



AGORA PLACE
ASAKUSA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Experience and Enjoy the Japanese Traditional Art for Free!
ENGLISH RAKUGO
Event Held on Every Last Tuesday of the Month
Starting from Oct 31st, 2017

Tokyo, October 6th 2017 – AGORA Hotel Alliance member, AGORA PLACE ASAKUSA (Address: 2-2-9 Kotobuki, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0042, General Manager: Toshiki Sakaguchi, Room: 145) will hold a new event “Rakugo – Japanese Traditional Narrative Art –”, through which guests are able to enjoy the traditional Japanese art of *Rakugo* in English, every last Tuesday of the month starting from October 31st, 2017.

〈Background and Aims of the event〉

Asakusa is a popular sightseeing spot in Tokyo for both Japanese and inbound guests. About 75% of our hotel guests are from overseas. Thus far, we have produced unique accommodation plans including experiences such as Edo Kiriko Glass Cutting Experience and Kimono Experience, as Japanese Cultural Experiences series, with the hope that all of our guests can enjoy and truly experience Japan. This time, as we hope more guests are able to experience this series, we have decided to hold a monthly Rakugo event in English, one of the Japanese traditional arts that has been around since the Edo era.

〈RAKUGO〉

Rakugo, a form of Japanese oratory entertainment, developed during the Edo era. In the middle to end of Edo era, a structure for Rakugo performances, called *Yose*, was built in various places in Japan. There are still a few *Yose* left in Tokyo where Rakugo performances can be seen every day. Performers usually play two or more characters using only body gestures and facial expressions, and the story always ends with a punch line called *ochi* (fall, drop).

〈Rakugo Performer〉

Performing for us will be Kanariya Eiraku, who participated in *Rakugo Tatekawa-ryu* in the past, one of the largest Rakugo groups. He started English Rakugo influenced by 2nd Katsura Shijaku and now presides over the Canary English Rakugo School. He states, “Through this event, as well as Kabuki and Japanese dance, I want more people to know and experience Rakugo, a form of traditional Japanese verbal entertainment.”

Performance will be in English and will include some popular Japanese stories.



〈RAKUGO – Japanese Traditional Narrative Art –〉

D a t e : Every last Tuesday of the month

Starting from October 31st, 2017

T i m e : 1:00pm – 1:40pm (2 performances)

P l a c e : Public Space on 2nd floor, AGORA PLACE ASAKUSA

Performer: Mr. Kanariya Eiraku

※Performance stories will be different each time

※Free admission for all guests



AGORA PLACE ASAKUSA will continue to expand the Japanese Cultural Experience series to spread Japanese culture around the world, with our hotel concept “Style My Stay”.

- For Inquiries from Media -

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〔Reference〕

KANARIYA EIRAKU

Instructor at Kanda University of International Studies and Komazawa University

Born in Aichi, Japan. Graduated with a Bachelor's in Foreign Studies at Sofia University in 1981, then with a Master's in TESOL from Temple University in 1994.

Influenced by *Tatekawa Danshi* and participated in *Rakugo Tatekawa-ryu* founded by *Tatekawa Danshi* in 1983. Around that time, inspired by the activities of a famous English Rakugo performer *Katsura Shijaku*, he began performing English Rakugo. He now presides over the Canary English Rakugo School. In addition to English Rakugo, he sings various types of song from traditional *Hauta*, *Zokkyoku*, and *Dodoitsu*, to J-pop and others in both Japanese and English as while playing the ukulele.



- For Inquiries from Guests -
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