

The Japan Foundation, London Presents

# Rakugo and Kobanashi

- Enjoy Storytelling and Explore Japanese -

**Oxford**  
**8th & 9th November**

**London**  
**10th November**



**Advance booking**  
**required**

An event for anyone interested in Japanese culture & language

Brilliant **rakugo** performances, talks and demonstrations!

PLUS

All levels of Japanese learners performing amazing **kobanashi**!

- Famous rakugo master Ryūtei Saryū (profile overleaf) will travel from Japan to perform.
- Enthusiastic learners of Japanese will also give kobanashi performances - all in Japanese!
- There will be English subtitles, so you can enjoy this event even if you don't speak Japanese!

**FACT!** Kobanashi is a very useful tool for teaching and learning Japanese.

A great event for teachers of Japanese and those who are interested in Japanese.

You can find an explanation of Kobanashi and Rakugo overleaf.

## 8th November 2024

**Time** 17:00 – 18:30

**Venue** Nissan Institute  
of Japanese Studies,  
University of Oxford (Oxford)

Rakugo Performances, Explanation,  
Q&A

Online Streaming (TBC)



Co-organised by  
The Japan Foundation, London and  
Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies,  
University of Oxford

## 9th November 2024

**Time** 13:00 – 15:30 (TBC)

**Venue** Holywell Music Room,  
University of Oxford (Oxford)

Rakugo Performances, Explanation,  
Kobanashi Performances, Q&A

Not Streamed Online



Organised by  
The Japan Foundation, London  
Supported by Wadham College,  
University of Oxford

## 10th November 2024

**Time** 13:00 – 15:30 (TBC)

**Venue** Tuke Hall,  
Regent's University (London)

Rakugo Performances, Explanation,  
Kobanashi Performances, Q&A

Online Streaming (TBC)



Organised by  
The Japan Foundation, London

Scan or click on the QR codes to register for each event!



# Full Programme

## 8th November (Fri)

**Location** Oxford  
Nissan Institute of  
Japanese Studies,  
University of Oxford

### Schedule

- 17:00 Opening
- ◆ Introduction and Demonstration of Rakugo
- ◆ Rakugo performances by Ryūtei Saryū
- ◆ Q&A Session
- 18:30 Closing
- ◆ Short drink reception

Online Streaming (TBC)

## 9th November (Sat)

**Location** Oxford  
Holywell Music Room,  
Wadham College,  
University of Oxford

### Schedule

- 13:00 Opening
- ◆ Introduction and Demonstration of Rakugo
- ◆ Kobanashi performances by learners of Japanese
- ◆ Rakugo performances by Ryūtei Saryū
- ◆ Talk by Ryūtei Saryū and Q&A Session
- 15:30 Closing (TBC)



Not Streamed Online

## 10th November (Sun)

**Location** London  
Tuke Hall,  
Regent's University

Online Streaming (TBC)



**Different performances on 8th and 9th November! Why not attend both days?**

**Events on 9th and 10th November include a longer explanation of Rakugo**

**Children especially welcome at the events on 9th and 10th November!**



**Booking is required - click or scan the QR code at the bottom of this page for more details**

## What is Rakugo?

The traditional art of one-man story-telling in Japan. A single figure sits in the traditional seiza style on stage and ensnares his audience using a fan (*sensu*), a cloth (*tenugui*) and his own voice. Although many Rakugo stories are comedic, there are many types of dramatic stories.

## What is Kobanashi?

A short, witty story. They are often told just before the main rakugo performance. Both beginners and advanced learners can enjoy learning Japanese while experiencing Japanese culture through the practice and presentation of short kobanashi.

**WANTED:  
CHALLENGERS**

## Kobanashi

The 9th November (Oxford) and 10th November (London) events will feature Kobanashi performances by learners of Japanese. You will have the chance to perform your Kobanashi on our stage!

Whether you are a teacher or learner, please contact us if you have an interest in performing your kobanashi.

Application deadline: 24th October 2024 (Thur)



**Find out more!**  
Click or scan  
for more details

## Performers & Lecturers

### Ryūtei Saryū

Rakugo Performer

Ryūtei Saryū (stage name) is a Rakugo Master from Chiba Prefecture. He became an apprentice of Yanagiya Sankyō and began performing Rakugo in 1993. He was promoted to Shin'Uchi Rakugo MasterStoryteller status in 2006. He is the recipient of awards, including the Hanagata Engei Taisho\* for three consecutive years: 2009 (silver), 2010 (gold), 2011 (gold). He has performed Rakugo all over the world. Since 2013 he has been working as a part-time lecturer and became a visiting associate professor in 2024 at Tokyo Woman's Christian University.

\* Hanagata: flower; Engei: a Japanese traditional performing art; Taisho: award.

### Kazumi Hatasa

Professor at the School of Languages and Culture  
Purdue University

Kazumi Hatasa is a professor at the School of Languages and Cultures. He was Director of the School of Japanese at Middlebury College from 2004 to 2018. He has received the Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2020. He has been working with professional performers to incorporate Rakugo and Kobanashi into Japanese Language education.

## Event Website

**Scan or click the QR codes below to visit the following pages!**



### Related Information



2021 Kobanashi  
Event Videos



Kobanashi Website  
KKGH\*  
\*Kokusai Kobanashi Godo  
Happyoukai



Kobanashi Website  
Professor Hatasa

Enquiries:  
[events.japanese@jpf.go.jp](mailto:events.japanese@jpf.go.jp)