

Join us this summer on Sado for Earth Celebration 2010!

The azure blue of the Japan Sea. Ocean breezes blowing through terraced rice fields. Ancient temples surrounded by lush greenery. This is Sado Island, a place where traces of a Japan almost forgotten still linger, and time passes a little more slowly. Yet once a year in the quiet port town of Ogi, people gather from all over the world to transform Sado's southern peninsula into a bustling international arts festival.



Hosts of the event, Japanese drummers Kodo, invite musicians and performers they have met on their travels to come back to the rich natural paradise that is their home of Sado Island every year. Music from around the globe fills the summer night air, and the sound of the taiko reverberates through the through the very earth itself.

continued on page 3



The Kodo group, complete with 12 new apprentices, gathered for the annual Kodo Villager's Event on April 4th, 2010.

Forest & Soul

The Annual Kodo Villager's Event

Every year in early April, we hold the Kodo Villager's Event, a day for the whole team to gather in the spring after a winter spent on tours abroad and in Japan. It is great to get outside after the long, harsh Sado winter, and spend some time working together to clean up the forest and stockpile firewood for next winter.

In April, we welcome new apprentices to the [Kodo Apprentice Centre](#) programme, and on this day they visit Kodo Village for the first time to get to know the Kodo members through some good old-fashioned teamwork. A new tradition was born at Kodo

Village in 2008. Once a year, the only Kodo-made O-daiko drum (nicknamed Spuddy) is turned into a portable shrine. The O-taiko (honorificly named for this occasion) is carried about the village, played by everyone, and we sing and rejoice, celebrating the new season and praying for a good year ahead living with taiko and nature.

continued on next page

In This Issue

Earth Celebration 2010	3
New Kodo "Dadan" DVD	4
Performance Schedule	5

Villager's Event*continued from page 1*

The annual “pass-the-branch” relay to clean up the Kodo Village forest and stockpile firewood for next winter.



When this taiko drum, nicknamed Spuddy, is carried around the village, it's all hands on deck. It weighs a hefty 450kgs (992lbs) alone, and the logs and ropes he rests on only add to the load.



Everyone at Kodo Village plays the big drum in turn, hoping for a fruitful and healthy year ahead, travelling Japan and the globe with taiko.



Winter's firewood pile



Kodo kids Teruhiko and Ryunosuke having a hit



Kodo performing at Earth Celebration, at home on Sado Island

This Year's Special Guest: A Filetta (Corsica, France)

A Filetta is a polyphonic vocal group comprised of seven male singers. Folk songs and sacred hymns form a central part of their mesmerizing repertoire which is performed completely without instrumental accompaniment.

Every September, they host the "Rencontres de Chants Polyphoniques de Calvi" festival on Corsica where artists from around the globe join them for multicultural collaborations. Providing a rare occasion for reciprocal island festival performances, this year [A Filetta](#) has returned Kodo's invitation to EC with an invitation to be their first Japanese guest artists at the 2010 "Rencontres."



Sado Performing Arts display - Demon Drumming at Earth Celebration

WON'T YOU JOIN US THIS YEAR FOR OUR 23RD EARTH CELEBRATION?

August 20 (Fri) – 22 (Sun)
Ogi, Sado Island, Japan

Shiroyama Concerts

August 20 (Fri) Kodo
August 21 (Sat) A Filetta & Kodo
August 22 (Sun) Shukusai - Kodo, A Filetta



Tickets on sale from June 1 (Tue)



Workshops: Hands-on Participation

O-daiko Workshop, Miyake Taiko, Chieko's Onna-uchi (Women's Style Taiko) Basics, Utanya Don Don!, Ranjosan's Japanese Flute Making Workshop, Onikenbai Basic Dance "Ichiban Niwa" (Iwate), Shinobue with Yasukazu Kano, Ogi Okesa (Sado), Kasuga Ondeko (Sado), Ogi Bamboo Craft Workshop, etc.

Other Events (Free Events, EC-Related Events)

Sado Performing Arts Around Town, Fringe Events (Free Performances), Harbour Market (Food, drinks, crafts, et al at Ogi Port Park), Ogi Peninsula Bus Tours, Taiko Taiken Juku, Sado Takigi Noh Theatre

Further details about EC 2010 will be announced on May 20 on the official [Earth Celebration homepage](#).

A look at the history of EC will be featured in the next issue of Kodo eNews!



Kodo "Dadan" DVD

First Kodo video release in 6 years

In September 2009, Kodo *Dadan* performances were held at Tokyo's Setagaya Public Theatre where the curtain consistently came down to rave reviews. The explosive energy of each sell-out performance was met with a standing ovation, and all of the action was captured for release on DVD.

Without elaborate backdrops or adornment, the artistic director, Kabuki luminary *Tamasaburo Bando*, used the stage to its fullest, capturing every exciting detail of seven men as they deliver ninety minutes of non-stop drumming. With close-ups as well as a broad look at the full production, this recording is a complete look at the *Dadan* experience. *Dadan*, which essentially means "men drumming," is brand new approach and bold exploration of pure physical percussion that promises to remain enthralling to the very last beat.

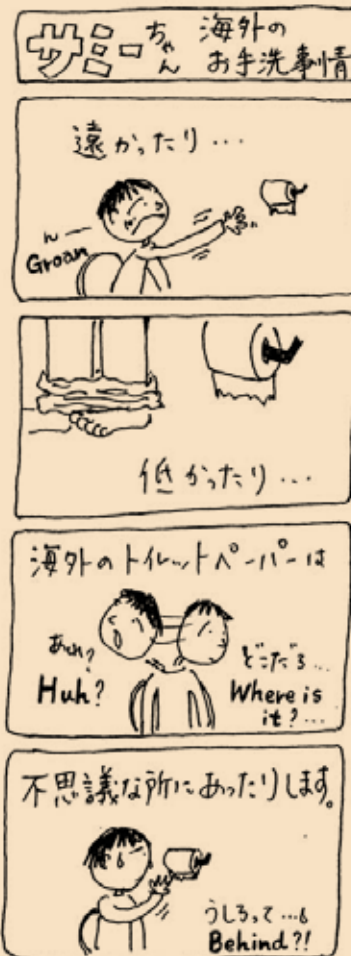
Available May 10. Please visit the [Kodo Online Store](#) for details.

Introducing "Sammy"

We are proud to introduce "Sammy," a comic strip featured in Kodo's Japanese monthly newsletter Kodo Kikanshi, by Kodo performer Masami Miyazaki a.k.a. Sammy.



Making it's debut in English in this issue of Kodo eNews, we'll be sharing the adventures of Sammy with you from time to time. Masami is handwriting the subtitles just for you, and we hope you'll enjoy her anecdotes.



Sammy
"Lavatories Abroad"

Far away...

down low...

Toilet paper
abroad...

is hiding in
the
strangest places.



Kodo Performances 2010

Coming up this year

ONE EARTH TOUR 2010

May-June: Japan - Kansai (Hyogo, Shiga, Wakayama), Chubu (Gifu, Shizuoka), Kanto (Chiba, Tokyo, Saitama, Tochigi), Tohoku (Fukushima, Iwate), Hokkaido

September: Japan - Kanto (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Gunma, Chiba, etc)

October-November: Europe & Israel - Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, etc.

SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR

May: Nagano City

October-November: Planned for Kansai & Kanto areas

AIKAWA KOZAN MATSURI

July 25 (Sun): Aikawa, Sado Island

EARTH CELEBRATION 2010

August 20 (Fri) – 22 (Sun): Ogi, Sado Island

Shiroyama Concerts with special guests Corsican polyphonic singing ensemble [A Filetta](#)

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES IN JAPAN

July: Kodo [Dadan](#) - Niigata, Chiba, Saitama, Kumamoto, Shizuoka, Aichi

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES ABROAD

June-July: Kodo in [Kaguyahime](#) Opéra Bastille, Paris, France

September Kodo at Rencontres de Chants Polyphoniques de Calvi Festival, Corsica, France

SOLO PROJECTS

Shogo Yoshii in [Babel](#) by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Damien Jalet and Antony Gormley - Europe

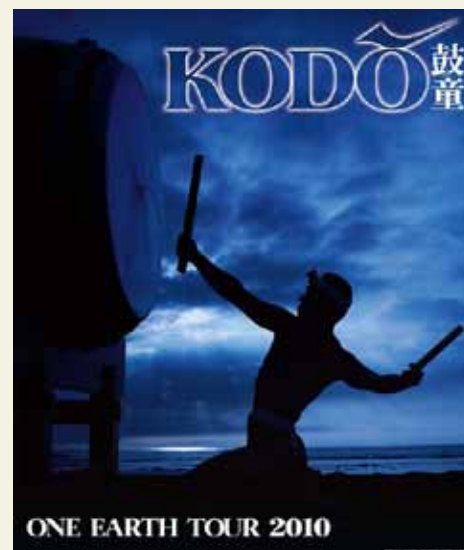
Yoshie Sunahata in Akram Khan's [Gnosis](#) - Europe, Middle East, Taiwan, Australia

KODO DECEMBER CONCERTS

A compilation of the best of 2010, this show will set the tone for Kodo as the group transitions into its 30th anniversary year.

December: Sado, Niigata, Nagoya, Osaka, Sendai, Tokyo

2011: Kodo will celebrate its milestone 30th anniversary. We are planning tours in North America and throughout Japan next year.



Kodo One Earth Tour, with a new cast and programme, will debut two brand new compositions on the Spring Japan tour



Children in schools throughout Japan enjoy the Kodo School Workshop - Performance Tours



Kodo Arts Sphere America Presents

KASA/MIX 2010



A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience life on beautiful and historic Sado Island with the internationally renowned taiko group, Kodo.

Study the folkloric drumming, song and dance of Japan with master performer and instructor Yoshikazu Fujimoto.



Yoshikazu Fujimoto, one of the premier taiko players in Japan, was one of the founding members of Kodo in 1981 and has been the group's featured Odaiko player, touring throughout Japan and around the world. Yoshikazu has also studied with traditional Japanese folk artists and is an accomplished folk dancer and singer. In recent years he has played a large role in educating the Kodo apprentices and conducts many workshops for the taiko community and the general public.



SEPTEMBER 5-16, 2010

Itinerary (subject to change)

Sept 5	Fly to Japan
Sept 6	Arrive in Kanazawa
Sept 7	Visit Asano Taiko and Kenroku Garden
Sept 8	Travel to Sado
Sept 9	Kodo Apprentice Centre -- workshops
Sept 10	Kodo Apprentice Centre -- workshops
Sept 11	Kodo Apprentice Centre -- workshops
Sept 12	Kodo Apprentice Centre -- workshops
Sept 13	One-day tour of Sado Island
Sept 14	Travel to Tokyo
Sept 15	Free day in Tokyo
Sept 16	Return Home



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Cherry blossoms of Spring on Sado



KODO

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Shiroyama Park, venue of Earth Celebration, rises above Ogi Port on Sado Island

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