



A Torchlight Performance Of NOH THEATER

Time **Thursday, August 8th, 2019**
Ceremony at 5:30 p.m., Performance at 6:00 p.m.

Place **Former Site of Ninomaru Palace**

Program | 1. Noh : "Kakitsubata Koi no Mai"(Iris and Dance of Love)
2. Interlude : "Kitsunezuka (Fox Mound) 3. Noh : "Tohru Kutsurogi "(Minamoto no Tohru Relaxes)

Kakitsubata Koi no Mai (Iris and Dance of Love)

A monk visits the village of Yatsuhashi in Mikawa Province to admire the blooming irises when a village woman appears and calls to him. She recites the poem kakitsubata (iris), composed by Ariwara no Narihira in Ise Monogatari (The Tales of Ise), and tells him that Yatsuhashi is a renowned place for viewing the very same iris blooms. The woman invites him to stay at her house. She then appears in front of the monk in a costume once worn Lord Narihira and Empress Takako, who were called Nijyo no Kisaki. She divulges that she is the spirit of the irises and goes on to say that the power of Narihira's poem lets even the plants rest in peace.

Over the course of the evening, the spirit recounts the love story of Lord Narihira and Empress Takako narrated in The Tales of Ise in elegant dances and eventually disappears at dawn.

Kitsunezuka (Fox Mound)

The Master sends his servants Taro and Jiro Kaja to his rice fields at Kitsunezuka, meaning Fox Mound, and orders them to chase the birds away from the rice.

The two men work hard but also start to talk about foxes. Foxes are known as tricksters that can change shape, and they wonder what they would do if they actually met a fox.

Later, their Master visits the field with some saké, but they wonder if he might be a fox instead...

The priest fools the ignorant servant, pretends to be a snail, and.....

Tohru Kutsurogi (Minamoto no Tohru Relaxes)

At Rokujo-gawara palace in the ancient capital of Kyoto, an old man carrying a large ladle on his shoulder appears in front of a priest on the night of the harvest moon. The old man tells the story of a chief local government officer, Minamoto no Tohru, who was said to have relocated to the elegant scenery of a salt pan in Mutsu Chiga to Kyoto and enjoyed it there. The old man grieves that there was no one to succeed Tohru and the palace fell into ruin.

Being asked, the old man tells the priest of famous sites in Kyoto. Then, after dancing for the priest about the way to ladle water out, he disappears.

The narrator recites that Minamoto no Tohru once had a fine residence in the region. As the priest falls asleep, the spirit of the deceased Tohru appears in the figure of bygone days. Tohru dances in the moonlight, looking back upon the good old times. At day break, Tohru returns to his home of the moon only to leave warm vestiges of the past.