

# Noh Play

# KUKAI

KOYASAN- World

Heritage 20th Anniversary

Co-sponsored by Kongobuji Temple

蓮の花を見て  
自浄なるを知り

蓮の実を見て  
心徳を覚る

Mae-shite Pilgrim **Katayama Kuroemon**  
Mae-tsure Fudo Myoo **Kanze Atsuo**  
Nochi-shite Kukai **Kanze Tetsunojo**  
Noh Chorus **Asai Fumiyoshi**

**Sunday, September 15th, 2024, at 6:00pm**

Outside Noh Stage in Kondo, Danjo Garan, Koyasan

Admission: Seat A ¥12,000 Seat B: ¥10,000 Ticket Office : Atelier Kashu Tel. 090-9676-3798

## Kūkai's Noh Drama "10,000 Lights 10,000 Flowers Prayer Offering"

The year 2024 heralds Koyasan's 20th anniversary as a World Heritage site. It is registered in the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range. Kūkai known posthumously as Kōbō Daishi, founded Koyasan over 1200 years ago.

Kūkai's profound esoteric teachings, passed down to him by from Tang Priest Keika, delve into all sentient beings possible realization of full enlightenment. This philosophy expressed through the intricate symbolism of rituals, mandalas, and meditations, champions the ideals of peaceful coexistence over exclusion.

The Prayers with 10,000 Lights and 10,000 Flowers Offering, a solemn ceremony conducted at Kōyasan for the first time three years prior to Kūkai's deep meditative sojourn awaiting the Future Buddha (Maitreya). It was aimed to guide all sentient beings towards the nirvanic realm of eternal peace and harmony.

In celebration of this landmark anniversary and the profound spiritual heritage of Kōyasan, we extend a warm invitation to the premiere of "Kūkai - Prayers for Eternal Peace." This Noh play, a sublime artistic rendition, commemorates Kōyasan's esteemed recognition as a World Heritage Site, inviting audiences to reflect on the universal quest for peace and coexistence.



Photo by Kaoru Suzuki

# Noh Play KUKAI

"10,000 Lights 10,000 Flowers Prayer Offering"

Mae-shite Pilgrim	Katayama Kuroemon
Mae-tsure Fudo Myoo	Kanze Atsuo
Nochi-shite Kukai	Kanze Tetsunojo
Ai	Nomura Taichiro
Flute	Matsuda Hiroyuki
Small Drum	Okura Genjiro
Large Drum	Okura Keinosuke
Drum	Kodera Masato
Keika Kasho, Jigashira	Asai Fumiyoshi
Noh Chorus	Urata Yasuchika
	Kitanami Takahiro
	Asami Jiichi
	Nagayama Keizo
	Ando Takayasu
Backstage	Wakebayashi Michiharu
	Mikata Shizuka
Writer/Director	Kasai Kenichi

### Story Introduction

In a picturesque town of Sanuki Tadotsu, birthplace of the revered Kōbō-Daishi Kūkai, a man lost his wife and child to an epidemic. He was deeply struck by the transient nature of existence and embarked on a pilgrimage of spiritual awakening. Following in the ascetic footsteps of Kōbō Daishi, his journey takes him to the sacred grounds of Kōyasan, traversing the spiritual paths of wild mountains and deep forests offering prayers to Fudō Myōō, an embodiment of his devout reverence.

In sincere reflection he contemplates Kūkai's quest for Buddhist wisdom, under the tutelage of the monk Keika at Blue Dragon Temple in Tang China. In his meditative dream, he sees amidst the tempestuous seas, Kūkai armed with esoteric knowledge and a sacred talisman. Kūkai invokes protection and guidance from the Fudo Myōō talisman he carved himself from a hallowed red bead tree, a gift from Keika. The narrative continues to unfold with a tapestry of miracles woven by Kūkai's profound faith, culminating in a celestial apparition of Fudō Myōō before an assembly of devout pilgrims in Kōyasan.

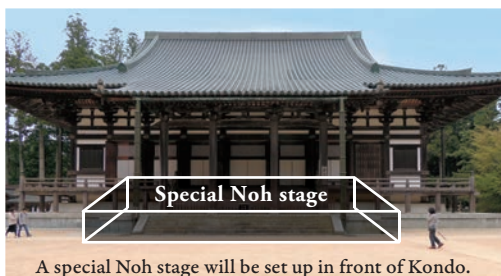
After a long pilgrimage, he now stands in reverence, his spirit uplifted by the sanctity of the "10,000 Lights and 10,000 Flowers Prayers Offering" ceremony. Kūkai started this ceremony to fulfil his vow to illuminate the path to enlightenment for all beings. Within the hallowed walls of Kongōbuji temple, a venerable priest recounts the origin of this sacred ritual. Extolling Kūkai's legacy, he leads a procession of lantern-bearing children through the darkness. As the resonant tones of shōmyō chanting fill the air, a vision of Kūkai manifests, performing an eternal mystical dance. It is a prayer transcending duality that invokes the wisdom of Maha Vairocana to guide all beings towards the serene repose of enlightenment.

## Sunday, September 15th, 2024, at 6:00PM

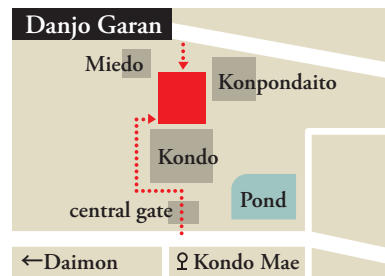
From 5:30pm, there will be a greeting by the chief priest of Kumano Hongu Taisha Shrine as proof of the exchange between Koyasan and Kumano, and a performance by "Okukumano Daiko" and "Koya Wadaiko Warabe DONKAKA". A Noh performance will follow at 6:00pm.

Outside Noh Stage in Kondo, Danjo Garan, Koyasan  
Danjogaran, 132 Koyasan, Koya-cho, Ito-gun, Wakayama 648-0211, JAPAN

Seating begins at 5:00pm  
Performance 6:00pm - 7:30pm



A special Noh stage will be set up in front of Kondo.



The performance will be held in light rain. If there is a storm, it will be held at the Matsushita Auditorium "Reimeikan" at the Koyasan University, a 7 minutes' walk from the Danjo Garan. Please check the announcement on the Atelier Kashu website.

**Admission: Seat A ¥12,000, Seat B ¥10,000**  
**Ticket Office : Atelier Kashu Tel.090-9676-3798**  
**mail@atelierkashu.com https://www.atelierkashu.com**  
**Cooperation: Kokoro no Terakoya Association**



Ticket



Website