Remember the feel of the real thing

If you ever visit Okinawa, you will want to take photos of its breathtakingly clear emerald-green sea.

The wonderful rich nature of Okinawa, where lots of endangered flora and fauna such as Okinawa rails and Iriomote wild cats live, is highly evaluated around the world and regarded as a Natural World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in July 2021, as “Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island”.

But it’s not only the great nature that is highly evaluated in Okinawa.

We also have rich culture, such as Kumi Odori, a traditional Ryukyuan narrative dance which is registered as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, as well as Ryukyuan cuisine and Awamori (distilled rice wine) that have been handed down for generations and were designated as Japanese Heritage in 2019.
In addition, Okinawa is well-known as the birthplace of Karate, which is one of the most popular martial arts all over the world and made its Olympic debut in Tokyo 2020.
Indeed, Okinawan performing arts and martial arts have been developed and handed down since the Ryukyu Kingdom period and are highly recognized worldwide.

Kumi Odori originated in the Ryukyu Kingdom to entertain foreign guests. The Okinawan Plays were created as entertainment for the general public when Okinawa became a prefecture. Since both are performed in the Okinawan language, they have been performed mainly for Okinawans.

We have now prepared a viewing guide that explains the Okinawan dialogue in English via smartphone application, so that even those from overseas can enjoy the show. When you come to Okinawa, please enjoy the world-class Ryukyuan and Okinawan performing arts. The excitement of experiencing the real thing will be a memory that lasts forever.

Guide to the Okinawa Theatre and Kumiodori Viewing Guide

The audio guide is provided via Zoom on your smartphone

The guide can be reached by scanning the QR code at the venue

Wearing earphones is recommended for a more comfortable viewing experience

- ⚠ There will be no instructions on how to use the Zoom app on the day of the event
- ⚠ Please make sure to download the Zoom app to your smartphone in advance and confirm how to operate it
- ⚠ Smartphones and earphones are not available for rental

Preservation and inheritance of Ryukyuan languages

Okinawa Prefecture has five Ryukyuan languages (Kunigami, Okinawan, Miyako, Yaeyama, and Yonaguni) with archaic Japanese characteristics that UNESCO recognised as languages in danger of extinction in 2009.

The revenue is used to conserve and spread the Ryukyu Islands' languages, which are in danger of extinction.

Application & Inquiry

General Incorporated Association Uchinaguchi School

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Check out our latest updates on social media!

New attractions in Okinawa
Okinawan Play and Kumi Odori

Bask in the thrill of discovering the true Okinawa

General Incorporated Association Uchinaguchi School

Okinawan Play

Boshibari

Recommended for first-time viewers of Okinawan performing arts. Suitable for all ages and nationalities.

Okinawan Play 'Boshibari'

①Experience Okinawan music — approx. 10 mins

②Commentary on the Okinawa play — approx. 7 mins

③Okinawan play "Boshibari" — approx. 40 mins

What is Okinawan Play?

It is said that Okinawan Plays were first performed by royal entertainers of the Ryukyu Kingdom, known as “Shizoku”, as entertainment for the general public after the abolition of clans and establishment of the prefectural system, known as “Haihan-chiken”, occurred in 1879. In their golden age, so many citizens flocked to the theaters, and there were even large numbers of fans waiting at the back doors for the popular actors.

那覇市歴史博物館提供

Okinawan Plays have a history of over 140 years, they are approachable even for those new to Okinawan performing arts, since they were originally written for common people.

Through Okinawan Plays, you can have a look at people’s daily life from the unique and humorous perspective of Okinawan people. The whole venue will be filled with laughter.

Kumi Odori

The Kumi Odori Appreciation Program "Shushin Kaneiri" and "Cinderella"

After learning how to enjoy Kumiodori through the appreciation program, you will be able to enjoy this world-renowned performing art of the Ryukyus, Kumiodori, a globally recognized performing art of the Ryukyu Kingdom, will be available for viewing.

Cinderella

The story is complete only when the audience performs on stage.

Even first-time viewers can enjoy learning how to appreciate Kumiodori.

Shushin Kaneiri

Registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (2010)

The Kumi Odori Appreciation Program "Shushin Kaneiri" and "Cinderella"

①The Kumi Odori Appreciation Program "Cinderella" — approx. 45 mins

②The Kumi Odori "Shushin Kaneiri" — approx. 45 mins

Kumi Odori "Shushin Kaneiri" Synopsis

A handsome young boy was heading to Shuri for work. On his way there the sun had set, so he asked to stay in a house in which a young woman was staying by herself. At first the woman refuses, because her parents weren't there, but after learning that he's the famously handsome boy whom she has a crush on, she finally decides to let him stay. But, where will her love for him lead...?

Facilities overview

Palette Civic Theater

Location
1-1-1 Kumoji, Naha City, Palette Kumoji 9F

Capacity
391 people

Website
https://naha-palette.jp/gekijo/

Times Hall

Location
2-2-2 Kumoji, Naha City

Capacity
356 people

Website
https://okinawatimes.jp/contact/facility/

Nahart Small Theatre

Location
3-26-27 Kumoji, Naha City

Capacity
259 people

Website
https://www.nahart.jp/use/s_hall/

Nahart Grand Theater

Location
3-26-27 Kumoji, Naha City

Capacity
1,586 people

Website
https://www.nahart.jp/use/l_hall/

Tenbusu Hall

Location
3-2-10 Makishi, Naha City

Capacity
246 people

Website
https://tenbusukan.jp/about.html