

# 歌舞伎—KABUKI

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# The Demons in the Hidden Forest

- The Shochiku Company presents an updated version of the innovative play written by Kazuki Nakajima and directed for stage by Hidenori Inoue in 2007.
- The main difference of the new one is that all the roles are played by Kabuki actors with Kabuki skills, without hurting the innovative nature of the original play.

# Outline

- The story is inspired by William Shakespeare.
- The story takes place at a Kyoto-like capital city in the mediaeval period of Japan.
- It is a story of a power struggle in a world where urban civilization is threatened by an anti-civilization represented by demons.
- The basic framework is the legend of the 大江山 Oeyama demon (酒呑童子, Shuten-doji) in the Stories of Present and Past (今昔物語, Konjaku Monogatari) written in the Heian period (794-1185).

# Major Roles 1

- Rye (源頼光): the villain modelled like Macbeth or Richard III in the plays written by Shakespeare, while he was the hero to destroy demons and protect Kyoto in the original legend.
- Shuten (酒呑童子): The leader ruling the community of Mt. Oe-yama (大江山), while he is believed to attack and eat citizens of Kyoto.
- Kinta (坂田金時) : A young man following Rye, to be betrayed later by Rye.

# Major Roles 2

- Tsuna (渡辺綱): Another hero of the demon terminator, working for the Emperor (O-kimi). He works with Rye but realizes that he is a betrayer, and finally destroys Rye, as he destroyed the demons in the original legend.
- Madare (袴垂): A notorious gangster in the original legend. In this play, he is a brother of Tsuna and works with Rye.
- O-kimi (大王): The ruler of Kyoto, who was poisoned by his favorite wife (Shikibu).

# Story

- A poor masterless samurai, Rai and his follower Kinta, meet three witches (like Macbeth), who predicts that he will eventually become king, cast a spell that makes him immortal, and give him an invincible sword.
- After the witches leave, Rai slays a samurai he encounters, but he turns out to be Yasumasa, a shogun of Kyoto.
- Upon his arrival in Kyoto, Rai recruits the bandit Madare to his side and, using his scheming powers, kills his rival generals Sadamitsu and Urabe, and finally poisons even Okimi to take the throne of the king.

「作」中島かずき 「演出」いのうえひでのり

製作 松竹



# 朧の糸繰り唄

Oshichiyo

歌舞伎NEXT

新橋演舞場

2024年11月30日(土) 21日  
12月26日(木) 千秋楽

博多座 2025年2月1日(火) 21日  
25日(火) 千秋楽

# 市川染五郎 Ichikawa Somegoro



- *Shuten* is played by *Ichikawa Somegoro*, a rising star of the Kabuki company, was born in 2005 as a son of *Matsumoto Koshiro X*, who plays Rye in this play.

<https://gendai.media/articles/-/108600?page=2>



# General Instructions

- Have breakfast before joining the tour.
- Food and drink can be purchased at nearby convenience stores, while buying bento and beverages at the shops in the theater is recommended.
- Seat yourself at the seat assigned by the ticket.
- Do not talk loudly in the theater.

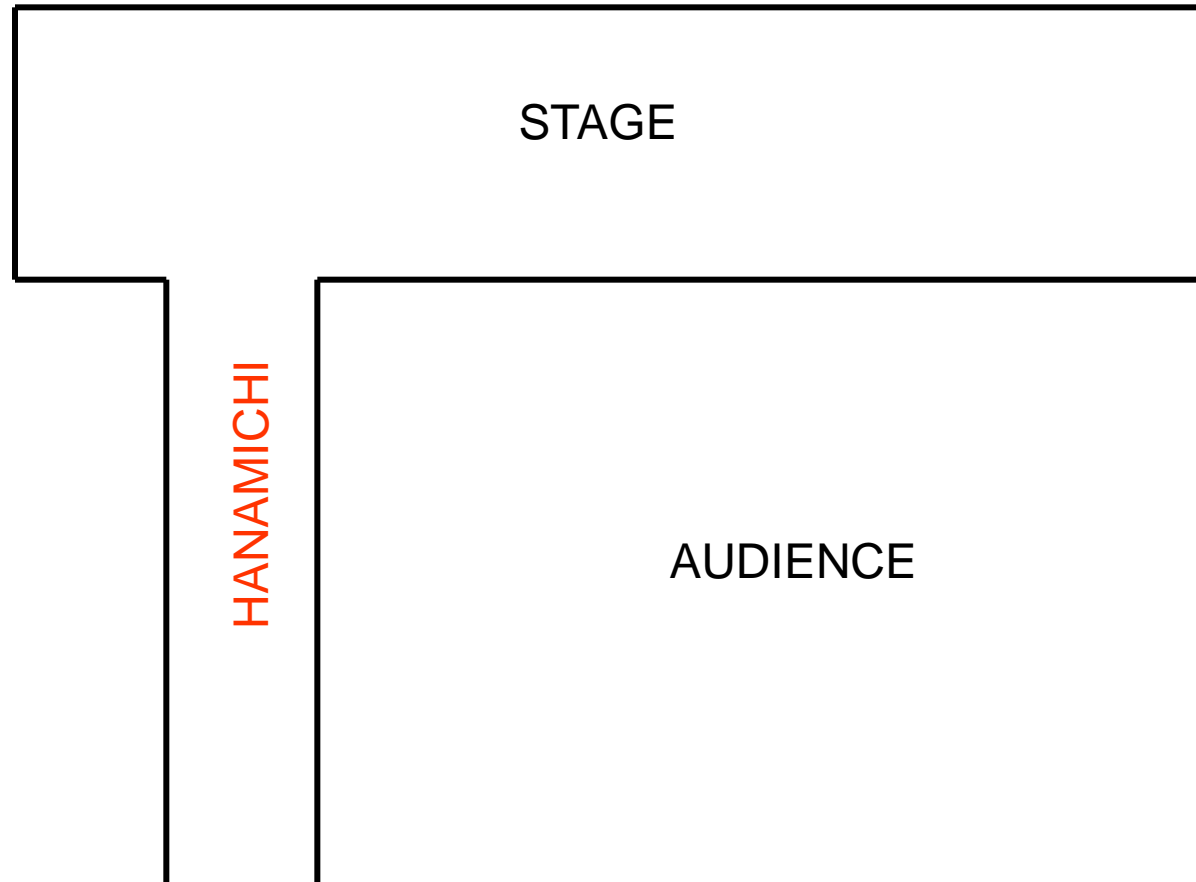
# Origin of Kabuki

- Kabuki dates back to the performance of a female group led by *Izumo-no-Okuni* in the early 17<sup>th</sup> 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), *yokobue* (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 date 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), and introduces 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 each actor can play are restricted by the stage names he 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!
  - Ichikawa Ennosuke: Omodaka-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.
- Adaptation of contemporary stories is a Kabuki tradition.
- Final Fantasy, a popular video game, is adapted for Kabuki in March 2023.

2019年  
6月2日(日)初日  
→26日(水)千種楽

MINAMIZA

中村梅玉  
うちはマダム

中村隼人  
うちはサスケ

坂東巳之助  
うすまきナルト

南座新開場記念  
新作歌舞伎  
**NARUTO**  
-ナルト-

原作 岸本斉史 (NARUTO -ナルト-) (漫画家 アニメ映画化)

脚本・演出 G 2

製作 松竹

市川猿弥 市川笑三郎 中村梅丸 市瀬秀和 嘉島典俊 市川笑也

京都南座  
四條  
〒605-0075 京都市東山区四條大橋東詰  
お問い合わせは075-561-1155  
松竹ホームページ <https://www.shochiku.co.jp>

新作歌舞伎  
流白浪耀星

坂東彌十郎  
尾上右近  
中村鷹之資  
市川猿弥  
市川寿猿

市川笑也  
尾上松也

製作 松竹

2023年  
12月5日(火)初日~25日(月)千種楽

新橋演舞場



# Hakataza February 2024



# Who is Akechi Kogoro?

- *Akechi Kogoro* is a private detective and a recurring main character in the detective novels of Edogawa Rampo. At times he cooperates with the police, and at other times he acts independently to solve cases, much like E. Poirot.
- Akechi Kogoro was the most popular detective in prewar mystery novels. He is comparable to *Kindaichi Kosuke* and his grandson, *Kindaichi the Boy*, in the postwar era.
- “I will solve all the riddles, in the name of my grandpa.”



# Story 1

- Kamiya Yoshinosuke is a low-ranked samurai. He has no money and goes on a date with his girlfriend, Kou, at a Soba (buckwheat noodle) shop on the street.
- As Yoshinosuke leaves for urgent business, Kou is eaten alive by the owner of the noodle shop.
- Having lost his job and living as a master of a musical instrument, Yoshinosuke goes to a playhouse to see his new girlfriend, Ran, a dancer.



# Story 2

- The spectacle is the Uzumemai, a dance performed by a young goddess to draw out Amaterasu, the sun goddess in the ancient mythology.
- The dance story: Angry Amaterasu hid in the rock “Amano Iwato”. Amaterasu was distracted by the cheers of the gods admiring the dance, and briefly appeared outside the Iwato, only to be pulled out by the strong hand of a powerful god. Then the sun returned to the world.
- At the end of the dance, a giant butterfly suddenly appears, and the dancer is cruelly killed.

# Story 3

- Yoshinosuke, whose two lovers were killed, eats and drinks at a tavern and tells the story of his lovers' murder to the other customers.
- A detective, Akechi Kogoro, overhears this and believes that it was the work of a mysterious assassin, the human panther.
- After Yoshinosuke leaves, a suspicious old woman visits the store and hands Akechi a letter. The letter reads, "If you don't back out of this case, I'll kill your wife."
- As Akechi leaves the store, Onda Rangaku, the "human panther," appears before him and repeatedly threatens Akechi.

# Story 4



- Akechi has been hiding himself in the city of Edo, devoting himself to making chrysanthemum dolls.
- Akechi's assistant comes to him and tells that a young girl has been kidnapped by the human panther.
- Akechi dares to use his own wife as a decoy to lure the human panther out of hiding.

# Story 5

- Sure enough, the kago taxi carrying his wife is attacked by the panther, but it is not a woman but a chrysanthemum doll.
- The panther escapes and the plan fails. Akechi's wife is taken away by an old woman, who is the panther's assistant.
- Akechi's wife is brought to the cave where the human panther is hiding.
- She is told that many abandoned children are being held captive there, and that they are being trained in tricks and will eventually be sold to a freak show.
- Then Yoshinosuke appears and tries to rape Akechi's wife, but she resists and stabs him. In fact, it was a human panther that was disguised as Yoshinosuke.

# Story 6

- A freak show in Asakusa. A black panther attacks a female panther as a show. The black panther is controlled by a suspicious old woman.
- In fact, the black panther is played by the human panther, and the female panther is played by Akechi's wife.
- Suddenly Akechi and the police raid the place, and Akechi shoots the old woman, who is controlling the panther.
- In fact, she was the mother of the human panther, Onda Rangaku.

# Story 7

- Onda still escapes, but when Akechi chases him down, he excuses himself by saying that what he is doing is revenge against the parents who abandoned their babies and the people who discriminated him because of his ugly face.
- Onda and runs away on a big kite.

# Background 1

- 江戸川乱歩 Edogawa Rampo is called the "father of Japanese mystery novels". He was greatly influenced by Edgar Allan Poe and took the name Edogawa Rampo as a writer.
- His works contain much of the eroticism and taste for the bizarre that were observed in popular fiction of the Taisho era.
- The story of a man born into a wealthy family and abused because of physical disabilities, who, later as an adult, uses crime to release the trauma of his childhood, is a pattern often repeated in his works.
- Onda Rangaku and the Phantom of the Opera have much in common. Although they were born into wealthy families, they both suffer from facial disabilities and are trying to redress the resentment of being discriminated against by the public.



## Background 2

- The fascination with the eroticism and the bizarre culture of the Taisho era is shared by the contemporary popular works as 鬼滅の刃 the “Demon Slayer” (2019).