

MEDIA RELEASE

29 January 2013 - For Immediate Release

Glorious Ryukyu

Celebrate the Lunar New Year Okinawan style

ONE NIGHT ONLY!



Recognised as one of **Japan's Intangible Cultural Heritage assets** by UNESCO, *kumiodori* (a combination of music, lyrics and dance) is a significant traditional Okinawan music theatre performance that captures the heart and soul of the land and its people. Showing for one night only at the **Sydney Conservatorium of Music** on **Saturday 16 February**, and **Darwin Entertainment Centre** on **Tuesday 19 February**, *Glorious Ryukyu* is a rare, breathtaking cultural event not to be missed. Admission is free, bookings are essential.

Glorious Ryukyu brings together a troupe of 12 Japanese artists from Ryukyu, now known as Okinawa. The cast includes 7 performers, all graduates from Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, 4 musicians playing classical stringed instruments koto and sanshin (shamisen), taiko drums and a bamboo flute called yokobue. Added to that, a spectacular wardrobe of elegant costumes, stage directed by **Kazuyuki Nashiro**, this is definitely a treasure trove for the senses.

Narrated in English, the story tells of the creation of three individual territories that was later unified to form the Ryukyu Kingdom in 1404. During that period, the Kingdom was subject to Chinese and Southeast Asian influence from positive trade relations with its neighbouring countries. It was out of these favourable diplomatic relations that Ryukyu dance was conceived and performed during special occasions to welcome and entertain government officials to the land.

Ryukyu dance is a cherished age-old art form – a restrained style of mixed emotions generated from music and lyrics, executed with subtle slow and deliberate movements to express the performer's feelings.

Glorious Ryukyu is presented by Okinawa Prefecture in cooperation with the Japan Foundation, Sydney and supported by the Australian-Japanese Association of the NT Incorporated.

PERFORMANCE - SYDNEY

Saturday 16 February, 2013

5:30pm (doors open 5pm)

Verbruggen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Cnr Bridge and Macquarie Streets, Sydney

Free admission. Bookings essential to reception@jpf.org.au or call 02 8239 0055

www.jpf.org.au

PERFORMANCE - DARWIN

Tuesday 19 February, 2013

5:30pm (doors open 5pm)

The Darwin Entertainment Centre

93 Mitchell Street, Darwin

Free admission. Bookings essential to japanesecommunitydarwin@gmail.com

Enquiries only: Mako Bailey 0401 973 704

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION:

The Japan Foundation aims to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and

other nations through a diverse range of programs and events. The Japan Foundation, Sydney runs a gallery space, library and Japanese language courses for all levels catering from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 23 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.

WEB: www.jpf.org.au | FB: @japanfoundationsydney | TW: @jpf Sydney

For more information, previews, images or interview opportunities please contact:

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