



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Kwaidan

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A Film by Masaki Kobayashi

Friday, October 5, 2012 7:30 – 9:30 PM

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

Kwaidan consists of four ghost stories adapted from the fiction of Greek-born Lafcadio Hearn (a.k.a. Yakumo Koizumi, 1850-1904), who based them on old Japanese folk tales. According to legend, Hoichi the Earless is a blind minstrel with amazing gifts for the Japanese lute. He is particularly good at performing the *Tale of the Heike*, an epic describing the fall of Emperor Antoku, who is buried at Amidaji Temple – the very temple where Hoichi is living. His performances are so wonderful that even the ghosts hearing them are moved to tears. The ghosts like his singing so much that they want to drag him away to the next world, but he is protected after his body is painted with the characters of the *Prajnaparamita sutra* – all parts of his body, that is, except his ears. Three additional ghost stories comprise the remainder of *Kwaidan*. All four stories start out as normal tales, and it is only gradually, by degrees, that ghostly horrors come into play – an ideal film for the Halloween season. Spoken in Japanese with English subtitles.

Admission is free.

