



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Noh Dojoji

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Friday, October 18, 2013 7:30 – 9:30 PM

113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016

Noh Dojoji is a Noh drama based on an old legend. A mountain yamabushi (a Buddhist ascetic) occasionally visited the home of a poor farmer and his daughter. The farmer jokingly told his daughter that someday the yamabushi would become her husband. The girl innocently believed him, and when she came of age, asked the yamabushi to marry her. He turned her down, and when she became enraged, ran away from her, making his way to Dojoji temple. There, the monks lowered the huge temple bell and hid the yamabushi underneath the bell. The girl, in hot pursuit, found her way blocked by the Hidaka river in flood, without a boat to cross. So intense was her rage that she transformed into a river serpent of the fire-breathing variety, swam across the river, entered Dojoji temple and wrapped herself around the temple bell. She generated a heat so intense that the yamabushi roasted to death inside the bell!

The play itself begins many years later, at the time of a dedication ceremony for a new temple bell. This is a full-length 109 minute Noh drama, with English-language commentary on the action. It features the famous Noh actor Umewaka Rokuro, and is filmed at the Noh theatre at Nagoya Nohgakudo. Noh drama is poetry and music in slow-motion, and this should be borne in mind. Modern audiences acclimated to fast action may find the slow pace not to their liking. *Noh Dojoji* is classical Noh drama at its best.

Admission is free.

