

Hitachibou Kaison

Performed in Japanese

Keishi Nagatsuka, KAAT's current Associate Artistic Director directs "Hitachibou Kaison" ("Kaison the Priest of Hitachi") by the late Matsuyo Akimoto, one of Japan's most influential post-war realist playwrights. Published in 1964, the year of the first Tokyo Olympics, this work similarly made a sensational impact – in part by presenting a rare, critical view of Japan.

Hitachibou Kaison is thought to have been a retainer of the historical military commander Minamoto Yoshitsune and his famously loyal warrior-monk companion Musashibou Benkei. When rivals force Minamoto to flee Kyoto, Kaison runs away before 1189's Battle of the Koromo River in Hiraizumi, present-day Iwate Prefecture, in which his samurai master and the monk were killed.

Afterward, as Japan entered its Kamakura Shogunate period of feudal military rule through 1333, legend has it that Kaison was granted eternal life to pass on the story of the warring clans to successive generations. Akimoto addresses issues such as the nation's fractured post-World War II society, discrimination, and evacuated children who became war orphans, in this, her masterpiece.

So now, more than half a century on from its 1967 premiere in Tokyo, Nagatsuka takes up the challenge of this revival in a production that's sure to be among the year's theater highlights.

STAFF

Original Work Matsuyo Akimoto
Direction Keishi Nagatsuka

CAST

Kayoko Shiraishi	Makoto Sato
Yuri Nakamura	Ippei Shiba
Kinari Hirano	Junpei Hamada
Hiroyuki Onoue	Arashi Fukasawa
Tomoharu Hasegawa	Hiroshi Omori
Rin Takagi	Shintaro Hirahara
Keita Oishi	Keiji Manako
Mayumi Myosei	Yuto Yamazaki
Maki Hironaka	Kotaro Shiraishi
Hideyo Fujita	Shori Muromachi
Yoshinobu Kanai	Kaito Kimura
Mayumi Sato	Noe Fujito

SCHEDULE

7–22 December, 2019

VENUE

KANAGAWA ARTS THEATRE

TICKETS

¥5,000
Concession tickets are available.

INQUIRY

Ticket Kanagawa
Tel: 0570-015-415 (10:00–18:00)
Box Office
Kanagawa Arts Theatre 2F (10:00–18:00)
<https://www.kaat.jp>



Agency for Cultural Affairs,
Government of Japan



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