

リ満月 ムの ゼ

カムイだって、仲間なんだ。



Outline

Dancing Under a Full Moon
Discovering the kindness within moonlight

Since the creation of the universe, the Ainu have known this world as urespa mosir (a place of mutual nurturing). In other words, all things in this world, including people (Ainu), flora and fauna, and kamuy nurture and live in harmony with each other. One day, a curious and slightly mischievous Ezo red fox kamuy named Irenka set out on their usual journey to the earthly world (ainu mosir). They found the Ainu living with the blessings of nature, colored by the changes of the four seasons. That night, the Ainu were to perform a dance competition. Irenka was very curious about Ainu dance. The Ainu kindly invited Irenka to join them in a dance that would make time slip away. Dancing is not the only thing that brings joy to the Ainu. They also find joy in the vibrancy of life and the connections with each other. Having seen the spirit of urespa mosir, Irenka reluctantly returned to kamuy mosir (the realm of the deities). As a large full moon lit up the sky, the Ainu recognized it as the Ezo red fox kamuy and offered onkami (gratitude) to the sky.



About the performance

The theme of this performance is urespa mosir, an important Ainu philosophy that embraces diversity and can be understood as a place of mutual nurturing. The production team and the dancers of the Akanko Ainu Theater Ikor put a lot of thought into this performance, meeting often to exchange ideas. The Ainu feel a closeness to and a mutual respect with the kamuy. They also feel a closeness to what can't be seen with the human eye and have always sung and danced to give thanks. In this performance, the dancers and Irenka, an Ezo red fox kamuy who travels back and forth between the realm of the deities and the earth, invite you into the world of the Ainu, a world full of kindness.

We offer onkami (a prayer showing gratitude) for the beginning of the day.

We offer onkami again for the end of the day.

Stage direction, script and staging by
Shinnosuke Fujima

Stage film

The story begins with an Ainu legend. We've employed animation as the stage film to reflect the mystical worldview of the Ainu legend and the gentle world of urespa mosir, which is the theme of Dancing Under a Full Moon. We've consciously distanced our animation style from that of digital animation by employing more curves than straight lines and adding a hand-drawn aesthetic throughout. We wanted the audience to feel the soft theme of this performance from the very beginning through this animation. As the story progresses, the animation intertwines with the dances, and in the end, the dances, film, and music come together to create a spectacular climax that is sure to move the audience. The Ainu culture depicted throughout the animation, including Ainu patterns and depictions of Ainu kotan, is also a highlight of the performance.

Film direction by Ryosei Suzuki

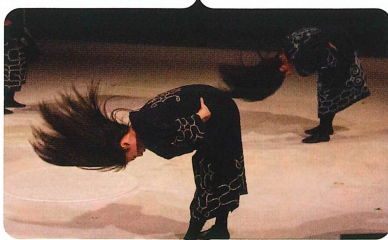
Music

Lake Akan and the forests on its shore provide magnificent soundscapes, such as a breeze rustling through the trees, the lake freezing, flowing and surging, and animal calls and the whisper of trees coming from deep in the forest. As I walked around this area collecting the differing sounds of the four seasons, I felt like I was on a treasure hunt. I also recorded people from the Akanko Ainu Kotan performing music with traditional Ainu instruments such as tonkori zithers, mukhuri (a kind of mouth harp), ionka (a cylindrical wind instrument), and repni (a stick for tapping) at Tradition & Creation "Onne Cise." These precious sounds intertwine with the notes of the piano and are gently tied together with upopo (folk music). You can enjoy the sounds of Lake Akan interspersed throughout the performance, as well as the vocals of the late Yae Shitaku, an Ainu yukar singer and Ainu cultural bearer who was born in 1904 and grew up speaking Ainu as her native language.

Music by Mine Kawakami

Dance performance

Mouth harp	..... mukhuri
Playful Stick Dance	..... rohonna
Bountiful Harvest Dance	..... shichochoi
Scramble for a Tray Dance	..... hekuri sarari
Dance of Black Hair	..... futtarechui
Arrow Dance	..... ku rimse
Waterfowl Dance	..... herekanho
Dance Competition	..... essahoho



Staff

Performance	..... Akanko Ainu Theater Ikor Ainu dancers Contemporary dancers
Supervision	..... Debo Akibe
Script	..... Shunichi Shibue
Stage director, script and staging	..... Shinnosuke Fujima
Music	..... Mine Kawakami
Narration and advisor	..... Takashi Ukaji
Film director	..... Ryosei Suzuki
Animation director	..... Kakeru Mizui
Sound designer	..... Shinya Kiyokawa
Creation of traditional clothes and tools	..... People of the Akanko Ainu Kotan
Stylist (contemporary dance)	..... Emiko Hoshino
Contemporary dance direction	..... Tatsuo Yamamoto
Overall supervision	..... Toshiaki Morio

Performance times, fees, etc.



Videos of Dancing Under a Full Moon

Trailer



Documentary and interview



Inquiries:

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