

SEIEN

- A Noh tribute to Eiichi SHIBUSAWA

Monday 29th September 2025

Doors open: 5:30pm

Performance starts: 6:00pm

Performance ends: 8:45pm (approx)

Roundtable discussion by

Kiyokazu KANZE

(KANZE 26th),

Akio MIMURA

(Honorary Chairman, The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Advisor Honorary chairman Nippon Steel Corporation)

Koichi KABAYAMA

(The Chairman of the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation)

Intermission – 15 minutes

Noh:SEIEN

Mae-shite (Yoshinobu) **Yaemon YAMASHINA**

Ato-shite (Atsuki, evil spirit) **Yoshimaru SEKINE**

Shite (Tokutaro) **Saburota KANZE**

Waki (Ason) **Kazuyuki FUKUOU**

Omo Ai (Master of tea house) **Yukio ISHIDA**

Ado Ai (Woman Ko) **Taichiro NOMURA**

Ado Ai (Woman Otsu) **Tanroh ISHIDA**

Ko Ken (stage attendants) **Takanobu SAKAGUCHI,
Naohiro TAKEDA,
Gashou YAMANAKA**

Otsuzumi **Hirohada KAMEI,
Yuichiro HAYASHI**

Kotsuzumi **Seiichi IIDA**

Fue **Hiroyuki MATSUDA**

Jiutai (Chorus) **Kankichirou HISADA,
Koujiro SUMI,
Kohei KAWAGUCHI,
Masamichi YAMAZAKI,
Kengo TANIMOTO,
Kisho UMEWAKA,
Yoshinari SHIMIZU,
Naotaka KAKUTOH**

Noh tribute SEIEN

SEIEN is the pseudonym of Eiichi SHIBUSAWA

After the restoration of Imperial rule, Tokutaro SHIBUSAWA, a visionary, and architect of modern commercial practices, settles in Shizuoka, where his lord, Yoshinobu TOKUGAWA, the last Shogun, has retired. One day, Tokutaro receives an unexpected message from the new government, requesting his expertise to help rebuild the country. The government recognises the value of his advanced business knowledge and wants him to contribute to shaping Japan's new economic system.

Caught between his loyalty to the former Shogun, Yoshinobu, and the allure of using his skills to help reconstruct the nation, Tokutaro finds himself at a crossroads. Yoshinobu however, encourages him to embrace the opportunity for the greater good of society and the people. Moved by this counsel, Tokutaro decides to travel to Tokyo.

Meanwhile in Tokyo, the high ranking noble (Asomi) Shigenobu OKUMA is eagerly awaiting Tokutaro's arrival. He organises a grand welcome banquet for Tokutaro at the Ogiya Chaya, a renowned tea house in Asukayama. OKUMA indulges in drinking sake, as he impatiently awaits his guest, while watching a traditional dance performance entitled 'Asukayama'. The tea house master explains the story of the 1,200 cherry trees blooming in Asukayama, planted by the 8th Shogun, Yoshimune TOKUGAWA.

Tokutaro arrives just as the story concludes. The two men begin the banquet together. Tokutaro enjoys the atmosphere and the sake. As the night wears on, he grows drowsy, particularly as he watches the performance of 'Oji no Kitsune Bi', a dance about the fox spirit. In his drowsy state, Tokutaro drifts into sleep.

In his dream, Tokutaro is confronted by an evil spirit name Atsuki. Atsuki attempts to lure Tokutaro into personal greed, pushing him to prioritise self-interest over the common good. But Tokutaro, grounded in his belief in Confucian teachings, resists. He understands that true economic success and growth must be rooted in good morals and must serve the people, not just individual gain. His firm conviction in the teachings of Confucius, particularly the principle of righteousness, protects him from Atsuki's temptation. The spirit vanishes and Tokutaro wakes from his dream.

Shaken but resolute, Tokutaro shares his revelation with those present. He explains that the 'economy' should be about helping people and that economic activity must be aligned with virtuous conduct. This message was central to his philosophy and was also revealed in his influential work 'The Analects and the Abacus'.

Determined to make a difference, Tokutaro decides to change his name to 'Eiichi', a name symbolising his wish for the flourishing of society through the reformation of the nation's system. With renewed purpose, Eiichi pledges himself to work for a better future, and as a symbolic gesture, devotes a dance for world peace and prosperity.

Venue: KANZE Noh Theatre at GINZA SIX B3

Access: 2 minutes' walk from Ginza station A2, A3 exit
(Tokyo Metro Ginza line, Hibiya line, Marunouchi line)

Tickets: ss 8,800yen / s 6,600yen / A 4,400yen / B 3,300yen

Tickets now on sale

Asukayama Takiginoh
official website
<https://asukayama-takiginou.jp/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/asukayamatakiginou/>

Box Office operators are available by telephone daily
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Mon. through Fri.

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