

Storytelling with a Magical Mask Performance

Teacher: Kuniko Yamamoto

Website: <https://www.origami-air.com>

Aimed to enhance multi-cultural, Asian or Japanese Culture for students of all ages. If the 45 minutes is too long, it can be divided by each folk tale which ranges 8 - 15 minutes/folk tale. There are 3 folk tales and 1 demo & game in this video.

A native of Japan, Kuniko Yamamoto received her Bachelor of Psychology from Otani University of Kyoto, Japan in 1983, then started performing professionally in her hometown of Osaka where she grew up studying traditional dance, music and theater. In 1985, she received national exposure performing Japanese Storytelling at the Silk Road International Exposition and on Kansai National TV. The following year, Kuniko traveled to the United States to study with Tony Montanaro, a highly respected mime and actor. Three years later, she toured with Leland Faulkner Light Theater where she helped present lavish stage illusions and brought ancient tales to life with shadows and magic. For the next five years she performed in theaters, schools, colleges, and festivals across the country.

In 1992, Kuniko left the Faulkner Light Theater troupe to move to Florida. She married Jon LeClair, a world-renowned magician whose books appear in magic shops worldwide. This helped her add subtle magic and mystery to her unique act.

Kuniko has performed at the Kennedy Center (Washington DC) of note such as:

Disney Epcot Japanese Pavilion

Seattle's International Festival

International Children's Festival in Canada

National Storytelling Festival

Over the last two decades she has presented her programs throughout the United States. Her work is recognized by the Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina State Arts Council since 2000.