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.

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.

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.

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.

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) 941-8553
Fax: (808) 941-9575
e-mail: cape@cape.edu
http://www.cape.edu
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 Hawai`i 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 Hawai’i; at Chinese Theatre. Understanding Chinese Social Conventions through Chinese Comedy Saturday, December 2: Cambodia: Language, Culture, and Social Issues

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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1616 Malikl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
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Website: www.cape.edu

The Seventeenth Annual LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SEMINAR
China, Japan, Cambodia
Fall 2006

China, Japan, Cambodia
Comedy & Drama in China & Japan
Theories of Drama & Performance
Traditions of Cambodia

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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

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