**The Noh’s Appeal**

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

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**Dispached 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.

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**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

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**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.