

September 13, 2022

Kabuki Actor Nakamura Shidō and Virtual Singer Hatsune Miku to Entertain Audiences around World with “Cho Kabuki” Stage Performance via Streaming, Presented by Shochiku

< Kabuki × Virtual Singer × NTT’s ICT Technology >

"Cho Kabuki" presented by Shochiku Co., Ltd. will be streamed from Kyoto, Japan, to foreign countries over the internet from 12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5, to 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11 (JST). It is an extraordinary Japanese stage performance that fuses Kabuki, a traditional Japanese theatre with more than 400 years of history, and a globally popular virtual singer that leads Japan’s pop culture, as well as Japan’s cutting-edge technology.

The "Cho Kabuki" stage performance will co-star Nakamura Shidō, a charismatic figure in the Kabuki world, and virtual diva Hatsune Miku. The impassioned Kabuki performance to be staged and recorded live at Kyoto's Minamiza Theatre, the most historic Kabuki theatre in Japan, on September 25, 2022, will be subsequently streamed online for audiences around the world with realistic sensations and English subtitles.



<On-demand Streaming Details>

An on-demand streaming event of “Cho Kabuki 2022 Powered by NTT”, recorded live at the Minamiza Theatre in Kyoto, Japan.

*This is a recording of the performance on Sept. 25 (Sun.) 3:30 p.m. (JST).

*Streamed with English subtitles.

*The streaming will cover countries and regions across the world except Mainland China and Japan (available in Hong Kong and Macau)

◆When:

From 12:00 a.m., October 5 (Wed.), to 11:59 p.m., October 11 (Tue.) (JST)

◆Time: On demand, around 1 hour and 30 minutes in running time.

◆Cost: JPY2,000 (tax excl.).

◆Register here: <https://shochiku-bd.zaiko.io/e/chokabuki2022>

<What's Kabuki>

Kabuki is a world-famous traditional Japanese performance art that will wow you with its grandness, from the performances to the costumes and makeup. Kabuki has more than 400 years of history, yet it is still the leader in live entertainment and Japanese culture today. The variety of productions ranges from the traditional classics to innovative Kabuki that integrates leading technology: themes vary from the pursuits of unwavering human drama to humorous and witty comedy, as well as dances filled with stylized beauty, in the infinite repertoire.

<About "Cho Kabuki">

"Cho Kabuki" is a special stage performance that combines Kabuki theatre with the cutting-edge ICT technology of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. ("NTT"). The unique performance will not only feature a host of popular Kabuki stars including Nakamura Shidō, but will also include the world's biggest virtual diva, Hatsune Miku. Don't miss out on this brand-new form of Kabuki featuring a fusion of the real and virtual worlds.

**<About the on-demand program>****Cho Kabuki "TOWA NO HANA HOMARE NO ISAOSHI"**

Taking inspiration from classical Kabuki plays about the famous political upheaval that took place in Japan in the year 645, as well as from one of Hatsune Miku's representative songs named 'The Disappearance of Hatsune Miku', this is an original work newly written for "Cho Kabuki".

The play centers on the tale of the hero *Kanawa no Gorō Imakuni*, played by Nakamura Shidō, who defeats *Soga no Iruka*, a villain who plans to usurp the throne. In love with *Imakuni* is *Princess Odamaki*, played by Hatsune Miku, who joins him in opposing *Iruka*. Her true form is revealed as the story portrays her sad and ephemeral fate.

Following the conventions of classical Kabuki, the hero *Imakuni* wears red 'kumadori' makeup, while the villain *Iruka* wears blue 'kumadori', as they do battle in a spectacular 'tachimawari' fight



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scene. Other scenes include an elegant dance performed by a kimono-clad Hatsune Miku, something that can only be seen in Cho Kabuki, as well as a scene using the latest digital technology to show multiple avatars of a magic white fox that come to *Imakuni's* aid. The struggle between *Princess Odamaki* and *Iruka* is also presented using 3D volumetric video technology. In this way, classical Kabuki and the latest ICT technology is fused together to create a work in which one exciting highlight follows another. At *Imakuni's* invitation, the audience will switch on their penlights so that the stage and the auditorium become one as the story progresses, another staging idea that is unique to Cho Kabuki.

Promotional video for “Cho Kabuki” stage performance (in Japanese):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yO_K0PQBzNQ

Cast:

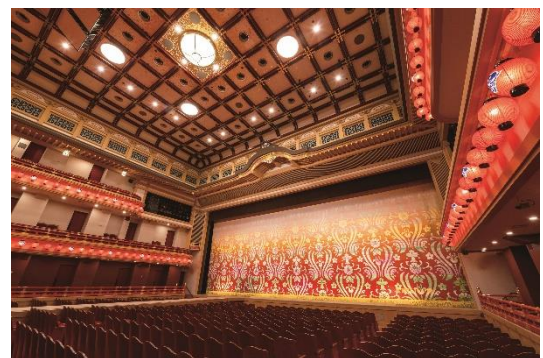
Nakamura Shidō (Kabuki actor)

Hatsune Miku (virtual singer)

<About the Minamiza Theatre, Kyoto>

The founding of the Minamiza Theatre goes all the way back to the beginning of the Edo Period (1596-1615). It is said that Izumo no Okuni performed 'Kabuki odori' ('Kabuki dances') in Kyoto in 1603 which attracted great attention, and during the same period, the dry bed of the Kamo River developed as a 'Theatre town' filled with the bustle and excitement of the people.

The Minamiza Theatre started around this time, and has stood at this place for over 400 years always remaining at the center of entertainment, including Kabuki.



Contact:

Business Planning and Development Department
Shochiku Co., Ltd.

Official Web site: <https://planning-development.shochiku.co.jp/en/>

Email: sh_engeki_kg_event@shochiku.co.jp