

Focus

A SUPPLEMENT OF

The
Portland
Observer

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**Deadlines for
submitted material:**

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Ads: Monday by Noon

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1999 The Portland Observer

Careers *Master of
classical
Japanese percussion to perform*

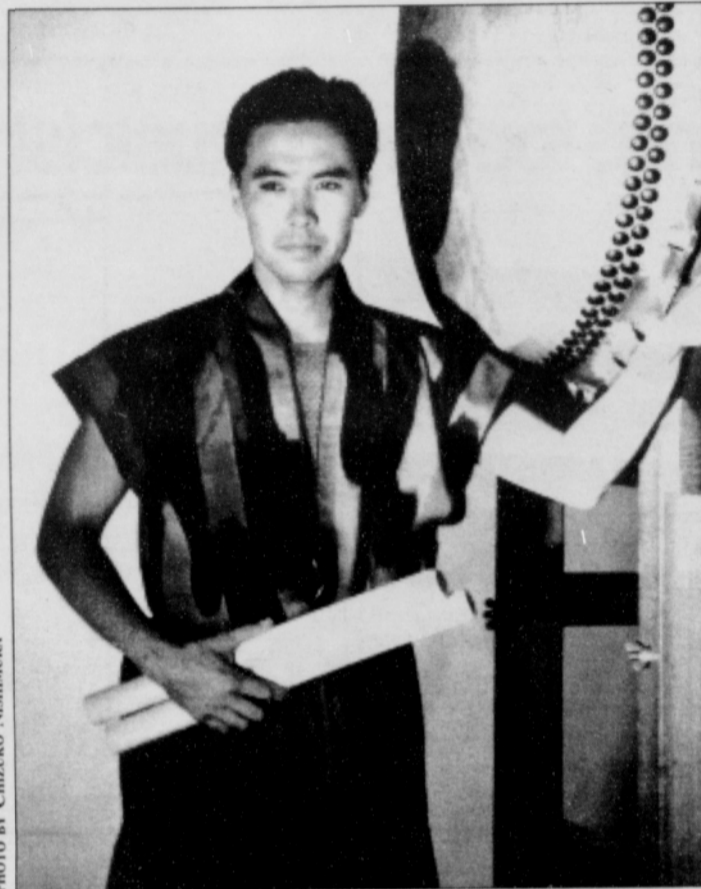


PHOTO BY CHIZUKO NISHIMURA

Endo, Taiko Master of Japanese classical percussion will be giving a lecture and demonstration at the Portland Art Museum on June 4.

**CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**

Internationally acclaimed Taiko master Kenny Endo presents "Journey of a Japanese American Drummer: Integrating Tradition with Innovation," a special lecture demonstration on Sunday, June 4, at 2 p.m. in the Portland Art Museum's Whitsell Auditorium. Complimentary tickets are required and can be picked up at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (ONLC), 117 NW 2nd Avenue in Portland. "Kenny's performances perfectly blend his mastery of traditional Japanese percussion with influences of jazz, fusion and classical music," said Portland Taiko drummer and ONLC Executive Director June Arima Schumann. "He incorporates ancient techniques into contemporary compositions." Endo, a third generation Japanese American born in Los Angeles, studied Taiko in San Francisco before moving to Japan, where he concentrated his studies on classical Japanese theater percussion and festival music. During his ten years of training in Japan, Endo became the first non-Japanese national to

receive a "natori," formal stage name that recognizes a high level of accomplishment in Japanese classical percussion. Endo's program will feature his original music, with percussion instruments such as a 'Tsuzumi,' a hand-held drum that is tuned by tightening or loosening ropes while played and stylized Japanese vocalizations. He will also discuss the role of Taiko in Kabuki and Noh Theater and festivals in the United States and Japan, and describe the contemporary ensemble-style taiko groups developing worldwide. This program is a part of the Continental Harmony Project, made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Composers Forum. One grant was awarded to an organization in each of the 50 states in celebration of the year 2000. As Oregon's recipient, Portland Taiko designated Endo as their artist in residence. Endo will compose an original piece for Portland Taiko, which will be featured at their fall concert, *Crossings*, at Newmark Theater.



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