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From *Kaidan* to J-Horror | Rewriting the Ghost for Stage & Film

Lecture

Presented by JICC, Embassy of Japan

3 AUG 2023

THURS, 6:30

PM

JICC

The Japan Information & Culture Center is proud to welcome **Dr. Jennifer Yoo** as we delve into the adaptation of traditional Japanese ghost stories for stage and film.

With a rich and flourishing narrative and visual culture of ghosts, monsters, and *kaidan* (怪談; "strange or ghostly tales"), it is of little surprise that authors of *kabuki* (歌舞伎; a classical form of Japanese theater) plays turned to such stories for inspiration well before the turn of the nineteenth century. These so-called *kaidan-mono* (怪談もの; "ghost story play") – featuring macabre themes and terrifying stage effects – ultimately helped lay the groundwork for what is now popularly known as the "J-horror" film. As these supernatural narratives have been adapted across both medium and time – for better or worse – change has been inevitable.

In this lecture, Dr. Yoo will focus on the three greatest *kaidan* in Japan; namely, the stories of *Oiwa* from *Tōkaidō Yotsuya Kaidan* (東海道四谷怪談; "Ghost Story of Yotsuya in Tōkaidō"), *Okiku* from *Banshū Sarayashiki* (播州皿屋敷; "Dish Mansion at Banshū"), and *Otsuyu* from *Kaidan Botan Dōrō* (怪談牡丹灯籠; "Ghost Story of the Peony Lantern"). She will discuss how these narratives have entered the realm of Japanese popular culture through media, how they evolved, and what their changes may suggest.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Jennifer M. Yoo (she/her) is a Lecturer of Japanese Culture, Literature, and Film at **Tufts University** in the Department of International Literary and Cultural Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Asian Theatre with a Japanese focus from the **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**. Her interests center on premodern Japanese studies as well as women's representation in media and culture, both of which she explored in her dissertation, "Monstrous Wives, Murderous Lovers, and Dead Wet Girls: Examining the Feminine Vengeful Ghost in Japanese Traditional Theatre and Horror Cinema." In 2017-2018, she was awarded the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship to conduct her doctoral field research in Kyoto, Japan.



CLICK TO REGISTER

This event is free and open to the public, but registration through Eventbrite is required. Doors open at 6:00PM. The program begins at 6:30PM. No admittance after 6:30PM or once seating is full.

Registration does not guarantee a seat. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

To modify your registration, please email jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp. Your registration is not transferable.

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1150 18th Street NW, Suite 100 | Washington, D.C. 20036-3838
TEL: 202-238-6900 | jjcc@ws.mofa.go.jp

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