

歌舞伎—KABUKI

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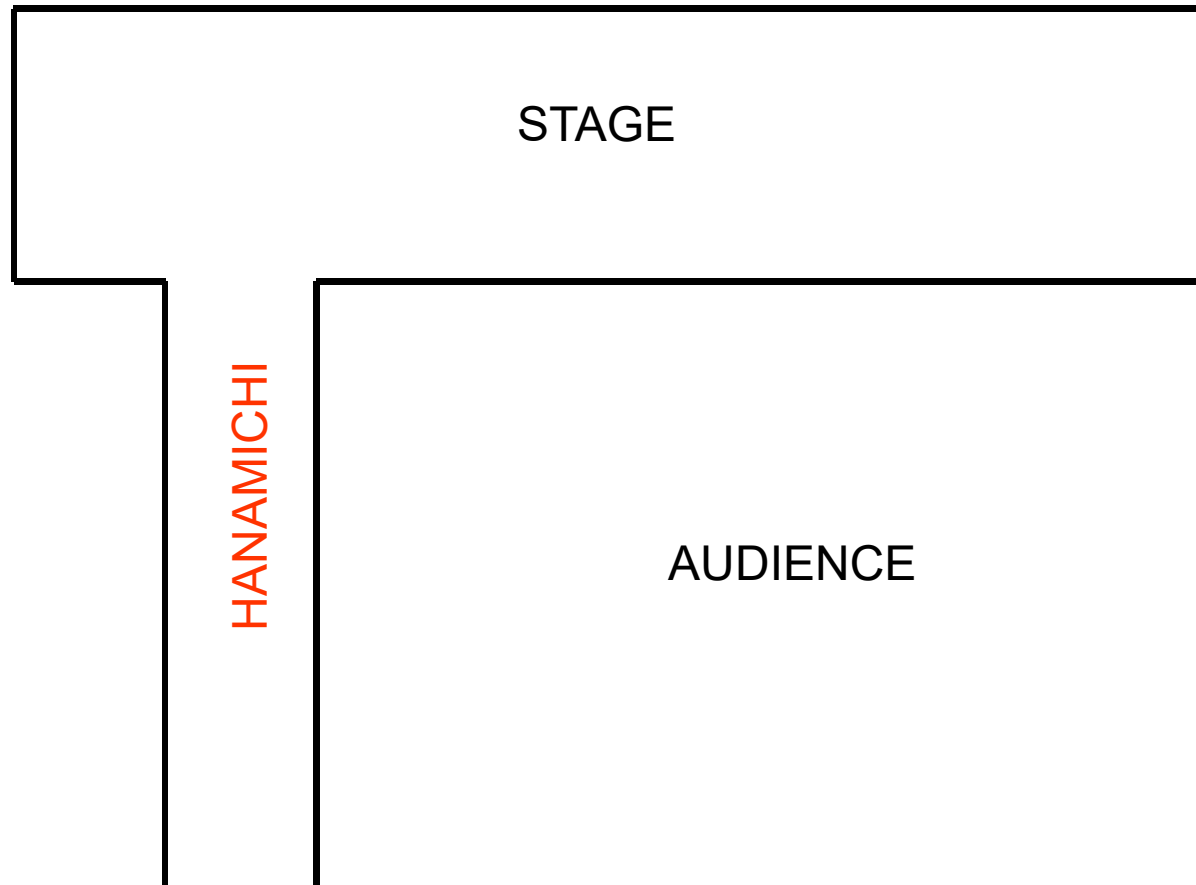
Origin of Kabuki

- Kabuki dates back to the performance of a female group led by *Izumo-no-Okuni* in the early 17th century, at the beginning of the Edo period.
- On the early stage of Kabuki, female dancers-actress dance and play drama.
- But soon stage performances by women are banned by the Bakufu, because they are considered to disturb public moral and discipline.
- Women are temporarily replaced by young-adult boys.
- Finally Kabuki has become an all adult-male affair.

What is Kabuki?

- Kabuki includes both plays and dances, performed in the traditional music of Japan with *Shamisen*, *tsuzumi* (drums), *yoko-bue* (flute), and voices.
- Many Kabuki plays were written in Edo and early Meiji periods, under the influence of *Bunraku* (puppet plays) and *No-Kyogen* (Greek tragedy-like plays)
- Tsuruya Nanboku and Kawatake Mokuami wrote many original plays.

Hanamichi



Hanamichi 花道

- *Hanamichi* is a passageway through the audience to the main stage which joins the stage at the right angle.
- The appearance of an actor or actors on the *hanamichi* passageway obscures the demarcation between the stage and the audience seats.
- The performance on *hanamichi* makes the audience feel that they are part of a Kabuki drama and familiar with the actors before them.

Actors 1

- All Kabuki actors are male.
- Female roles are played by male actors called “onna-gata”.
- Each Kabuki actor has a stage name, which is inherited from their ancestors.
- Some prestigious stage names dates back to the early Edo period.
- If a prestigious stage-name is succeeded by an actor, he promotes a special tour (襲名興行), when he presents himself on stage (口上).

Actors 2

- Most of the famous stage names are assumed to be inherited from fathers to their sons.
- Roles symbolize the reputation of some famous actors in the long tradition.
 - Sukeroku for Danjuro
 - Kumagai Naozane for Kichiemon
- The roles you can play are restricted by the stage names you inherited.

O-Mukoh

- In Kabuki, the audience call the actors' house name (*yago*) in a loud voice in order to encourage their vigorous performances.
- *Yago* is different from the stage name.
- (Examples)
 - Nakamura Jakuemon: Kyo-ya!
 - Ichikawa Sadanji: Takashima-ya!
 - Onoe Kikugoro: Otowa-ya!
 - Sakata Tohjuro: Yamashiro-ya!
 - Kataoka Nizaemon: Matsushima-ya!

Ear-phone Guide

- The "Earphone-Guide" provides comments and explanations relating to the plot, music, actors, properties and other features of Kabuki & Bunraku which may be difficult for non-Japanese visitors to understand.
- Comments are perfectly timed to the action on stage.
- The guide is in Japanese only at Hakata-za. Sorry.



Kabuki in the new generations



- “One Piece” one of the most popular anime is to be adapted for a Kabuki play.
- It was on stage in Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka.
- Adaptation of contemporary stories is a Kabuki tradition.

Program Today

1. *Hikimado* (The Roof Window)

- A sumo-wrestler killed the enemy of his sponsor, and flying away to his home in order to say a farewell to his mother.
- Her another son, a police detective hired by the local lord, understands the situation, does not arrest him, and lets the criminal go away, at a *Hojo-e* night.
- A *Hojo-e* is a Buddhist ceremony in which captive animals such as birds and fish are released. The idea is to promote compassion for living things, based on the belief in the eternal cycle of reincarnation. (See Wikipedia)

2. *Kojo* (Announcement)

- Nakamura Jakuemon introduces himself as the celebrated heir of the honorable stage name since the Edo era.

Program Today

3. 24 Duties for Your Parents (本朝廿四孝)

- Princess Yaegaki is mourning for the death of her fiancé, Prince Katsuyori of Lord Takeda, while the prince is alive and pretends to be a servant of her father, Lord Nagao Kenshin, an enemy of the Lord Takeda.
- She discovers the servant to be Prince Katsuyori, and confesses her love to him, while Nureginu, a servant knowing his true identity, requests the princess to steal the priceless treasure of her father.
- Lord Nagao lets the servant to bring his message to his ally, and orders his men to follow the prince and kill him in secret.
- Princess Yaegaki decides to rescue him by stealing the treasure.

4. *Onna-Date*

- A group dance of female yakuza.