



Showko

Japanese Traditional Sit-Down Comedy

Showko is a professional Rakugo performer. Based in London, Osaka, Singapore and now Melbourne, she has appeared regularly on TV and Radio and performing internationally in theatres and festivals such as the Edinburgh and Brighton Fringe, Norwich Puppet Festival UK, Little Angel Theatre London, and the National Bunraku Puppet Theatre and Hanjotei Rakugo Theatre in Japan.

Description:

A unique and entertaining traditional Japanese performance designed to engage children's imaginations through storytelling and play.

Rakugo and **Bamboo Art (Nankin Tamasudare)** are 400-year-old forms of Japanese traditional entertainment that allow each child to have a personal mental image of what they see and experience.

In **Rakugo**, kneeling Showko tells a humorous story, acting out the characters and describing the scene with the help of only two basic props.

Bamboo Art is a surprising and fun activity that can magically transform a humble bamboo blind into many different things.



Rakugo Ventriloquism is Showko's original performance designed to capture hearts through laughter with beloved puppets *Ninja Ken* and *Sushi Monster*. Through their antics and harmless comedy that make children laugh from the bottom of their hearts, they teach the Japanese concept of 'Wa' which promotes peace and harmony.

Shows can be adjusted depending on audience and time.



Rakugo introduction:
Rakugo is a 400yr old form of traditional Japanese performance where the artist kneels on a cushion and delivers a comic story, acting out all the characters by themselves.



Puppet Rakugo:
Japanese performance combining Rakugo with hand-made puppets and ventriloquism to deliver a comic story.



Miracle bamboo blind:
What looks like a normal bamboo blind magically transforms into different things with this 400 year old traditional artform.



Bookings and Enquiries:
Nexus Arts www.nexusarts.com.au
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Feedback for Showko



Thank you Showko and Nexus Arts for coming to perform at Giralang Primary School!! Our students loved it and were captivated by Showko's animated and vibrant performance. Our students ranged from preschool through to Year 6 and were thoroughly entertained for the entire hour. Showko offered a cultural experience that is unique and which encouraged the students to use their imaginations. It was wonderful to see them so engaged and joyful. I would definitely recommend Showko's performance to other schools as an uplifting and engaging experience in Japanese sit down comedy.

Hope to see you again!

Linda Morgan, Giralang PS, ACT

Your show complimented our "Japanese Cultural Day" perfectly. The students were entertained, laughed lots and the use of props etc were great! The students were familiar with the terminology as they learn Japanese here at our school. They all loved the puppet and the giant sushi. So hilarious!! Many were captivated and impressed with the ventriloquist skills you have mastered. Very good!! You were happy, friendly and enjoyable to watch.

Tanunda Primary, SA

Showko is an extremely talented performer whose colourful Rakugo performance captivated students' imaginations from Prep to Year 6. Very humorous – highly recommend! Warranwood PS, Melbourne VIC



I was thrilled with your show . All children from pre school to Year 6 were mesmerised and delighted by your performance - it was such a perfect centrepiece to our annual Japanese Day. Everytime I walked past the hall I saw children and teachers thoroughly engaged, amazed and having such fun! We all loved naughty Ninja Ken! It was great that you could pitch each performance differently depending on the age group of the children. The experience was culturally authentic and you made Japanese rakugo so accessible to Australian children!

Kaleen PS, ACT

Brilliant... Fantastic... Entertaining... Engaging!! Our Principal and Vice Principal looked on amazed at how good Showko was. She did a performance in front of 88 Preps. They were engaged from the very first moment and when the puppets came out we had lost them, they were totally under Showko's spell. She should be the star attraction of a school Japanese Day!!! Wow.

Aaron Cox, Kingswood PS, VIC

Students absolutely loved the performance! Showko was fantastic. The students loved her. They commented that she was so funny! Thank you.

Miyuki Manzaki, Glen Waverley South PS, VIC

The kids absolutely loved Showko! I have never seen them laugh so much and get so excited. I asked the Year 1's I had today what their favorite part of the day was, and overwhelmingly they said Showko's puppet show. She was a big success.

Helen Atkins, Williamstown North PS, VIC

My students and teachers all fell in love with Ninja Ken! Showko made children easily laugh by Japanese traditional art form "Rakugo"... You must see her amazing skill. Highly recommended.

Ashburton Primary School, Melbourne VIC

The children loved it, the staff loved it, and everyone just laughed. It was a most enjoyable experience!

Camden Education Dept., London UK



Feedback for Showko



Showko was excellent. Great with all age groups and totally engaging. Recommend to any one.

Warrnambool Primary School, VIC

Thank you for a super show today. The children (and adults alike) were mesmerized by your performance and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. You have a rare talent in being able to capture the imagination and attention of your audience of 2 years old to adults. We were all spellbound!

Swallows and Amazons Childhood Enrichment Center, Singapore

The students, teachers and parents were all knocked out by Showko's performance!

Setagaya Ward, Tokyo Education Dept., Japan

The kids absolutely loved Showko! I have never seen them laugh so much and get so excited. She was a big success.

Williamstown North Primary School, VIC

Very captivated – love the ninja! Laughed hysterically over the ninja and monster. Showko was a great, enthusiastic, very animated performer. The props were fantastic!

Yarra Primary School, VIC
