

PERFORMANCES

The Iwami Kagura group will perform the following pieces of splendid kagura at FICCI Auditorium on 3rd Dec., 2012.

No. 1: Orochi

Susano no Mikoto, who was exiled from the Heaven Takamagahara, found a chopstick drifting down Hii-kawa River. He followed the river up towards its source, wondering if there might be someone living up river.

After a while, he found an old couple and a young woman, who were crying by the river. He asked them why they were crying and they answered. Every year a giant serpent living deep in the mountains comes to carry off one of my daughters. We had eight daughters, but now only one. Tonight is the night the serpent will come. So we are very sad.

Susano no Mikoto decided to overcome the gigantic serpent known as Orochi. He asked them to make 8 barrels of strong Sake as the Orochi serpent had eight heads and eight tails, and the length was over eight mountains and eight valleys. He succeeded in killing the monster while it was drunk and sleeping.

Afterward, he found a sword inside the tail of the serpent, and he offered it to his sister, goddess Amaterasu. This sword became one of the three sacred treasures. The rescued woman, Princess Kushinada married Susanou and is credited with developing flood prevention in Shimane region.

No. 2: Jin-rin

Jin-rin is the name of demon in this piece. He was the king of demons and had wings on his back so he could fly anywhere. This powerful demon flew all over Japan with his troops and killed people.

King-Chuai, the second son of Emperor Yamato-Takeru, worried greatly about the slaughter of his people and decided to take on Jin-rin himself.

No. 3: Ebisu

Ebisu is the god of fishing Daikoku is god of wealth and prosperity.

This is a very auspicious and is often performed at wedding or well-wishing ceremonies.

WORKSHOP

The group will hold an interactive workshop, wherein they will demonstrate small parts of above pieces of performance as well as explain the meaning of movements, instruments, origin of kagura, etc. In this hands – on workshop the audience will also get an opportunity to participate and thus learn few moves about the rich culture.

This event is being supported by Embassy of Japan, The Japan Foundation, ICCR, The Japan-India Association, AOTS Alumni Society Delhi, FICCI, Shimane International Center, Hamada City and Hamada Chamber of Commerce and Industries



IWAMI-KAGURA

MESMERIZING SHINTO DANCE PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE:

Monday 3rd Dec 2012 | 7:00 PM

at FICCI AUDITORIUM,
NEW DELHI

Enquiries: EMBASSY OF JAPAN

Tel: +91-(011) - 46104810

WORKSHOP:

Sunday 2nd Dec 2012 | 3:00 PM

at THE JAPAN FOUNDATION

5A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar - IV,
New Delhi 110024, India

Prior Registration required
at +91-(011) - 26442967/68

ENTRY FREE





About Iwami

Iwami is one of the three main regions of Shimane Prefecture. Shimane is the best place to experience “real Japan”. The mythology, rich history, stunning scenery and warm-hearted people of this area will enthrall any traveller.

Every year in November, 8,000,000 gods from around Japan gather at Izumo Taisha Grand Shrine to plan people’s relationships and fortunes for the coming year. In this “land of gods” visitors can explore its own unique crafts, traditions and delicacies, surrounded by the beauty of the deep blue sea, green mountains, lush rice fields, farmlands, hot springs, temples and shrines.

Origin of Kagura

Iwami Kagura (Shinto theatrical dance) was originally performed by Shinto

priests at the yearly autumn festival as a sign of gratitude to the Shinto gods for their help in producing a bountiful harvest. After the Meiji Era, this tradition was handed down from the Shinto priests to the common people, moving from a traditional 6-beat rhythm to a faster 8-beat rhythm.

People used to dedicate the Kagura-dances and music to praise and entertain their gods. There are many theories about the beginning of Kagura.

What is Iwami-Kagura

Iwami-Kagura is folk performance that has been handed down through the generations in the Iwami-region (West Shimane pref.) and is performed throughout the night during all of the various districts’ festivals.

The Kagura consists of more than

30 episodes based mainly on material found in the Nihon-Shoki (Chronicles of Japan). Today it has become the flagship folk art of the local area and is integral part of every major event or wedding ceremony.

Kagura has taken a deep hold in the lives of local people, and you can see it not only at scheduled performances but also at many times all throughout the four seasons.

When performed Iwami-Kagura

In autumn the people offer up performances of the Kagura to pay thanks for the abundant harvest that year and pray for another rich harvest next year, and the air is filled with the colorful sounds of Taiko drums and flutes.

