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***ZOTTO* “cuts straight to the heart”: Back by popular demand, the immersive Japanese folktale experience returns for a limited encore run March 17–26, 2023**

Presented by Japanese Arts Network in collaboration with Theatre Artibus, Luster Productions and Control Group Productions

(DENVER, CO) After a SOLD OUT run November–December 2022, immersive theater experience *ZOTTO* returns to downtown Denver’s Sakura Square for a **two-weekend encore March 17–19 and 24–26, 2023. Tickets are on sale at ja-ne.wellattended.com.**

Led by a superb all-women cast, *ZOTTO - A Supernatural Folktale* is praised by creative heavy-hitters and audiences alike for tackling ghosts of Colorado’s past—including WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans, resettlement and intergenerational trauma—with disarming honesty.

“If you are going to see any show as we head into the new year...this is the one you should see!” says DCPA/Theater of the Mind creative James Brunt. “It’s beautiful, it’s extraordinary, and it makes you feel and think about the people in the world around you. It’s art in its rawest form.”

The *ZOTTO* tale begins as mysterious fox spirit Dr. Kitsu entrusts the audience to help a young, Japanese American woman rescue her grandmother from a prison of hidden secrets and memory. Engaging in an immersive and explorable world, audience members dodge slippery demons, meet wise spirits and discover the hidden stories of three generations of Japanese American women in Five Points.

“It made me think about what kind of ancestor I want to be,” says audience member Ignacia Genco.

In a world where art is increasingly driven by technology, *ZOTTO* is noted for wearing its heart on its sleeve.

“This show throws into stark relief the diverging directions of immersive and experiential art,” says one audience member. “Down one fork, creators massage big budgets and big tech into Instagram museums. Down the other, *ZOTTO* cuts right to the beating heart.”

Spearheaded by Courtney Ozaki of Japanese Arts Network (JA-NE) and produced in conjunction with Luster Productions, Theatre Artibus and Control Group Productions with support from Starry Night Productions, *ZOTTO* is an expansive collaboration between some of the most ground-breaking theater-makers in Denver. It takes place in Denver’s historic Sakura Square, the center of the local Japanese community.

Tickets to *ZOTTO* are on sale now! Make an appointment with Dr. Kitsu today, and purchase tickets at ja-ne.wellattended.com. Learn more about *ZOTTO* at www.zottofolk.com.

Press photos are available [HERE](#). Photo credit Martha Wirth Photography and Nicholas Caputo.



Additional audience quotes:

“A lot of work went into this experience, and you can tell. It’s quirky and fun, while heavy and serious, and beautiful and interactive.”

“Please go experience ZOTTO yourself. It might teach you who you really are.”

“Beyond how emotive and moving it was, it was so COOL, fun and silly. I loved the mystery and uncertainty of what we would enter next.”

“It was a visceral experience, far and away the artistic highlight of my year.”

“Still thinking about what I experienced at ZOTTO. The power of stories, relationships, connection, and memories...healing by honoring our past and building our resilience and strength in the present. What a powerful and healing experience that I will remember forever.”

“It was incredible! Extremely moving, but also funny and uplifting. Best show I’ve seen this year.”

Creative credits: *ZOTTO* comes from the minds of acclaimed local and national theater-makers including: Independent Creative Producers Courtney Ozaki and Akemi Tsutsui-Kunitake ([Japanese Arts Network](#)), Meghan Frank and Buba Basishvili ([Theatre Artibus](#)), and Leah Podzimek ([Luster Productions](#)). *ZOTTO*’s devised theater cast includes Nicole Dietze, Sarah Hirose, Min Kyung (Cecillia) Kim, Tiffany Ogburn, Charlotte Quinn and Joyce Yuriko Cole. *ZOTTO* is also supported with Producing Support and Lighting Design from Patrick Mueller ([Control Group Productions](#)), by Presenting Partner Amber Blais ([Starry Night Productions](#)), and with Sound Design from Matthew Ryan Durgin, Costume Design from Kotomi Yoshida, Film Production from Bruce Tetsuya, Production Stage Management by Frieda Dunkelberg, and Set Design from artist collaborators Akemi Tsutsui-Kunitake, Tom Varani, Naomi Hiromitsu, Maggie Wiese, Shannon Geis, Jolyon Yates, Bakemono0504, Chris Husted, Parker Murphy, Don Post, and Keiko Ozaki.

***ZOTTO* is generously supported by** the Bonfils Stanton Foundation, Sakura Square LLC, Mile High Japanese American Citizens League, Denver Theatre District, Lederman Locations, The Savoy Denver, the Sakura Foundation, Pacific Mercantile Company, RiNO Arts District and ALT Ethos.

About Japanese Arts Network (JA-NE): [The Japanese Arts Network \(JA-NE\)](#) is a national resource for artistic collaboration and connection. We provide access to resources and develop and produce programs and platforms that support and strengthen visibility for Japanese Artists in America who create with ‘cultural intention’ and are vital to society. We are dedicated to bringing together artists, communities, and stakeholders by celebrating and advancing Japanese arts experiences in America. www.ja-ne.org.

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