

## Contestants from the Miss International Pageant Participate in Japanese Traditional Culture Programs, Organized by Arts Council Tokyo

Contestants from the Miss International pageant, Jia Shi (China), Seung Woo Nam (Korea), and Ling Tzu Hsieh (Taiwan), participated in the Japanese traditional culture programs, organized by the Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture). During their time in Japan, the three visitors participated in the Kabuki workshop with a professional kabuki actor, Nakamura Hashigo, and also participated in the Nihon Buyo workshop. They also took part in the “Edo Asobi - Nihonbashi Traditional Culture Festival,” which took place in Nihonbashi from November 3rd to November 5th.



The contestants from the three countries started the day by participating in the Kabuki workshop, which took place at Kyoraku-TEI, located in COREDO Muromachi 3, 3F. After an explanation by a kabuki actor, Hashigo Nakamura, the three took photos with props used in kabuki, including a katana. Miss Shi of China seemed excited, noting that she was “surprised at the history and tradition behind each prop.”

Next, all three participated in the Edo Asobi - Nihonbashi Traditional Culture Festival. They explored the open-air classes at “Traditional Culture Street,” while experiencing the Edo-inspired atmosphere.

After participating in the festival, the Miss International contestants watched and took part in the Nihon Buyo workshop at the Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center, while wearing the customary Japanese attire, yukata. After watching the “Fuji Musume (Wisteria Maiden)” dance, Miss Ling of Taiwan, visibly excited, said “the yukata was incredibly beautiful.” Miss Nam of Korea was struck by the “difficulty in performing each move, because there is so much meaning expressed in every gesture.”



Taking photos at “Traditional Culture Street”



Performing “Sakura Sakura”

## About the Japanese Traditional Culture Programs

The three contestants from the Miss International pageant participated in the following programs organized by Arts Council Tokyo. While the Edo Asobi - Nihonbashi Traditional Culture Festival and Kabuki workshop have concluded, the Nihon Buyo workshop remains in session until March 2018. More details about the program are listed below.

### ■ Kabuki Workshop

Kabuki is a traditional Japanese art form incorporating elements from music, dance, and acting. They explored the props, gestures, poses, and make-up involved in the theater, after an explanation by professional kabuki actor, Nakamura Hashigo, about the origins of kabuki.



Explanation of the poses in kabuki by Nakamura Hashigo

Dates : November 4(sat), November 5(sun), 2017  
 Venue : Kyoraku-TEI (located inside COREDO Muromachi 3, 3F) and harappa Nihonbashi  
 Admission : Free



Learning about the "karakuri puppet" prop

### ■ Nihon Buyo Workshop

Try on a yukata, and learn how to dance "Sakura Sakura," a famous Japanese folk song, then watch professional dancers perform "Fuji Musume (Wisteria Maiden)." After the performance, take pictures with the instructor in your yukata.

Dates : April 2017 to March 2018, on most Sundays  
 (There are some exceptions. )  
 Time : 11:00-12:00, 13:00-14:00, 15:00-16:00  
 Venue : Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center 6F  
 Admission : Free  
 Participation : Advance application not required  
 (approx. 20 participants each time, first come, first served on 1st floor of the venue)  
 Website: <http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/program/033/>



Taking photos in a yukata



Taking photos with the instructor

The latest information about these programs will be available in English and Japanese at the links below.

Website : <http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/TokyoTradition>

Twitter : [https://twitter.com/TYO\\_tradition](https://twitter.com/TYO_tradition)

Note: Available programs may be subject to change.

#### Contact Information

Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program PR Office (coordinated by ANTIL Inc.)  
 Point of contact: Kubota, Takeda, Tanabe, or Sakai  
 Phone: 03-6825-3020 / FAX: 03-6685-5266 / Email: [press@tokyo-tradition.jp](mailto:press@tokyo-tradition.jp)