



Schoolcraft College presents William Shakespeare's classic "Macbeth," in the Waterman Center on campus in Livonia. Call (313) 462-4409 for ticket information.

SATURDAY



Detroit Symphony Orchestra celebrates Halloween at Orchestra Hall with a Young People's Concert featuring the Bob Brown Puppets.

SUNDAY



Scott Mikita and John Patrick Lorie are featured in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "Lend Me A Tenor." Call (810) 377-3300 for show times, tickets.



Hot fix: "Grease," one of Broadway's longest running musicals, takes a tuneful and loving look at what it was like growing up in the 1950s, through Oct. 29 at the Fox Theatre. Call (810) 433-1515 for tickets.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

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Dyeing art: Contemporary shibori artist Kozo Takeda adorns a kimono with a design of gracefully entwining wisteria. Takeda is devoted to maintaining the standards of the ancient art of shibori. (Right) This piece by Hiroko Harada also in the current exhibit at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery at Oakland University features a cluster of pine trees and snowflakes.

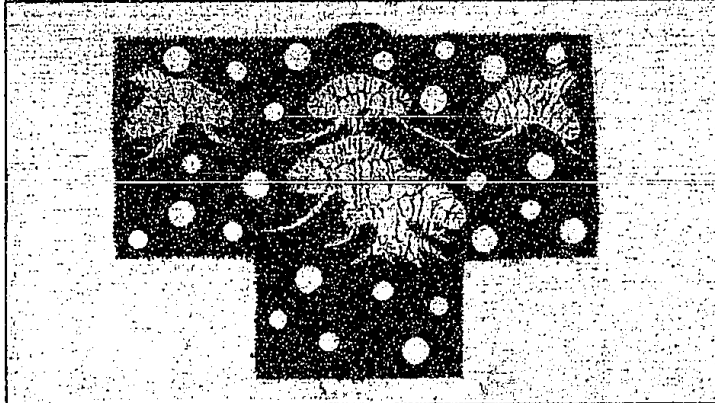


PHOTO BY JIM ELLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOOD INDIGO:

TO DYE FOR

BY MARY KLEMIC • STAFF WRITER



he exhibit with the lyrical name of "Arimateu Shibori: A Japanese Tradition of Indigo Dyeing" contains visual poetry.

Continuing through Nov. 30 at the Meadow Brook Art Gallery on the Oakland University campus in Rochester, the display features examples of the complex process of shibori.

In Japanese, shibori means to twist. The centuries-old process, found notably in Japan, India and Africa, involves twisting, tying or sewing cloth to resist dye. Indigo is a plant that carries a range of 28 to 30 tones of blue. Elaborate patterns and varying blues — from a subtle, just perceptible tint that is close to white, to deeper shades that suggest ink or a night sky — abound in the Meadow Brook exhibit.

"The idea (for the exhibit) came up four years ago," said associate professor Bonnie Abiko of the Department of Art and Art History at OU, one of the organizers of the show.

"It coincided with my great desire to mark half a century since the end of World War II. I wanted to find a way to celebrate the continuation of Japanese (culture)."

Traditional Japanese kimonos, some from three periods dating from 1803 to 1926, and contemporary wall hangings are in the show. Some of the pieces will be changed in early November.

Styles

Many different styles are exhibited. With some, lighter images seem almost luminous against a dark background, like fireflies in the night. Dark lines convey straw or rain, sometimes radiating from a center point.

One work suggests the viewer is looking up at wisteria through a trellis; the petals and the lines of the trellis create a harmony for the eyes.

Another work bears Chinese characters that form a poem.

Still another piece features the emblem from a European playing card with the letters B and C in an ace of spades. This kimono from the Meiji period (1868-1912) shows the impact of European culture on Japanese art. The ace of spades is the center from which a pattern expands. Other images include butterflies, playing children, clouds, flowers and grass, plovers, wild geese and geometric patterns.

History

In Japan in the 1600s, after a century of civil war, one of the first things the government did was build roads to and from the new capital. One of these "was like 1-75 of the Owari Province and the 1-75 of the whole area," Abiko said. A village called Arimateu was erected beside this road.

The land was too sandy for rice, so Arimateu found an industry to support itself. It made items that appealed to travelers. As incomes of common people grew, they began to seek more comfortable and attractive clothes. Indigo could be grown in the soil around the village. Arimateu's shibori textiles became popular.

Today almost 90 percent of all the shibori produced in Japan comes from Arimateu and 70 percent of all the indigo dyeing techniques in the world are Arimateu techniques.

One of the contemporary artists in the Meadow Brook exhibit, Kozo Takeda, is the guru of shibori dyeing in Japan, Abiko said. His ancestor started the art 300 years ago, and 20 years ago Takeda researched the traditional techniques through his fam-

ly. He is meticulous in maintaining the standards of the tradition.

"Takeda decided to try and renew creative energies (of shibori)."

Unfolding

The pieces in the display unfold the intricacy of the art in different ways. One way is the kimono itself. A kimono is made from a single bolt of cloth of standard measurements. Simple rectangles are cut for sleeves, two front and back panels and neck and front overlap.

Working with separate components, and with a contrasting slash, challenged the designer. Also presenting a challenge was the dye, which bleeds easily. Each white dot is a small section of individually tied cloth. The more intricate the pattern, the more the viewer can appreciate the work involved.

And more of the beauty unfolds the more the viewer examines the pieces. Designs can be bold and dynamic, or delicate. Patterns form gentle scenes or arrangements of shapes and images.

Among the kimonos by Takeda are one featuring a victrola design that gracefully entwines the cloth, and one with a design of cranes flying over mountains, flowing across the fabric.

A wall hanging by Motohiko Katane from the Showa period (1926-89) repeats a pattern from a fish net in broad, dark blue borders that resemble arrows.

Another contemporary artist, Hiroko Harada, is also devoted to shibori. One of her works is a wall hanging that is a festival jacket motif with a cluster of pine trees and snowflakes within an area bordered on top and bottom by a pattern resembling a thick rope.

THEATER

Audience's role in play 'Shear Madness'

BY CHRISTINA FUGRO

STAFF WRITER

"Shear Madness" has been the theater industry's best-kept secret for more than a decade. The murder-mystery's 15-year run at Boston's Charles Playhouse set the Guinness Book of World Records record for the longest-running non-musical play in American theater history.

Yet "Shear Madness" has never played New York City and earned the notoriety you'd think that a play seen by 3.8 million people in 24 cities worldwide should.

Nonetheless Detroit is hoping to dip into the cult favorite's crowd by presenting it at the Gem Theatre at least through New Year's Eve.

Set in a unisex hair salon, the play begins with flamboyantly gay salon owner Tony Whitcomb (played by Lathrup Village resident Thomas Suda) and his gun-chomping manicurist Barbara DeMarco (Lynnae LeFebvre of Detroit) combing through their daily routines — until someone murders Isabel Casey, the unseen eccentric concert pianist who lives upstairs.

The salon staff and its customers — wealthy socialite Mrs. Eleanor Dodge Shubert (Carolyn Voorhees of Northville) and wealthy aristocrat Edna Lawrence (Dana Gennaro of Dearborn) — are all suspects.

When it's revealed that two other "customers" are really Dennis Rowlett (John Leppard of Royal Oak) and his assistant Mikay Thomas (Chuck O'Connor of Detroit) of the Detroit Police Department, the duo asks the audience members for their help in solving the crime.

Suda, who plays hairstylist "All My Children" fan Tony Whitcomb, said the show's resemblance to a popular board game is what draws people to it. "The way I see it, it's a giant sparkling game of Clue," said Suda, who teaches at Oakland University in Rochester.

"The characters in the show, they're the pieces of this puzzle who respond to audience members. They (the audience) move us around and in quite an unusual way. We rely on the audience and their human nature to get involved in this. Through the evidence they provide, they help shape the show."

The play — which Suda describes as a mixture of farce, burlesque, double entendre, and comedy of insults — changes performance-to-performance as the audience does.

One thing that doesn't change is the Detroit-area thread that weaves through the play. Although it is or has played in other cities, "Shear Madness" has been localized to include cracks about Detroiters.



"Shear Madness" all-in-one: Hairstylist Tony Whitcomb (played by Lathrup Village resident Thomas Suda) is one of four suspects questioned by the Detroit Police Department's Dominic Rosetti (John Leppard of Royal Oak) during the course of "Shear Madness," a murder/mystery at the Gem Theatre in Detroit.

THEATER continued inside

OAK THEATRE