and love; and the transformative power of gardens to nurture and heal the soul... It also uniquely brings together three Japanese cultural forms - *noh*, *karesansui* gardens and *furin* (wind chimes).

The professional noh actor, Kinue Oshima, the composer, Richard Emmert, and the author of this new two-act English language noh drama, Jannette Cheong, will share key aspects of how this new *noh* will be transformed from the poetic text to the stage production using traditional noh techniques.

This is the third *noh* performing arts collaboration between Richard Emmert and Jannette Cheong and the second with the Oshima family following the acclaimed success of *Pagoda* (2009 European Tour, 2011 Asia Tour).

**Come and join this unique team to have a deeper understanding of the 650 year-old theatre of noh, and learn about the second important phase of this rare, new collaborative noh project.**

[betweenthestones.com](http://betweenthestones.com)

*"Pagoda is a triumph. To have created a new Noh play but retained total authenticity is nothing short of brilliant. It is something that devotees of Noh will savour."*

*The Stage: 3 Dec 2009*

After seeing Pagoda performed at the National Noh Theatre in Tokyo, Noh Critic, Nishino Haruo, wrote:

*"We have seen noh earnestly and brilliantly cross over national borders"*

*TOKYO SHIMBUN,  
3 July 2011*



## Notes: Author, Composer and Main Actor of *Between the Stones*

**Kinue Oshima** is a noh theatre main actor of the Kita school. Born at Fukuyama in 1974. Kinue graduated from Fukuyama Elementary and Junior High Schools, and Hiroshima prefecture Senior High School before studying Japanese Instruments Course at the Music Department of Tokyo Art University in 1997. She began her noh 'training' and was on stage as the Chigo of "Kurama Tengu" at the age of two. Tutored by her grandfather Hisami and the father Masanobu. She registered at Noh-gaku Kyokai as the first Kita-ryu female member in 1998. Kinue has performed and coached students extensively in both Japan and internationally, the latter includes visiting the National Art Academy of Taiwan as her father's assistant in 2001 and undertaking performance tours to the Netherlands/Belgium, France, Bulgaria, the Baltic Countries in 2002 and London, Dublin, Oxford and Paris as the main actor for the Pagoda Europe tour in 2009, and again in Tokyo, Kyoto, Beijing and Hong Kong for the 2011 Asia Pagoda tour. She was awarded the "Prefectural Culture Cultivate Prize" from Kenshin Scholarship Culture Promoting Foundation in 2005. Kinue is also visiting Professor at Hijiya University; part-time lecturer at Hiroshima University, Elizabeth Music College, Fukuyama Women's College, Okayama San'yo Senior High School, and Okayama Sankun Elementary School.

**Richard Emmert** is a professor of Asian performance at Musashino University in Tokyo. He has studied, taught and performed classical noh drama in Japan since 1973 and is a certified Kita school noh instructor. He directs an on-going Noh Training Project in Tokyo, has for twenty years lead a summer Noh Training Project Bloomsburg in Pennsylvania (US), and still leads an intensive summer Noh Training Project UK sponsored by Royal Holloway, University of London. He has co-authored with Monica Bethe a series of Noh Performance Guides, and is presently working on a complete series of noh play summaries, both published by the National Noh Theatre. Emmert has led noh performance projects in Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the UK, and the US. He has composed, directed, and performed in eleven English language noh plays, including British poet-playwright Jannette Cheong's *Pagoda* performed in 2009 at the South Bank Centre, London as well as in Oxford, Dublin and Paris, and again in 2011 at the National Noh Theatre in Tokyo, as well as in Kyoto, Beijing and Hong Kong. The founder and artistic director of Theatre Nohgaku, a company dedicated to performing noh in English, he has led performance tours of the company in the United States, Europe and Asia.

**Jannette Cheong** is a poet, writer, designer, curator, and an affiliated artist with Theatre Nohgaku. Born in London, Jannette has worked nationally and internationally in higher education and has organised many successful international education and creative arts collaborations for over 25 years. She was the first British person to write an English language noh play (*Pagoda*) using traditional noh techniques in collaboration with Richard Emmert, the Oshima Theatre and Theatre Nohgaku. *Pagoda* was premiered at the Southbank Centre, London, in 2009 and toured to Dublin, Oxford and Paris. In 2011 *Pagoda* opened at the National Noh Theatre in Tokyo and toured to Kyoto, Beijing and Hong Kong. Related activities included collaboration with theatres, universities, schools, museums and festivals. In 2009 (London) and 2015 (Shanghai) Jannette facilitated two international performing arts forums. She also curated a major retrospective exhibition of celebrated photographer Clive Barba in 2012 and 2014. Recently, she wrote *Reflection* (2017) composed by Evan Kassoff, and co-produced 'Noh time like the present...' an acclaimed tribute to professional noh actor Akira Matsui with Richard Emmert and Unanico Group, at LSO St Luke's, London. The programme included her most recent cross-cultural collaboration work (*Opposites-InVerse*) (2017) with Richard Emmert, Akira Matsui, Peter Leung, Li Meili, Piran Legg, Eitaro Okura and Kayu Omura.



*'Winter butterflies released  
silent in the breeze,  
silent in the ocean's waves...'*