

A MEMORABLE PLAYHOUSE EXPERIENCE KIYOSHI NAGATA

by Tammy Wilson

The final event of Performing Arts Bancroft's 'Black Tie Season' left The Village Playhouse audience breathless as they left the building on February 17.

Performing Arts Bancroft has brought some impressive acts to the small stage at the playhouse, and the Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble was no exception.

The ensemble is a Japanese Taiko (drum), and music group that has been performing traditional Japanese drumming for audiences all over North America. The group is under the artistic direction of Kiyoshi Nagata, and includes Heidi Chan, Aki Takahashi, Angela Colangelo, and Nick Shao.

The program included compositions from the group's CDs 'Koku', 'Kiro', and 'Tenkai'. Many instruments were used throughout the evening, including flute, the o'daiko (drum), shamisen, bells, daiko, chappa, miya daiko, and the nebuta daiko.

The styles of drumming are influenced by Japanese festivals, traditional drumming practices, life, mother earth, and all the earth's elements.

The ensemble opened with 'Taichi no Sakebi' (shouting earth), which is about the unpredictable and sometimes violent moods of mother earth.

"Wow," said one theatre-goer, "I don't think that I breathed once through that performance. Unbelievable."

What followed was an emotional and exhilarating two hours of thunderous and hypnotic Japanese drumming.

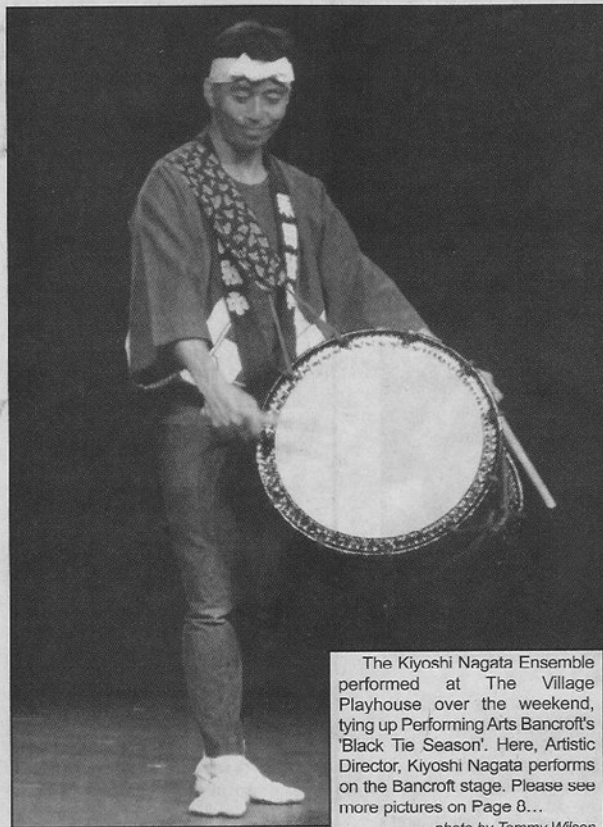
For more information on the Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble, please visit the Web site

www.kiyoshinagata.com.

Performing Arts Bancroft will be celebrating 'Father's Day in May!?!', as it presents its upcoming event 'Hammer & Bow', with father and son,

Jacques and Michael Israelievitch.

The Israelievitch Duo will be at The Village Playhouse on Saturday, May 12. Get your tickets soon as this promises to be another sold-out show.



The Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble performed at The Village Playhouse over the weekend, tying up Performing Arts Bancroft's 'Black Tie Season'. Here, Artistic Director, Kiyoshi Nagata performs on the Bancroft stage. Please see more pictures on Page 8...

- photo by Tammy Wilson