

# Japan Brand Program

## “Awaji Puppet Theater : Convergence of Tradition and Modernity”

Schedule : November 30-December 8, 2016 Site: U.S.A. ( New York, Los Angeles )

### ■ Dispatched Expert



### **Shiko Yoshida** **Puppeteer** **Awaji Puppet Theatre**

Yoshida born in Fukura, Minami-Awaji City, has enjoyed listening to “Danjiri Uta” (short version of singing from famous scene of Ningyo Joruri, puppet theater) since his childhood, then joined folk entertainment club at Minami-Awaji Junior High School. Since graduation, he has been working at Awaji Puppet Theatre energetically coping with performances overseas such as in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United States.

### ■ Review of Activities

#### ● **New York**



Lecture and workshop at Villanova University



Lecture at Hunter College



Lecture at Japanese Weekend School of NJ

#### ● **Los Angeles**



Starburns Industries visit and joint workshop



Toast at the Emperor's Birthday Reception



Lecture at California Institute of Arts

### ■ Achievements

Yoshida lectured about roots and prospect of Awaji puppet theater play together with its demonstrations in New York and Los Angeles. The American Broadway musical “Lion King” and British TV program “Thunder Bird” received influence from the theater play, and they have adopted its performing arts techniques. Yoshida also talked about tourism attractions of Southern region of Awaji island in Hyogo Prefecture. The audience in both cities mainly consisted of students majoring in drama, performing arts, script lining and stage set designing. In Los Angeles, Yoshida held joint workshop together with the Starburns production company expertized in stop-motion animation. He toasted using puppets at the Consul General's official residence on the occasion of Emperor's Birthday Reception in Los Angeles. There Yoshida discussed with performing artists and motion picture experts possible collaboration for animation production using Awaji puppets techniques and for its full stage performance.