

THE ART OF THE BENSHI 2024 QUOTES

1. “The Art of the Benshi 2024 tour will offer a unique theatrical experience that combines cinema and live performance that is rarely seen on this scale, even in Japan. We are honored to be helping to introduce this vibrant, enthralling form to a broader audience, and we know people will walk out of these shows wanting to see more.”

-Michael Emmerich, Tadashi Yanai Professor of Japanese Literature at UCLA and Director of the Yanai Initiative for Globalizing Japanese Humanities

2. “To experience silent cinema through the performative interpretation of a skilled *benshi* is to be taken on a journey of sight and sound unlike any other. We are thrilled to partner again with the Yanai Initiative to bring this deeply immersive and transformative art form to a wider audience.”

-Paul Malcolm, Senior Public Programmer at the UCLA Film and Television Archive

3. “A privileged glimpse into one of the least known and most dynamic aspects of world cinema.”

-Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

4. “The experience was a heady one – Seeing pictures in such a context confounds our expectations.”

-David Mermelstein, The Wall Street Journal