

**Teaching English and History through Performances :
Creating Multi-Media Teaching Package
with Nobuko Miyamoto's A Grain of Sand**

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This paper considers the possibility of using a stage performance piece in English as a Second Language classes in Japanese universities. The paper uses the example of Nobuko Miyamoto's one-person performance, A Grain of Sand. Miyamoto is a Japanese American performance artist, and A Grain of Sand tells Miyamoto's life history through texts, photographs, songs, and dances. Miyamoto was born in 1939 in Los Angeles, went to internment camps during World War II, danced in Hollywood movies and Broadway musicals, got involved in the Asian American movement, had an African American son, and became a community artist in Los Angeles. Through her life story, students can learn about racial prejudice, multiculturalism, social movements in the 1960s, and current racial issues, such as the LA Riot. The performance is artistic, entertaining, and approachable for students who are not native speakers of English. The material can be developed into a multimedia teaching package with a DVD/VHS, text, and additional background historical information that would help understanding the content. In the presentation, I will show sample clips of the performance, and share ideas about how to develop teaching materials not only for ESL but also for American history.