

Toward the Undiscovered Country

Newsletter of Tokara Japan

Tokara at the 2nd Annual Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival Super Show.



Wadaiko Artist Art Lee and Wadaiko Ensemble Tokara has just finished our 2007 North America Tour; and with, the last leg of our 2007 World Tour in Australia, Japan, North America and Taiwan. This year was by far Tokara's busiest year as we had close to ten full concerts in Japan alone, as well as "Hirugami no Hibiki", our first one month showcase in Hirugami Onsen,

Japan. Our cast also changed with Yukari Ichise becoming full member for all shows, as well as Kordian Tetkov becoming the first extension member through the summer training program. We are very much looking forward to a full 2008 season, including very exciting U.S. and Japan tours with Ragamala Dance and Music Theater in April, May and September.

WHAT'S TO COME IN 2008

The next year brings with it many events performed by Art Lee and Wadaiko Ensemble Tokara. First is our second collaborative concert tour with Ragamala Dance and Music Theater in April and May 2008. These concerts are planned for a week run in Minneapolis and New Jersey. Then in September, Ragamala will join us here in Japan for our first joint Japan Tour. These two tours will debut the full version of SVA, the critically acclaimed piece which was



choreographed by Aparna Ramaswamy and composed by Art Lee. Coming in September, the Third Annual Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival will take place in Iida-city, Japan. This year will be the first year in which the festival will accept applications from taiko groups outside of Japan who wish to participate in the festival. Details of these events will soon be up on the Tokara website. We hope that you will join Tokara in looking forward to next year.

Upcoming Intensive Workshops

From the year 2008, there will be three opportunities to study in Japan with Art Lee and Wadaiko Ensemble Tokara.

The first will be the fourth year of the INADANI Taiko Drumming Course in Achi Village, Japan. The dates for the 2008 INADANI Taiko Drumming Course are June 16th - 28th. For details, see the website at:

<http://www.tokara.net/japantaikocourse.html>

From there, the first Tokara Summer Taiko Course is scheduled to take place from August 18th - 24th, and will include admission to the seventh annual Taiko Japan Concert and Contest in Tokyo.

In 2008, Tokara will be recruiting up to five new members during our upcoming 2008 - 2009 touring season. Training and auditions will be held during summer 2008. Please check the Tokara website for more details.

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