

WADAIKO TOKARA NEWS

January 2011

Upcoming Performances

May 6th - A Center for the Performing Arts, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, U.S.

May 29th - Kita Bunka Shogekijyo.
Nagoya City, Japan.

August 5 - 29 - Edinburgh, Scotland.
Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Sept. 30, Oct. 1 - Exeter, England.
Exeter Barnfield Theatre.



TOWARD THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

As I sit here in the new Tokara Office, I look back to the beginning of this adventure with amazement. In only six years, Tokara has come a long way from it's days as the Art Lee Taiko Ensemble. As I look forward to the future, I feel joy and anticipation for the possibilities to come.

We started moving in the space on December 31st just before the last performance of 2010 to bring in the new year. Then continued moving little by little until our public grand opening celebration on January 15th. Now the office is near to completion, and the work continues at a fast rate with lots of projects currently in the works.



"Tenchi Shinmei" Japan Tour 2010 in Nagoya City

For me, it's especially exciting as I can finally have a dedicated office space besides my home. For nine years, one small room of my home has been the office. Trying to balance professional life and private life in the same physical area is stressful, to say the least. However, Tokara grew successfully with that little room as the creative center.

For the members of the group, this office means an uninhibited space which belongs to all of the members. We can all work together, eat together, everything except practice...yes, we still need a dojo, and that is currently the number one goal.

ON TOUR

This year, Tokara brings two productions, "Michi no Sekai E" and "Tenchi Shinmei" on tour to India, the U.S., and many countries around Europe. These tour will be joined by our two new apprentices, Takafumi Onozawa and Kelly Reid. Onozawa-san debuted his first performance as an apprentice on December 31st at the Tokara New Year Mini Concert in Hirugami Onsen Resort. The group also plans to debut three new pieces this year, including new pieces with Ensemble Rivelta to debut in both Japan and Europe.



"Jyoraimeï" solo at the Iida Cultural Puppet theater



Ensemble Rivelta have been our partners for five years during many performances. They will join us for our "Tenchi Shinmei" Europe Tour in Edinburgh.



Tokara Returns to St. John's Church

Tokara returns in 2011 to perform at the Edinburgh Festival of Spirituality and Peace, within the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. We first performed in Edinburgh with Ragamala Dance in 2008. Then Tokara returned for two weeks of performance with the European debut of "Tenchi Shinmei".

This year, Tokara returns for the full festival, and will be joined by our Japan Tour partners, Ensemble Rivelta. Watch for details on touring dates for this year on the website:

<http://www.tokara.net/tenchishinmei/index-en.html>

Find us on the Web

[Tokara Official Website](#)

[Performance Schedule](#)

Touring Performances:

1. [Michi no Sekai E](#)

2. [Tenchi Shinmei](#)

[Tokara on YouTube](#)

[Tokara on Facebook](#)

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Thank you for supporting us for the years up to 2010.
We look forward to seeing you again in 2011 and much
more in the many years to come.

Wadaiko Artist Art Lee 藝李
Wadaiko Ensemble 遙Tokara遙

Upcoming Workshops and Classes

INADANI TAIKO DRUMMING COURSE

Beginners/Intermediate Course

June 20 - 25, 2011

This course is designed for the purpose of bringing the taiko practitioner closer to understanding the art that is Wadaiko in Japan. For this reason, the training site, nestled between the mountains of Shimoina, was specifically chosen to enhance an experience and atmosphere which cannot be had in any other country of the world. This course offers a unique experience as it takes place in the heart of Japan - Nagano Prefecture. Each participant will be surrounded by and immersed in the culture from which comes the heart and spirit of the Wadaiko.

Details can be found on the course website:
www.wadaikoworld.net/japantaikocourse.html

TOKARA WADAIKO BOOTCAMP

September 3 - 7, 2011 - Intermediate Course

September 10 - 14, 2011 - Advanced Course

The TOKARA Wadaiko Camp (also known as TOKARA Boot Camp) is an intensive course which introduces the participant to the training style of Tokara's full-time performing members. All material taught in this course are drills and performance pieces used by Art Lee and Tokara. 2011 marks the fifth anniversary of the Tokara Wadaiko Bootcamp. For this reason, the Tokara Bootcamp will offer separate Intermediate and Advanced Bootcamps and will take place in Leuven, Belgium.

Registration details can be found at:
<http://www.tokara.net/tokarabootcamp.pdf>