

CAMBODIA

December 2, 2006
Saturday, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

- **Cambodia: Language, Culture and Social Issues**
by Chhany Sak-Humphry

Cambodia is a very poor nation, still suffering from the devastating effects of war and the viciousness of the Khmer Rouge in the last century. This talk will give an overview of Cambodia's Khmer language, with its roots in India and its long literary tradition, as well as looking at cultural and social issues stemming from the destruction of the traditional way of life, and current efforts to revive Cambodia's vitality with educational and economic reforms.

JAPAN

November 25, 2006
Saturday, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

- **Kyogen: Medieval Japanese Comedy Alive and Well in the 21st Century**
by Julie A. Iezzi
The 600-year-old comic form of kyogen is in the midst of a major "boom" in Japan. This lively talk, illustrated with photos, video clips and live performance, will outline a general history of kyogen, introduce common characters and situations encountered in plays, and demonstrate movement and staging conventions.

CHINA

November 25, 2006
Saturday, 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

- **Understanding Chinese social conventions through Chinese comedy**
by Cynthia Ning
Finding "funny" the humor of a society other than one's own is highly challenging. Basically, one needs to understand the nuances of interaction in that society in order to grasp what is being distorted for comic effect. Through an examination of Chinese jokes, extracts from comic literature, and film, this talk will explore some conventions underlying current Chinese society.

CHINA

November 18, 2006
Saturday, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

- **Chinese Theatre from a Western Perspective**
by Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak
A discussion of the aesthetics of Chinese "opera" as understood by a Westerner who has studied it for over 25 years, this lecture will be illustrated with video clips of performances both by students from the University of Hawaii, and by the master teachers from China who trained them.

SPECIAL LECTURE

November 18, 2006
Sunday, 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

- **Religion and Humor**
by Lee A. Siegel
This talk will focus on the function of laughter both within and against Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Professor Siegel will argue that religion and one's sense of humor are inversely proportional, in that to the degree one is religious, one has no sense of humor; and to the degree one has a sense of humor, one is not religious.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dates

China & Special – November 18, 2006
Japan & China – November 25, 2006
Cambodia – December 2, 2006

*All sessions take place on Saturday mornings, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Place

University of Hawaii — Manoa Campus
• November 18 - Campus Center Room #220
• November 25 - Campus Center Room #220
• December 2 - Kuykendahl Hall Room #210

Registration

All participants are requested to pre-register. Please complete a registration form and send it to the Center.

Fees

Fees are waived for all Hawaii residents.

For additional information, contact:

The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange
1616 Makiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone: (808) 942-8553
Fax: (808) 941-9575
e-mail: cape@cape.edu
<http://www.cape.edu>

CAPE Language & Culture Seminar Fall 2006

- I want to attend course(s) in:
 China & Special: November 18, 2006
 Japan & China: November 25, 2006
 Cambodia: December 2, 2006

- Please return this form to:
The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange
1616 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

Fees:

Fees are waived for all Hawaii residents.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Job Title _____

Business Address _____

Phone _____

You may assume that you are registered in the seminar unless otherwise notified. No written confirmation of participation will be given.



SEMINAR FACULTY

Julie A. Iezzi is an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawaii. In her 12 years in Japan, she studied kyogen, several genres of Japanese traditional narrative singing, and shamisen. She has published on both kabuki and kyogen, and most recently was guest editor for a special edition of *Asian Theatre Journal* devoted to kyogen, due out in spring 2007. She is presently directing the University of Hawaii's 2006-2007 Kyogen Training, Production and Outreach Project, which will end in the public performance of four plays in January 2007 at the Kennedy Theatre.

Cynthia Ning is Associate Director of the University of Hawaii's Center for Chinese Studies, and Executive Director of the national/international Chinese Language Teachers' Association. She teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in Chinese film and language, and has published Chinese language textbooks through Yale University Press. She is currently working on a handbook for teaching Chinese film.

Chhany Sak-Humphry is an assistant professor in Khmer and the Coordinator of the Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawaii. Her research specializations include Old Khmer language and modern Khmer, as well as foreign language teaching and learning using technology. She has been awarded grants by the U.S. Department of Education to produce Khmer-language textbooks, with *Communicating in Khmer: An Interactive Third-Year Level* (books and CD-ROMs) due to appear shortly. In addition to her extensive teaching experience, Dr. Sak-Humphry has used her expertise, in several professional capacities, to work with and serve as an advocate for refugees and immigrants.

Lee A. Siegel has been a professor of Indian religions in the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii since 1976. He has traveled in India frequently over the last thirty years for research and language study, and is a prolific writer of both scholarly works and novels. Indological publications include *Laughing Matters: India's Comic Tradition* (University of Chicago Press, 1987) and *The Gitagovinda of Jayadeva: Love Songs of Radha and Krishna* (The Clay Sanskrit Library and New York University Press, 2007). His novels include *Love and Other Games of Chance* (Viking-Penguin, 2003), and, most recently, *Who Wrote the Book of Love?: A Chronicle of the Sexual Life of an American Boy in the 1950s* (University of Chicago Press, 2005), published to wide critical acclaim.

Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak is Professor of Theatre and Director of the Asian Theatre Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Theatre and Dance, where she received her Ph.D. in Asian Theatre. While carrying out the field research for her doctoral dissertation, she became the first non-Chinese to perform Jingju ("Beijing opera") in the People's Republic of China. Since that time she has written and published on the performance structure and aesthetics of Chinese theatre. She has translated and directed one modern, one newly-written historical, and four classical Jingju plays at the University of Hawaii; at Chinese invitation, three of the classical productions were given extensive performance tours of mainland China. Dr. Wichmann-Walczak is the first honorary (and first non-Chinese) member of the National Xiqu ("Chinese opera") Institute and of the Chinese Theatre Artists Associations of Shanghai and of Jiangsu Province. She has received the National Xiqu Music Association's Kong Sanchuan award for excellence in research, creation, and performance, as well as the Second National Festival of Jingju Golden Chrysanthemum Award for outstanding achievements in promoting and developing Jingju.

The CAPE Language and Culture Seminar is intended to familiarize the business and leisure visitor to Asian countries with basic cultural information and language forms, in order that they may interact effectively with residents of countries they will visit. The seminar, which this year features the languages, cultures, and theater traditions of China, Japan, and Cambodia, will focus upon (1) understanding the country and its people, (2) basic language backgrounds, (3) characteristics of personal relations, and (4) social customs and etiquette. In the current atmosphere of world change, it is increasingly important to expand our knowledge, whenever possible, in regard to other countries and customs.

Seminars span three hours and are scheduled on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The 2006 Seminar schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, November 18:
Chinese Theatre from a Western Perspective
Religion and Humor
- Saturday, November 25:
Kyogen: Medieval Japanese Comedy Alive
and Well in the 21st Century
Understanding Chinese Social Conventions
through Chinese Comedy
- Saturday, December 2:
Cambodia: Language, Culture, and Social
Issues

Lectures provided by university faculty specialized in the country will be followed by ample time for discussion and feedback. All lectures are free to the public; however, registration is required (please write, call, fax, or e-mail - see contact information below) as space is limited.

All those interested, whether planning travel or simply curious, are encouraged to attend the seminars where a wealth of information will be provided. Please plan to attend any or all of these informative and timely presentations on China, Japan and Cambodia. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

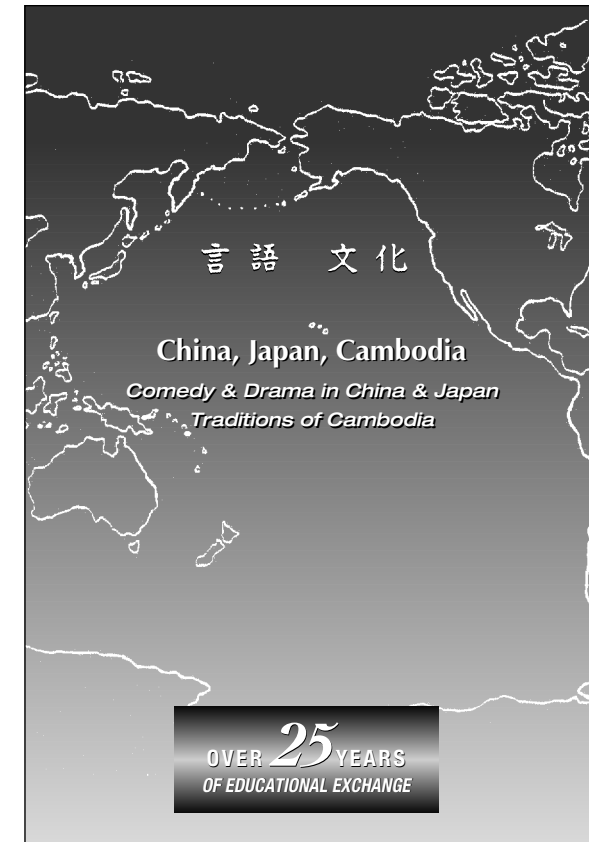
With warm Aloha,

The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange
Honolulu, Hawaii

THE CENTER FOR ASIA-PACIFIC EXCHANGE, a publicly supported, non-profit, educational institution, was established in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 1980.

For additional information write to:
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The Seventeenth Annual LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SEMINAR China, Japan, Cambodia Fall 2006



 **THE CENTER FOR ASIA-PACIFIC EXCHANGE**
HONOLULU, HAWAII