



Kongô Tatsunori, Kongô Noh Theatre, *Shakkyô (The Stone Bridge)* © Kongô Hisanori / Yamaguchi Hiroko



Ôshima Masanobu, Ôshima Noh Theater, *Tokusa (Scouring Rushes)* © Ikegami Yoshiharu

30 years have passed since the National Noh Theatre was founded in 1983. The National Noh Theatre is apart from holding its own programs of Noh and Kyôgen, also involved in the training of performers and collecting written materials on Noh, and in 2013, there were numerous 30th anniversary programs commemorating the occasion.

## Noh and Kyôgen 2013

### The 30th Anniversary of the Opening of the National Noh Theater and Awards for the World of Noh

Nishi Tetsuo

Some of these featured Kanze Kiyokazu in *Okina* (The Aged Man), Umewaka Genshō in *Yōkihi* (Imperial Consort Yang Guifei; the *Kan no kakari* and *Utenadome* -variant), Kongō Hisanori in *Tsuchigumo* (The Earth Spider; *Chisuji no den*- and Sasagani-variant) and others on September 15th. Also Ôtsuki Bunzō performed *Sumiyoshi môde* (Visiting the Sumiyoshi-shrine; the *Yorokobi no mai*-variant) on September 16th, Tomoeda Akiyo performed *Hagoromo* (The Feathers Robe; *Maikomi*-variant) and Nomura Man Iori no *ume* (The Plum Blossom Hut) on September 17th. Finally, Nomura Mansai performed the *Rômusha* (The Old Warrior) on September 20th.

In addition, there were special events hosted by the National Noh Theatre itself to commemorate its 30th anniversary including Umewaka Genshō in *Super Noh Zeami* (written by Umehara Takeshi, premiere April 19th), Katayama Yûsetsu in *Sekidera Komachi* (Komachi at the Sekidera-temple; May 29th), Kongō Hisanori performing *Dôjōji* (The Dôjōji-temple; ancient version, November 1st), Yamamoto Tôjirō in the Kyôgen play *Tsurigitsune* (Fox Trapping) and Nomura Mansaku performing *Taiko-oi* (The Drum-carrier; December 7th).

Furthermore, in October there was a special month-long

program at the National Noh Theatre titled: 'Gekkan Tokushû/Zeami 650 Years' featuring the following works attributed to Zeami; on October 2nd, the play *Hakuraku ten* (The Poet Bai Juyi; Nagakijo no den-variant), on the 9th, *Unoha* (Cormorant Feathers); on the 12th, *Sanemori* (The Warrior Sanemori), on the 18th, *Ukon* (The Poet Ukon) and on the 24th, *Tôru* (Minister Minamoto Tôru; Jûsan dan no mai-variant) and others, were performed. The same special program is being repeated this year with the same five plays performed over five days in January.

The Kongō Noh Theatre in Kyoto which moved from Muromachidori to Karasuma-dori ten years ago, offered a program to celebrate its 10th anniversary at the new location on November 24th with Kongō Hisanori performing *Okina* (Junitsuki ôrai-version) and *Hagoromo* (Shôgi no monogi-variant) and Kongō Tatsunori performed *Shakkyô* (The Stone Bridge) among others.

In other parts of the country, the Kita school Ôshima Noh Theatre (Hiroshima Prefecture, Fukuyama City; owned by the Ôshima Family), which has been holding performances on a regular basis, celebrated its 100th anniversary on December 22nd. The theatre has slightly fewer than 300 seats and holds four or five regular programs a year. Ôshima Masanobu performed *Tokusa* (Scouring Rushes), and Shiotsu Akio performed *Shakkyô* among other works.

The Encouragement of the Arts Award from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the year 2012, went to Kanze school *shite* actor and 26th head of the family Kanze Kiyokazu. Born in 1959, he is the eldest son of Kanze Sakon XXV, and has also been the recipient of the Encouragement of the Arts Award for a New Performer from the Minister of Education. He presides over the Kanze Kai and is a member of the Japan