

Hyotan

No. 153

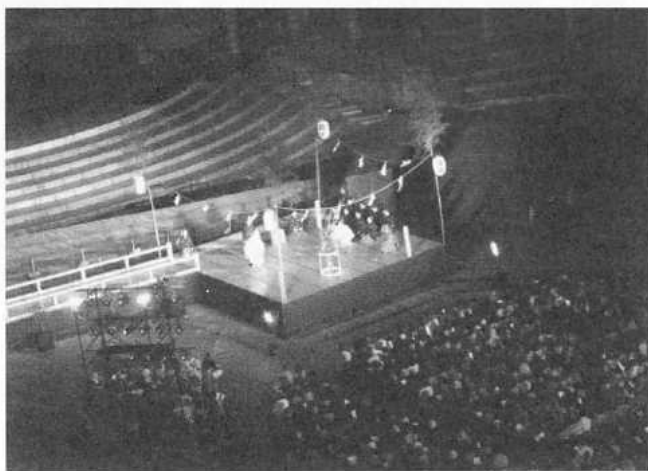
Dec. & Jan. 2004

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Hitachi Takigi Noh

Have you ever heard of *Noh*? *Noh* is one of Japanese traditional theatrical arts in which vocal, music and dance are mixed with use of masks. It is a very high level poetic type of theater. *Noh* is sometimes compared to opera or musical. When talking about *Noh*, we shouldn't forget *Kyogen*, which is always put on in a set with *Noh*. *Kyogen* is a comedy which is mainly composed of words and lines. *Takigi Noh* is the sacred theatrical ceremony which involves burning fire around the *Noh* and *Kyogen* stage.

On Nov. 3rd, this *Takigi Noh* was performed in front of the Hitachi Civic Center. Hitachi has a



long history of *Noh* and *Kyogen*. When building the Hitachi Civic Center, local people gathered 5,000 people's signature to build *Noh* equipment inside. That is the reason why there is *Noh* stage inside the music hall of the Civic Center. Up until this year, 14 performance was taken place in the Civic Center. Members of the *Noh* and *Kyogen* lovers' circle are now saying that they want hold 15th performance to be shown outside *Takigi Noh*.

This year, *Takigi Noh* came true in memory of 15th anniversary of the circle, and also as the celebration of merger of Hitachi City and Juo Town. At 17:00 on Nov. 3rd, firewood was put on fire and a priest prayed in front of the stage. The usual scenery outside was changed into a *Noh* theater. The running orders are as follows:

"Matsukaze" (*Noh*, poetic play)

The ghost of a woman called *Matsukaze*, who was once loved by a lady-killer, dances madly

whilst wearing her lover's kimono in front of a priest who is on a pilgrimage.

"Fukuro Yamabushi" (*Kyogen*, comedy)



One of the brothers haunted by an owl summons a doctor, who happens to be a mountain priest. But the priest's prayers worsen his illness, and by way of infection, the other brother also changes into an owl.

And....! The end of this *Kyogen* made even a few foreign spectators burst out laughing.

"Takasago" (*Han-Noh*, half *Noh* play)

This is a *Noh* written by Zeami, the *Noh* writer. The lines of this play are often cited at wedding ceremonies. On this occasion the *Noh* was played as a *Han-Noh*, meaning that was enacted only the latter half of the play. *Takasago* prays for the peace and harmony of society and for the love and long life of husbands and wives. This *Takigi Noh* prays high heaven for the bright future of the newly amalgamated Hitachi City and Juo Town.

In summary, *Noh* is usually played only by male performers, but this time, the role of *Matukaze* was played by a female performer. It was very refreshing to see this. We were also surprised at the professionalism of the pamphlets made by the local *Noh* lovers' group. The Civic Center staff's well-handled guidance of spectators was also noteworthy. The only regrettable thing was that most of the spectators seemed to be senior citizens. We would like to quote the word of the Civic Center's staff to the youngsters of Hitachi "Everyone should try to see *Noh* once in their lifetime."

Hitachi Popular Eating Spots (Part III Taga Area)

When you want to eat out with your friends or your family, where do you go? We would like to introduce several spots you can enjoy different type of food in each area.

Fried Pork cutlet Restaurant *Ton*

(とんかつ専門店 とん)



It must be lively and cheerful in this kind of eating house, you may imagine. But here, the atmosphere is quite the opposite. The base color of the interior is black and the atmospheric music is jazz in a low volume. The tables are separated from each other and every booth has its own comfortable space. You can take your time and even have a little bit of serious talk with your friends or colleagues.

The owner says, "We want every customer to enjoy our dishes cooked with fresh and safe

ingredients produced in our Ibaraki Prefecture." The pork used here is one that boasts a fine quality and is named "Rose Pork" from Iwama-machi. They use rice cultivated organically in Hitachiohta. And they stick even to their soy-bean paste. It is made from soy-beans produced in this region.

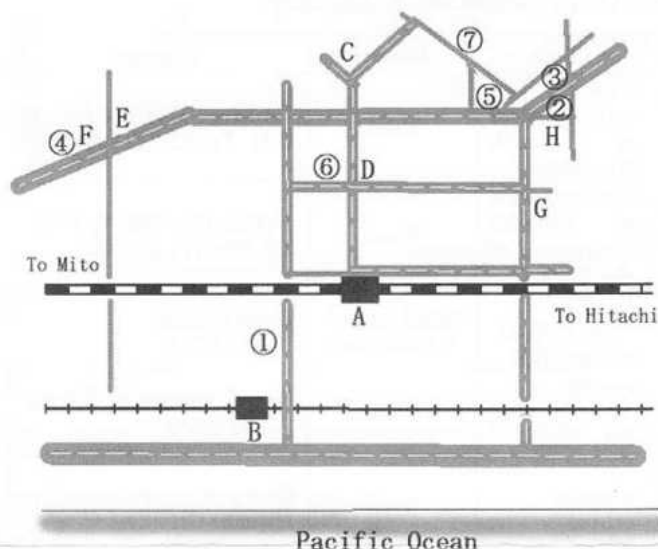
How do you understand his word "every customer"? It has an important implication. The toilet here is wide enough for a person who uses a wheelchair. They welcome customers who are with their seeing-eye dogs. Menu in Braille is there. They can understand your order in sign language. Now you see, don't you?

You can order another helping of rice, miso-soup, and cabbage cut into small strips. A fresh "Rose Pork" fried cutlet is good, seasoned with salt.

They serve fried cutlet of sirloin and fillet, fried minced pork, hamburger, and Pork *Shabushabu* (*Shabushabu* is a dish of high-grade sliced beef put into boiling water and then dipped into sauce).

A group party (from 4 to 25 members) is to be reserved. (¥2850~) They are open except when they cannot get good meat that meets their standards.

Category	No.	Name/ Phone	Open hours/ Holiday	Note
Japanese	①	Marukin Sushi まるきん寿司 0294-36-6363	11:00am~7:00pm 2nd Tue.	About sixty kinds of sushi is served. Any kind ¥105 a piece. Ara-jiru soup:¥157 P:21
	②	Fried Pork Cutlet Ton とんかつ専門店 とん 0294-33-3823	11:30am~10:00pm No holiday	Famous for its big cutlet. A nice place for young people who like meat. Lunch menu: ¥950~ P:*
Tavern	③	Gohei 吾平 0294-28-6115	5:00pm~1:00am No holiday	Young couples and family will be glad of various menu(¥300 ~) and comfortably-lighted booth. P:20
	④	Dan-ya 暖や 0294-35-5225	11:30am~2:00pm 5:30pm~1:00am No holiday	Calm and cozy Japanese style tavern and restaurant. Lunch time menu:¥900 ~ ¥1800 Many kind of alcoholic drinks can be enjoyed. P:20
Chinese	⑤	Tampopo-no-uta タンポポの詩 0294-34-5387	12:00pm~3:00pm 6:00pm~10:00pm No holiday	Small shop serving ramen only. Home-made roast pork and sesame soup are good. ¥500~P:8
Western	⑥	Tsubaki Club 椿倶楽部 0294-28-5710	11:00am~11:00pm No holiday	French style restaurant with chic atmosphere that attracts lady customers. Lunch menu:¥1000 courses:¥2480 ~ P:*
	⑦	Tsubaki 070-6669-9299	11:00am~5:00pm Sun., Mon.	22kinds of coffee beans and roast beans there. ¥260 ~ Home made bread's sandwiches, ¥600 P:5



A:JR Taga Station
B:Hitachi Dentetsu Kawarago Station

C:Taga Fire Station

D:Joyo Bank Taga

E:Autobacs

F:Joyo Bank Kanesawa

G:Ayukawa Gymnasium

H:Yunago Primary School

① Marukin Sushi

② Fried Pork Cutlet Ton

③ Gohei

④ Dan-Ya

⑤ Tampopo-no-uta

⑥ Tsubaki Club

⑦ Tsubaki

Hitachi Kokusai Bunka Matsuri 2004

The Hitachi Kokusai Bunka Matsuri 2004 was held on November 20 at the Hitachi Civic Center to foster deeper understanding of foreign culture. There were many panels and exhibitions showing the activities of volunteer groups and performance such as tea ceremony, singing song and dancing.

On the second floor, "Presentation of foreigners' Opinion in Japanese" Contest was held. This year the participants were fourteen from Australia, China, Kenya, Switzerland, USA, Korea, Sri Lanka, Germany, Nepal and Bahrain. The "Sakura Prize" was given to Ms. Song Me Back from New Zealand. She talked her dream. She would like to work in the UN in the future by taking advantage of her knowledge in accounting and her skill of singing.

On the fourth floor, foods of various countries were served by their native volunteers. On the seventh floor, a Chinese professor of Ibaraki University gave a lecture on the comparison of the ancient culture between China and Japan, especially from the viewpoint of the succession of the Imperial Throne.



First floor Information desk



Santa Claus by volunteer



Dance by Students

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EVENTS in HITACHI in December & January

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
December 1 st (Wed.)-22 nd (Wed.) 8:30-17:00	Talk and interview on entrance into the nursery schools	City Hall and Central & South Branches	Free	Children Welfare Sec. in C.H. Tel 22-3111 Ex.309
4 th (Sat.) 9:00-12:00	Nature study at the Skegawa-yama Citizens' Grove Park	Parking lot at Aobadai Entrance of the Park	Free	Urban Dev. Sec. in C.H. Tel 22-3111 Ex.263
5 th (Sun.) 14:00	Regular concert by Hitachi City Orchestra	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	¥800 (stud.) ¥1500 (res.)	Civic Center Tel 24-7711
7 th (Tue.)-8 th (Wed.) 10:00-	Soba (buckwheat noodles)-uchi (making) school	South Branch of City Hall	¥500	Kuji Community Center Tel 52-3349
9 th (Thu.) 9:30-11:00	Kids! Let's go and enjoy playing at the nursery schools	Every nursery school in Hitachi City	Free	Every nursery school in Hitachi City
10 th (Fri.)-12 th (Sun.) 10:00-	Wakuwaku Park: Exhibitions & Attractions by the handicapped	Hitachi Civic Center	Free	Civic Center Tel 24-7711
11 th (Sat.) 9:30-13:00	"Herb School" at Oku-hitachi Kirara-no-sato	Kirara-Kan of the Park	¥1500	Oku-hitachi Kirara-no-sato Leisure Center Tel 24-2424
18 th (Sat.)-24 th (Fri.) 18:00-	Hitachi Starlight Illumination 2004, Street performance week	Hitachi New City Plaza	Free	Civic Center Tel 24-7711
21 st (Tue.) 18:30-	Piano Recital by Ms. S. Uehara, a Tchaikovsky prize winner	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	¥1500(stud.) ¥2500	Ticket reservation Civic Center Tel 24-7720
January 9 th (Sun.) 14:00-	New Year's Opera Concert	Civic Center Music Hall	¥1000(stud.) ¥2000	Ticket reservation Civic Center Tel 24-7711
-10 th (Mon.) 16:30-24:00	Hitachi Starlight Illumination 2004	Civic Center	Free	Civic Center Tel 24-7711
30 th (Sun.) 18:30-	Sky Dome Concert Scottish Celts Music	Civic Center Science Museum	¥1500	Civic Center Tel 24-7711

Movies in December

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	- 3 4-	Kakushi Ken, Oni no Tsume [J] Howl no Ugoku Shiro [J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-	Howl no Ugoku Shiro [J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	- 3 - mid 4- 18- 23- 23-	Chi to Hone [J] Ima Aini ikimasu [J] Mr. Incredible (The Incredibles) [J] Alien vs Predator [E] Inuyasah [J] Hamutaro [J]
Theater Isejin Tel:22-1761	-10 -17 - 11- 18-	Cat Woman [E] Collateral [E] The Polar Express [J] Boku no Kanojo wo Shoukai-shimasu [K] The Terminal [E]

Emergency Doctors on Duty

The doctors in the city take turns standing by for emergency patients from 9:00 to 16:00 on Sundays and national holidays.



Surgeons

Dec.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
5	Hitachi-kita Clinic	Kawajiru-cho	43-6555
12	Inoue Clinic	Taga-cho	33-1253
19	Imura-geka Iin	Omika-cho	52-2191
23	Owada-geka Iin	Okubo-cho	33-2367
26	Kawasaki-ichou Hospital	Sakuragawa-cho	36-1800
30	Inoue Clinic	Taga-cho	33-1253
31	Imura-geka Iin	Omika-cho	52-2191

Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists seven days a week: Hitachi Medical Center (5-1-1 Higashitaga-cho Tel 0294-34-2105)

Have you visited HYOTAN Home Page?

<http://www.city.hitachi.ibaraki.jp/upload/english/index.htm>

You can read HYOTAN with color photograph anytime, anywhere in the world!

Thank you for reading the Hyotan. If you'd like to inquire about anything, please send us a letter, fax or e-mail. Any subject is welcome. We are looking forward to receiving your letter.