

JAPAN FORUM STAGED PLAY READING

KAMIOROSHI, THE DESCENT OF THE GODS

The Japanese theatrical tradition originated in religious ceremonies featuring kagura-music and dance entertainment for and of the gods. The tradition of summoning the god was preserved in the Noh theatre created in the 14th century. In Noh as in kagura the god entered the sacred space opened by the performance. Called by the Japanese flute the deity climbed down the pine tree painted on the rear wall of every Noh stage. In both kagura and Noh the descent of the deity is called kamioroshi. Similar to kagura and Noh performances, Kamioroshi occurs in sacred time and space. It bends and fuses both dimensions to bring a Shawnee Indian and an African American fugitive slave into an encounter with Japanese peasants during the violent and destructive creation of modernity. Discovering that they share many fundamental values in common, including the ideal of a humane and just world order, they set out on a pilgrimage to rectify the world.

Written and directed by **RON RICHARDSON**

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MARCH 1 (FRIDAY), 4:00-5:30 P.M.

Tsai Auditorium (S010), Japan Friends of Harvard Concourse, CGIS South Bldg., 1730 Cambridge St.

Co-sponsored by the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University; Boston University School of Theatre; Global Theatre Project at Boston University

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