

HIDEAKI TAKIZAWA INTRODUCES NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN SEGMENT FOR TAKIZAWA KABUKI'S SINGAPORE SHOWS

The star and director of the blockbuster personally handpicked 12 young local dancers to perform with him in a special SG50 tribute segment

SINGAPORE, 2 June 2015 | Hideaki Takizawa, the star and director of *Takizawa Kabuki*, will share the stage with 12 young local dancers in a special SG50 tribute segment for the eagerly-anticipated Singapore shows in August at Marina Bay Sands.

Hideaki Takizawa had personally handpicked the talented aspiring dancers, from the ages of seven to 14, in a dance audition held yesterday. The aspiring dancers from Dance Factory, Dancepointe Ballet and dAcademy under Dancepointe Academy will perform alongside the star at The Mastercard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands, from 18-23 August 2015.

In conjunction with Singapore's Golden Jubilee and to celebrate the first overseas performance of *Takizawa Kabuki*, Hideaki Takizawa has choreographed an exclusive and never-before-seen dance routine to a specially-arranged medley of songs. He hoped the performance of the special segment would not only add a unique Singaporean touch to his 10-year-old theatre show, but also serve as a platform to inspire and nurture young dance talents.

Takizawa Kabuki, an electrifying live entertainment show featuring elements of pop and Japanese cultures, is directed by Johnny Kitagawa, the founder and president of Johnny & Associates, the foremost talent agency in Japan, and holder of three titles of Guinness World Records for the most number of top acts produced by an individual. The show is presented by Shochiku Company, which is the only organisation that plans, produces and promotes kabuki performances in Japan and overseas.

This is the first ever overseas performance of *Takizawa Kabuki*, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. The theme of this year's show is **Four Seasons of Japan**. For its first overseas show, the producers have spared no efforts to create a spectacular theatrical experience the audience will remember for life. The first overseas performance will comprise a selection of the best scenes from past *Takizawa Kabuki* shows. In addition to bringing in a strong entourage of 120 performers and crew, a snow machine will be brought in to create real snow for a segment of the show.

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Chief Executive Officer of Marina Bay Sands, Mr George Tanasijevech said the integrated resort is delighted to be the venue for Takizawa's global curtain raiser: "Hideaki Takizawa has chosen to stage his first overseas performance at Marina Bay Sands while working with Singaporean youths during Singapore's Jubilee Anniversary. This is a meaningful collaboration and we are very excited about the performance."

A mega theatrical production with exceptionally high production value, *Takizawa Kabuki* features lavish sets and besides stellar singing, dancing and acting, it incorporates awe-inspiring elements, such as acrobatics using bungee ropes, never-before-seen taiko drumming stunts, breathtaking illusions, exciting Samurai action, and a segment dedicated to the untold story of the legendary Samurai, Yoshitsune Minamoto.

The well-loved entertainment show is the product of nine years of accumulated knowledge and experience by the star of the show, Hideaki Takizawa. He holds the prestigious record as the youngest featured actor to lead a theatrical company in the history of the renowned Shinbashi Enbujo theatre in Tokyo. Through his interpretation of traditional Japanese culture and arts, *Takizawa Kabuki* was brought to life by his mesmerizing performance, with the help of state-of-the-art technology. Since 2010, Hideaki Takizawa has gone beyond his role as a featured artist to direct the show, and has received critical acclaim for staging astounding shows successfully.

Takizawa Kabuki premiered its 10th Anniversary show to massive acclaim at the prestigious Shinbashi Enbujo Theatre in Tokyo in April. All 70,000 tickets were sold out in days.

A blockbuster not to be missed by the whole family, *Takizawa Kabuki* showcases the best of Japan's theatrical culture, and will undoubtedly re-define audience's theatre experience.

Tickets for *Takizawa Kabuki* are on sale now at all Sistic outlets, and priced at S\$170, S\$115 and S\$95 respectively.

Showtimes are scheduled as below:

Date/Day	Showtime
18 August 2015 (Tuesday)	7:30pm
19 August 2015 (Wednesday)	7:30pm
20 August 2015 (Thursday)	3pm and 7:30pm
21 August 2015 (Friday)	7:30pm
22 August 2015 (Saturday)	3pm and 7:30pm
23 August 2015 (Sunday)	3pm

Note: Photos taken during the press conference are only allowed for distribution on PRINT media, and may NOT be distributed or share on online platforms or social media. Similarly, no visual or audio recording of the press conference may be distributed or shared on online platforms or social media. Thank you for your cooperation.

About Takizawa Kabuki

This 10th anniversary Takizawa Kabuki show will be a showcase of signature styles of play - world-class entertainment with breathtaking performances. The performance on 14 May 2015 will also mark the 500th performance of the show from Takizawa Enbujo 2006.

About Marina Bay Sands

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

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Shochiku 120th Anniversary