

• SATURDAY 28/07/2018 at 13:42 – Updated at 13:49

• | AVIGNON OFF REVIEWS

# Hoichi the Earless (we like)

By Johan Barthélemy



The Hong Kong-based company “Theatre Ronin” presents an exotic show inspired by the Japanese folktale *Hoichi the Earless*. Bringing together modern theatre and Nan-kouan traditional music, the piece transports the audience to the Japan of feudal times. We meet Hoichi, a blind woman renowned for her songs that narrates the legendary sea battle of Dan-No-Ura. The musician, following her tragic fate, is haunted by the ghosts of fallen samurais. This Japanese horror tale is adapted by Hong Kong producer Alex Tam whose love for France convinced him to perform the piece at the festival. “I wanted to come here with my company, and that’s also a way to make a name for ourselves” he explains. “Hongkongers playing Japanese in France, how exotic!” Alex Tam laughs. “Hong Kong is strongly influenced by Japan. We have really been drawn by this traditional folktale and we decided to adapt it.” To promote the performance – wearing kimonos in the streets of Avignon – the company was joined by 14 students of French from the National Central University in Taiwan led by their professor Ling-Ling Cheu. Played in Cantonese with French surtitles, *Hoichi the Earless* is aimed at a broad audience and will captivate Asian culture enthusiasts.