

EAST MEETS WEST: THEATRE TRADITIONS UNIT

NOH THEATRE

History	Performance	Technical
<p>Oldest of the traditional forms of Japanese Theatre</p> <p>The word Noh translates to “skill” or “talent”</p> <p>Founded in the 14th century by Kan’ami and his son Zeami</p> <p>Developed from religious ceremonial dancing</p> <p>Considered the entertainment of the upper classes</p>	<p>Slow and specific expressive movement used to tell the story</p> <p>Highly stylized art form</p> <p>Stories taken from classical literature and accompanied by music and song</p> <p>Training in the art form is passed down from father to son</p> <p>Protagonist in the story is known as the Shite</p> <p>Performers wear character-specific masks (like women and demons)</p> <p>In addition to the performer categories (Shite, Waki, kyōgen), there are musicians (Hayashi), and chanters/singers (Jiutai) onstage during the performance</p>	<p>The stage has no scenery except for a pine tree painted on the back wall</p> <p>There are specific areas for musicians and singers</p> <p>The stage has a runway/bridgeway that leads to the backstage</p> <p>Instruments used include a flute and various drums (like the Taiko drum)</p>