



JAPANESE DRUM TROUPE, KODO, BRINGS *DADAN* TO JORGENSEN

Thurs, Mar 9, 2017, 7:30 pm

Kodo Presents the North American Premiere of DADAN: Celebrating a Sensational 35 Years, The World's Supreme Taiko Drumming Troupe Brings Unparalleled Artistry and Athleticism to UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts

Kodo – the world’s foremost professional taiko company which has singularly played the most important role in popularizing modern taiko drumming -- will present their program *DADAN* in North America for the first time, visiting 22 U.S. cities between January and March 2017, with a Jorgensen tour stop scheduled on March 9. Forging new directions for the traditional Japanese drum, Kodo will bring a display of raw athleticism and rhythmic mastery to U.S. audiences with their cutting-edge and ever-evolving production featuring the men of Kodo in a bold portrayal of the essence of drumming through this vibrant living art form. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Performance begins at 7:30 pm.

Simultaneously raw and refined, *DADAN* was created by artistic director and Japanese “Living National Treasure”, Tamasaburo Bando. Simply meaning “Drumming Men”, *DADAN* features only the company’s young male members and is unique among Kodo’s programs in its absence of singing, dancing, flutes and female performers. Instead, this production exclusively uses taiko drums of all shapes and sizes, as well as other forms of percussion. The climax of *DADAN* features a succession of compelling solos, and with each new drummer’s relentless and rhythmic pounding of the *hirado o-daiko* (big low drum), the reverberations build to soul-stirring heights. The solos then crescendo into a round of rousing ensemble pieces, completely immersing the audience in sound as they watch the taiko soar to new levels. More than any other piece in the Kodo repertoire, *DADAN* simultaneously challenges the limits of the player’s physical, technical, psychological and spiritual talents. *DADAN* saw its world premiere in Tokyo in September 2009, and its foreign debut at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, France, with four sold-out performances in 2012. The production toured across Japan in 2012 and was showcased twice at the “Earth Celebration” annual international performing arts festival on Sado Island. Tours of Spain and France followed during 2014, and in October 2015, *DADAN* was performed in Hong Kong — a first in Asia outside of Japan. The South American debut took place in March of 2016 in Brazil, and the 2017 *DADAN* performances will be its first North American tour.

ABOUT KODO

In Japanese, the word “Kodo” holds a double meaning. It can be translated as “heartbeat,” the primal source of all rhythm. If read in a different context however, Kodo can also mean “children of the drum,” which reflects the group’s desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child. Since the group’s debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo has given 5,800 performances in 49 countries on five continents (this figure includes 3,900 performances under the “One Earth” banner). The ensemble also participates in a wide range of projects

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Quick Reference

Event

KODO - *DADAN* 2017

Date

Thurs, Mar 9, 7:30 pm

Place

Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets

\$40, \$37, \$34

Box Office

860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also open for walk-up ticket sales 90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

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KODO, continued

and events, which includes headlining major international festivals, contributing to motion picture soundtracks, and collaborating with a wide variety of global performing arts leaders.

Kodo's members, staff and apprentices live in Kodo Village, a 33 acre self-contained section of the Ogi Peninsula on Sado Island in the Sea of Japan, isolated from the rest of the island's residents. Since 1971 Sado Island has been the home to Kodo, some of the most disciplined performers in the world, whose work and artistry transcends borders, genre and time. In this beautiful natural environment Kodo developed their extraordinary compound, devoted to creativity, education and exchange which includes a central office building, a rehearsal hall, residential building and guest house, a workshop, a recording studio, and the legendary Kodo Apprentice Center. For more information, visit http://www.kodo.or.jp/index_en.html.

ABOUT TAMASABURO BANDO

Tamasaburo Bando is a leading Kabuki actor, and the most popular and celebrated *onnagata* (actor specializing in female roles) currently on stage. His theatrical directing credits include *Romeo & Juliet* and *Kaijin Besso* and he has directed the films *Gekashitsu*, *Yume no Onna*, and *Tenshu Monogatari*. In 2012, Bando became the artistic director of the Kodo ensemble and was recognized as an Important Intangible Cultural Property Holder ("Living National Treasure") in Japan. In 2013 he was decorated with the highest honor—Commander— of France's Order of Arts and Letters.

Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the Hartford Courant's CTNOW, as well as Connecticut Magazine's Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state's educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor Seats - \$40; Mezzanine - \$37; Balcony - \$34; Students & Youth Under 18 - All seats \$15.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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