



**KANSAS CITY
YOUNG AUDIENCES**

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**KANSAS CITY YOUNG AUDIENCES' COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
PRESENTS A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF ROBERT KIKUCHI-YNGOJO'S
ASIA FANTASIA AT INAGURAL FAMILY NIGHT EVENT**
Nationally-renowned storyteller performs in Kansas City on Feb. 28

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Kansas City Young Audiences' Community School of the Arts is proud to present a captivating performance of Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo's *Asia Fantasia* on February 28 at 6:30 p.m. as the highlight of their first Family Night celebration. Kikuchi-Yngojo is among the most sought-after performers in the country, engaging his audiences on multiple levels, and conveying important messages with humor and dignity. *Asia Fantasia* will be presented in The Commons in the Music & Arts Building located on the campus of St. Teresa's Academy, 5601 Wyandotte.

All proceeds from the evening's event will go to the Community School of the Arts' student scholarship fund. The fund provides all students the opportunity to learn and play through the arts at the School. This spring session, the fund will provide scholarships to more than 70 students in the Kansas City area who attend the Community School of the Arts.

In addition to the performance at the Community School of the Arts, Kikuchi-Yngojo will perform *Asia Fantasia* in seven area schools during the week of February 27 through the Young Audiences program, which brings educational artistic programs to schools and community organizations in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. *Asia Fantasia* combines stories with music and movement reflecting the rich, diverse folklore from Southeast Asia, India, China, Japan, and the Philippines. Kikuchi-Yngojo's warmth and humor encourage audience participation and create a joyful rapport that draws children and parents alike to a discovery of Asian and Asian-American culture.

Kikuchi-Yngojo has charmed audiences throughout the United States with his delightful style of entertainment. He pioneered the teaching and performing of traditional Filipino Kulintang gong music and dance ensembles in Northern California and has composed film scores for such

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notable Asian American filmmakers as Wayne Wang and Felicia Lowe. The California Arts Council, Zellerbach Family Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts/Folk Arts Program are a few of the eminent grants Kikuchi-Yngojo has received. He was acknowledged with an SF Izzie Award and, in 1999, was the recipient of the National Young Audiences “Artist of the Year”.

Currently, Kikuchi-Yngojo co-directs and performs with Eth-Noh-Tec Creations, a non-profit arts organization specializing in Asian and Asian American cultural education and performances. Through storytelling, music, and dance, the organization links traditional Asian performing arts with contemporary American styles.

Kansas City Young Audiences (KCYA), celebrating its 45th birthday this year, has provided excellent educational artistic programs in Kansas City area schools since 1961. KCYA serves approximately 200,000 young people annually through its in-school programming, the management of the Arts Partners program, and the Community School of the Arts. The school, located in the Music & Arts building on the campus of St. Teresa’s Academy, provides classes in all artistic disciplines after school, on Saturdays, and throughout the summer.

Kansas City Young Audience’s Community School of the Arts presents *Asia Fantasia* on Tuesday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m. in The Commons in the Music & Arts Building located on the campus of St. Teresa’s Academy, 5601 Wyandotte. A donation of \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family of four is suggested, and free parking is available.

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