

**Featuring Ukon Onoe, Yuzuru Kurenai, Ryuji Sato, Ikuko**

**Kawai and Kikunojo Onoe**

**J-CULTURE FEST presents the music drama  
“Yakumo Tatsu,” a stage performance  
representing “Tradition and Innovation”  
involving authentic costumes**

TAILUP Co., Ltd. (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo), Izutsu, Inc. (headquartered in Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto-shi), Izutsu Kikaku K.K. and Tokyo International Forum Co., Ltd. (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) have announced the launch of ‘J-Culture Fest presents the music drama “Yakumo Tatsu”’ at the Tokyo International Forum Hall B7 on December 29, 2025.

Under the concept of ‘Tradition and Innovation,’ J-CULTURE FEST was started in 2017 as a project commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Tokyo International Forum exhibition center, with the aim of offering opportunities to learn about Japanese cultures and discover new values. The J-Culture Fest consists of the performing arts program showcasing today’s music, dance and other performances that incorporate Japan’s traditional performing arts, and the New Year’s theme park program that provide hands-on presentation of Japanese cultures in various forms including New Year’s traditions. Since 2020, this has become an annual event, inviting visitors to experience Japanese cultures through the combination of the performing arts program and hands-on interactive program.

The music drama “Yakumo Tatsu” was originally presented during the New Year’s holiday period from the end of 2022 into 2023 under the theme of experiencing the world of Japanese deities (Kami) to shed the past year’s negatives and usher in the near year. Japan’s professional stage performers gather together to deliver performance that combine classical performing arts and music, donning authentic antique costumes while depicting the stories of Japanese mythology, which many may be familiar with but have little in-depth knowledge of.

The performance mainly tells the stories of Ara-Mitama and Yamata-no Orochi. It depicts the growth of Susanoo (Japanese god of the sea and storms), his jealousy with the beauty of Princess Iwanaga and subsequent fall to the dark side, the emergence of the Kusanagi-no Tsurugi sword and purification and deity ascension of Princess Iwanaga. The main focus is the



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spiritual connection between Princess Iwanaga and Susanoo, who played a significant role in the construction of the Japanese nation.

The script was written by Kazuhisa Tobe, a prominent Kabuki playwright who was behind the figure-skating Kabuki “Hyoen Basara” and the modern-day Kabuki “Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind” as well as being involved in the collaboration with Iwami Kagura titled “Mitama Kagura.” The performance is produced by Kikunojo Onoe, the fourth-generation head of the Onoe School of traditional Japanese dance, who is known for performing arts production in a variety of genres including the modern-day Kabuki “Token Ranbu” and the figure-skating show “LUXE” featuring Daisuke Takahashi.

The cast includes the Kabuki actor and Kiyomoto musician Ukon Onoe, who plays the part of Susanoo and is also known in a variety of fields as an actor (appearing in the NHK drama “Seiten-wo Tsuke”), singer (in the musical “Jersey Boys”) and a TV personality in variety programs and singing shows. Playing the part of Princess Iwanaga is Yuzuru Kurenai, the former star of the Takarazuka Revue Company and reputable comedian, who has continued to work in performing arts and video productions after leaving Takarazuka. The role of Ninigi-no Mikoto goes to Ryuji Sato, known for his appearance in 2.5D musicals such as “Naruto” and “Token Ranbu” as well as the drama series “Kimi-to Yukite Saku” while making a debut as Ryuji, a singer as part of the band project “The Brow Beat.” Izanagi-no Mikoto is played by Takuma Wada, who have been invited to appear in a number of popular stage and video productions including Bunkamura DISCOVER WORLD THEATRE vol.15 “King Lear,” “Hwarang,” “Aitsu-ga Jozude Hetaga Bokude,” and the drama series “Sollied0.” The role of Princess Konohana Sakuya goes to Ayaka Umeda, who is a former member of AKB48 and has appeared in numerous musicals including “tick, tick… BOOM,” “Galaxy Express 999 the Musical” and “Tenshi-ni Love Song-wo – Sister Act.” The performance also features the sound of Japanese traditional instruments and violin by Ikuko Kawai, as well as Iwami Kagura’s Banrai-no Taija dance.

During the event period, the Tokyo International Forum Hall B5 also hosts a workshop “learn about Japanese traditions”, and a special exhibition about “attires for prayer.” Stay tuned for the opening of J-CULTURE FEST presents the music drama “Yakumo Tatsu.”

#### 【Synopsis】

The performance opens with a purification rite, cleansing ourselves of all negatives experienced in 2025 and ushering in 2026.

A mysterious opening depicts how Izanaki and Izanami created Japan and all of its deities known as “Kami.” Susanoo, who was born after the cleansing of impurities of the mother Izanami, who had gone to Yomi (the land of the dead), puts on his divine attire, applies his Kabuki makeup, and performs Kabuki’s warrior act with Ōdachi before manifesting as a wrathful spirit and ascending to heaven.

In the meantime, Princess Iwanaga was rejected by Ninigi-no Mikoto, who descended from heaven, falls to the dark side and turns into a serpent. The serpent attacks and eats beautiful women, performed as “Serpent Tango” by Princess Iwanaga in the Iwami Kagura style. The stage then moves on to a confrontational encounter between Susanoo of Iwami Kagura and Susanoo played by Ukon Onoe, casting the audience a question as to what is Kami and what are ‘humans.’

What happens to the world when Susanoo decapitate the serpent, freeing Princess Iwanaga from the world of darkness?

Come and enjoy this creative performance about conquering warring spirits with the spirit of harmony in the setting of Japanese mythology, presented as the ultimate in Japan’s traditional performing art.



## <Overview>

### **J-CULTURE FEST presents the music drama “Yakumo Tatsu”**

Produced by Kikunojo Onoe

Script by Kazuhisa Tobe

Where: Tokyo International Forum Hall B7 (3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005)

When: Monday December 29 – Wednesday December 31, 2025

15:00 / 18:30 on Monday December 29

15:00 / 18:30 on Tuesday December 30

11:30 / 15:00 on Wednesday December 31

※Details including the time for opening the reception, the lobby, audience's seats and the performance will be announced on the official website when the performance period draws near.

#### Cast:

Ukon Onoe, Yuzuru Kurenai, Ryuji Sato, Takuma Wada, Ayaka Umeda, Ikuko Kawai (violin), Iwami Kagura “Banrai” / Kikunojo Onoe

Performers: Kieayaka Hanayagi, Kyonosuke Fujima, Kyoko Wakayagi, Sato Fujikage, Ryo Takahashi

Musicians: Shogo Yoshii, Makoto Tashiro (Eitetsu Fuun-no Kai), Takeaki Bunno, Suiho Tosha, Fukujuro

Sumida, Ryota Kawano / Jun Abe, Jun Saitoh, Satoshi Kitamura

Tickets (all reserved seats, tax inclusive):

SS ¥12,000 (incl. tax), S ¥10,000 (incl. tax), A ¥6,000 (incl. tax)

※Pre-school age children are not permitted to attend. ※Those on a wheelchair are requested to provide your name, the performance session you are attending and your seat number to us on [stage.contact55@gmail.com](mailto:stage.contact55@gmail.com) by two days before the date of your attendance.

General ticket sales to start at 10:00 on Saturday November 1

Tickets to be sold through:

Official website : <https://yakumo2025.com>

Official X account (former Twitter) : [https://x.com/yakumo\\_\\_2025](https://x.com/yakumo__2025)

For any queries about the performance and ticket sales,

contact : [stage.contact55@gmail.com](mailto:stage.contact55@gmail.com)

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Organized by : TAILUP / Izutsu / Izutsu Kikaku / Tokyo International Forum

Planned by : Yohei Izutsu

Sponsored by : Tokyo Metropolitan Government / Chiyoda Ward / Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Cooperated by : Teikoku Hotel, Marunouchi Hotel

Assisted by : Arts Council Tokyo [Grant for creating appealing arts and culture projects]

Special cooperation provided by: Costume Museum / Kyoto Research Institute of Court Culture / Nihon Kogakuin College

### <Overview of exhibition and workshop at the Hall B5>

#### **Workshop “Learning about Japanese traditions”**

#### **Exhibition “Attires for Prayer”**

Workshop details :

Edo woodblock printer (Ukiyoe) experience / Drum experience / Ikebana experience / Performance-based Japanese calligraphy experience / Making an original fan / Making a squeeze craft accessory / Heian and Warring Nations Era costume experience / Knot-making experience

Where : Tokyo International Forum Hall B5 (3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005)

When : Monday December 29 to Tuesday December 30, 2025

※The exhibition will run through to Wednesday December 31.

※ Details including the time for opening the reception, the lobby, audience's seats and the performance will be announced on the official website when the performance period draws near.

Tickets (all reserved seats, tax inclusive) :

Exhibition: Free entry, Workshops: Fees applicable

Workshops can be booked in advance on the official website.

※Those on a wheelchair are requested to provide your name, the performance session you are attending and your seat number to us on [stage.contact55@gmail.com](mailto:stage.contact55@gmail.com) by two days before the date of your attendance.

General ticket sales to start on Wednesday November 5, 2025

Tickets to be sold through :

Official website : <https://yakumo-inori.com>

Official X account (former Twitter) : [https://x.com/yakumo\\_\\_2025](https://x.com/yakumo__2025)

For any queries about the performance and ticket sales,

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