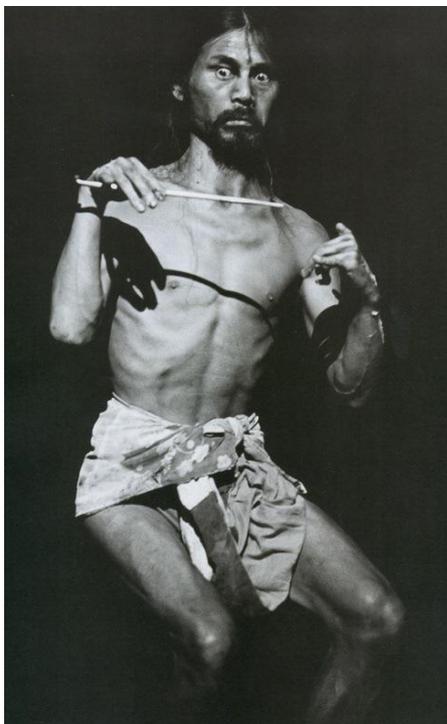


The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents

## Butoh

@ *Noh to Now* lecture series,  
Art Gallery NSW



Hijikata Tatsumi, 1968 © Nakatani Tadao

The Japan Foundation, Sydney proudly presents a lecture on the Japanese dance form Butoh by academic and dance/theatre performer **Adam Broinowski**. This lecture, titled '**Occupied Bodies: Re-thinking the Atomic Gaze in *Ankoku Butoh***', will be held at 6pm on July 23 at the Art Gallery NSW.

**Butoh** emerged in post-war Japan as an expression of protest against authority. Adam Broinowski draws on a wealth of research and personal experience to explore the key principles underpinning Butoh, and its intrinsic relationship to the legacy from US-occupied, post-Hiroshima Japan in a nuclear age. He also discusses the renewed relevance of Butoh following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, and shows how *Ankoku Butoh* ('Dance of Darkness') offers clues for rethinking our lived priorities in a post-Fukushima world.

This is the first in a five-part lecture series titled ***Noh to Now: Traditions and Counter-traditions in Japanese Performance***, programmed and presented by The Japan Foundation, Sydney in conjunction with the Art Gallery NSW's ***Theatre of dreams, theatre of play: nō and kyōgen in Japan*** exhibition.

Says **Adam Broinowski**, "Many people outside Japan know of Butoh and recognise its distinctive aesthetic, but fewer are familiar with the philosophy which drives Butoh and its transformation. Butoh is the most significant dance form to have emerged from the 1950s and 1960s, and this lecture addresses what it meant at that time, as well as what it can mean for us today."

Says Japan Foundation, Sydney director **Nao Endo**, "As shown by the introduction of a [Japanese Traditional and Contemporary Theatre elective](#) in this year's **HSC curriculum**, there is increasing recognition of the value of Japanese performing arts traditions in the Australian community. We are excited to work with the Art Gallery NSW to offer this timely series, which blends authoritative voices and perspectives from both Australia and Japan."

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## Program

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|---------------|---|--|
| <b>Jul 23</b> | <b>Occupied Bodies: Re-thinking the Atomic Gaze in Ankoku Butoh</b><br>Dr. Adam Broinowski, Australian National University        | <b>You</b>  |
| <b>Aug 6</b>  | <b>Noh, and the Aesthetics of Restraint</b><br>Professor Naohiko Umewaka (Noh Master),<br>Shizuoka University of Arts and Culture | <b>You</b>  |
| <b>Aug 13</b> | <b>Song, Dance, Skill: Introduction to Kabuki</b><br>Dr. Shun Ikeda, Australian National University                               | <b>You</b>  |
| <b>Aug 20</b> | <b>Presence &amp; Composition: Bunraku Puppet Theatre and Virtual Diva Hatsune Miku</b><br>Dr Yuji Sone, Macquarie University     | <b>You</b>  |
| <b>Aug 27</b> | <b>The Allure of Gender-Bending Musical Theatre</b><br>Dr. Leonie Stickland, Murdoch University                                   | <b>You</b>  |

**Dates:** July 23 and August 6, 13, 20 & 27  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:00pm (Doors open 5.45pm)  
**Venue:** Centenary Auditorium  
**Art Gallery NSW**  
Art Gallery Rd, The Domain  
Sydney  
**Admission:** Free. No bookings required.  
**Enquiries:** [reception@jpf.org.au](mailto:reception@jpf.org.au) / 02 8239 0055 (The Japan Foundation, Sydney)  
**Website:** [www.jpf.org.au](http://www.jpf.org.au)

### YouTube Playlists available



Search 'Noh to Now' on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) to sample the genres in this program.

### ABOUT BUTOH:

**Butoh** emerged in late 1950s postwar Japan as a form of protest against authority, and a critique of Japan's growing acceptance of Western culture in the wake of its defeat by the US. Early Butoh drew deeply on questions around Japanese society, identity and art forms. Many styles and schools of Butoh have emerged over the years, ranging from the raw and visceral *Ankoku Butoh* ('Dance of Darkness') of founder Tatsumi Hijikata, to the exquisitely stark and stylised performances of the troupe Sankaijuku, and much more in between.

### ABOUT ADAM BROINOWSKI:



**Dr Adam Broinowski** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the School of Culture, History and Language at the Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University (ANU). He has worked as an independent professional theatre and filmmaker, and collaborated with various companies including the performance group Gekidan Kaitaisha (Tokyo). He has recently completed a monograph, *Cultural Responses to Occupation in Japan: The Performing Body during and after the Cold War* (forthcoming).

### ABOUT THE 'NOH TO NOW' LECTURE SERIES:

[Noh to Now: Traditions and Counter-traditions in Japanese Performance](#) is a five-part lecture series featuring local and international experts introducing different genres of Japanese performance. Spanning the centuries from the emergence of **Noh theatre** in the middle ages to the present day, the series explores both canonised and marginal artforms and artists, including *Ankoku Butoh* ('Dance of Darkness'), **Kabuki**, virtual songstress **Hatsune Miku** ([support act for Lady Gaga's recent US tour](#)), and all-female musical theatre troupe **Takarazuka Revue**.

### **ABOUT THE AGNSW EXHIBITION:**

The Art Gallery NSW's [Theatre of dreams, theatre of play: nō and kyōgen in Japan](#) exhibition was organised in cooperation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs in Japan. It features a total of 165 works related to Noh theatre—many from the prestigious National Noh Theatre in Japan—including exquisitely carved masks, richly embroidered Noh robes, and paintings depicting this ancient performing arts tradition. The exhibition is now open and runs until September 14 (closed for conservation purposes July 28-30).

### **ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY:**

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.



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For more information please see [www.jpf.org.au](http://www.jpf.org.au) or contact:

**Elicia O'Reilly (02) 8239 0055 / [elicia\\_oreilly@jpf.org.au](mailto:elicia_oreilly@jpf.org.au) or**

**Jessica Chow (02) 8239 0055 / [jessica\\_chow@jpf.org.au](mailto:jessica_chow@jpf.org.au)**

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