

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
ASIAN STUDIES CENTER  
PRESENTS

HOW TO:

ASIA

# Japanese Film NARRATION



Once called “poets of the dark” benshi (film narrators) brought silent films to life through commentary and vocal performance, giving voice to the characters on screen. Dressed often in a tuxedo and perched on a podium beside the screen, the benshi was an integral and indispensable part of film entertainment in the silent era. As many as 8000 benshi were performing across the country and the Japanese empire by the 1930s, and their popularity—and power—slowed the introduction of sound film in Japan.

In the workshop, **KATAOKA ICHIRŌ** will discuss training in the art of the benshi. Participants will have the opportunity to test their performance skill by reading a few sentences out loud in order to receive feedback and suggestions.

**TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 26**

**1:00 - 2:30 PM**

**4130 POSVAR**

***JOIN US FOR A HANDS-ON  
WORKSHOP ABOUT JAPANESE  
VERBAL PERFORMANCE WITH  
A PRACTICING BENSHI.***

Questions? Please email  
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