

Japan Brand Program

The Noh's Appeal

Date: December 15-23, 2015 Sites: China (Beijing, Shanghai)

■ Dispatched Expert



Soraya Umewaka

Film director, Noh researcher

Soraya Umewaka, the daughter of a Noh master and Lebanese mother, had her first stage performance debut at the age of three in the Kurama Tengu Noh dance, learned Noh body theory from her father, and majored in Political Science at Princeton University in the US. She is also a film director and has produced documentaries, web series, and short films, many of which have received awards. She interacts globally as a documentary filmmaker and communicates through Noh's physicality. She actively strives to communicate the beauty and appeal of Noh to people around the world via Noh films.

■ Review of Activities

● Beijing



Lecture at Tsinghua University



Workshop at the Central Academy of Drama



Lecture at Beijing Foreign Studies University



Interaction with actors from the Peking Opera

● Shanghai



Lecture at Shanghai Theatre Academy



Workshop with students studying drama

■ Achievements

Ms. Umewaka gave lectures on history and appeal of Noh with video presentations and workshops for a wide range of audience, such as students of Japanese language and drama, actors from the Peking Opera, film directors, and university professors. While Noh is not well known in China, the lectures showing her films attracted interest, from young people, and all of the events had lively Q&A sessions and active participation in the workshops. Her initiative sufficiently fulfilled the goal of communicating Japanese culture.

Furthermore, the events received extensive coverage by local media and requests for future Noh events in China.