歌舞伎一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 tragedylike 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)
 - Onoe Kikugoro: Otowa-ya!
 - Onoe Kikunosuke: Otowa-ya!
 - Onoe Shoroku: Otowa-ya!
 - Nakamura Tokizo: Yorozu-ya!
 - Nakamura Senjaku: Narikoma-ya!
 - Nakamura Shikan: Narikoma-ya!
 - Ichikawa Sadanji: Takashima-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 age



- "One Piece" one of the most popular anime is adapted for a Kabuki play.
 - It was on stage in Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka.
- Adaptation of contemporary stories is a Kabuki tradition. ¹⁰





Hakataza June 2019



On Stage

- There are two regular Kabuki performances at Hakata-za theater, in February and June.
- In the Morning Stage of this month, you will see the three performances.
- 1. Kinkakuji Temple a play
- 2. Yasuna a dance
- 3. Nozarashi Gosuke a play
- The show starts at 11AM, and finishes at 3:30PM.

Kinkakuji 1

- Princess Snow (*Yukihime*) is captivated by a villain, *Matsunaga Daizen*, who is plotting to usurp the title of Shogun (like Macbeth).
- Daizen requests her to become his lover, which is rejected.
- The angry Daizen binds her to a cherry tree in the garden.
- Yukihime draws a picture of a mouse on the ground, believing in the miracle caused by her grand father, the legendary artist *Sesshu*, who revived animals from his drawings.

Kinkakuji 2

- Then a mouse suddenly appears, eats up the rope, and releases her from the bondage. Yukihime runs away.
- Mashiba Hisayoshi, a Sengoku hero, pretending a supporter for Daizen, stays as a guest at the Kinkakuji for that night.
- His purpose is to rescue Keijuin, another hostage. She is captivated at the top floor of the Kinkakuji Tower.

Kinkakuji 3

- Finally, the tower is surrounded by the soldiers under the command by Hisayoshi.
- The desperate Daizen fights against the soldiers.
- However, Daizen and Hisayoshi agree on departing now and meeting again on the battle field soon.
- The story is based on the fact about *Matsunaga Hisahide*, a powerful Sengoku Daimyo, who contemplated usurping the *Ashikaga* Shogunate.

Yasuna

- Yasuna, an aristocratic young man, misses his lost wife, who revealed her as an incarnation of a mysterious fox, and suddenly disappeared.
- He is sick in mind, and wandering in his garden, wearing his lost wife's *kimono*.
- This is a dance allowed to be performed only by a Kabuki actor with high reputation.

- Gosuke is a former Zen monk, who was a student of the famous Zen master, *Ikkyu*.
- Now he is an independent (yakuza-like) gangster.
- Nozarashi is a special title suggesting his mission to help losers and poor people on the street. Nozarashi means a skull abandoned on fields.

- One day, he rescues a poor plate seller and his daughter, and a rich merchant and his daughter as well, who are both threatened by villains.
- On the other day, the wife of the rich merchant and her daughter visits Gosuke, asking him to be the daughter's husband.
- The daughter pretends to kill herself with a dagger, and forces him to accept her proposal.

- Soon after Gosuke marries the daughter of the rich merchant, he is visited by the poor father and his daughter.
- They also request Gosuke to marry the poor daughter, who fell in love for him on that day.
- Gosuke wonders between the two maidensuiters.

- The villains return to avenge for the loss on the other day.
- Gosuke endures being insulted by the villains, because the day is the anniversary of her passed mother, while it is easy for Gosuke to kick them out.
- On the other day, the final battle occurs. Gosuke knocks down the villains again.