歌舞伎一KABUKI

Ryoichi Imai JTW, Kyushu University



Program - Hakataza June 2025

Soiree 16:00-19:25

- Sugawara Denju Tenarai Kagami
 (The great artistic calligraphy created by Sugawara no Michizane)
- I. Kaidan Chibusa no Enoki(Legend of the Milk flowing from the Sacred Tree)

https://hakataza.e-tix.jp/pc/en/

https://www.hakataza.co.jp/lineup/63

https://www.kabuki-bito.jp/theaters/other/play/927

I. Michiyuki Kotoba no Amaikai Escaping away in Love

- Kariya-hime, the adopted daughter of Kan Shojo (Sugawara no Michizane), is in love with the Emperor's younger brother, Prince Tokiyo.
- Michizane was suspected of rebellion due to the exposed secret meeting between his adopted daughter, Kariya-hime, and Prince Tokiyo, leading to his dismissal from high office in the imperial court.
- Sakuramaru, a servant, disguises himself as a candy peddler and escorts the couple, who have fled from their secret meeting place to the village, where Kariya-hime's biological mother, Kakuju, lives.

II. Kaidan Chibusa no Enoki Legend of the Milk flowing from the Sacred Tree

• Kaidan Chibusa no Enoki (Ghost of Chibusa Enoki) is a ghost story based on a rakugo performance by 三遊亭円朝 (San'yutei Encho), a legendary rakugo storyteller who was active from the end of the Edo period to the Meiji period.

Story (short version)

- Artist Hishikawa Shigenobu has a beautiful wife, Oseki, and a baby boy, Mayotaro.
- A ronin named Isogai Namie, who happens to fall in love with Oseki at first sight, becomes Shigenobu's apprentice and seduces Oseki while Shigenobu is away.
- He also gives money to the unscrupulous Uwabami no Sanji, threatens the household servant Shosuke, and then murders Shigenobu.
- Namie, who has concealed his evil deeds and married Oseki, now tries to get rid of Mayotaro...

Characters

- Hishikawa Shigenobu: 37, artist, killed by Namie, returns as a ghost to save Mayotaro.
- Sosuke: Timid servant, coerced into murder, repents, and raises Mayotaro.
- Uwabami Sanji: Thug, hired by Namie, killed by Shigenobu's ghost (kabuki-only role).
 - Note: One actor plays Shigenobu, Sosuke, and Sanji.
- Oseki: 24, Shigenobu's beautiful wife, seduced by Namie, dies in madness.
- Mayotaro: Shigenobu's son, avenges his father at age five.
- Isogai Namie: 29, ronin, kills Shigenobu, killed by Mayotaro.

Ume wakaki Misome:

- Edo artist Hishikawa Shigenobu lives in Yanagishima with his wife Oseki and newborn son Mayotaro.
- During a pilgrimage, ronin Isogai Namie saves Oseki from a drunken samurai and, smitten, becomes Shigenobu's apprentice to pursue her.

Oseki Kudoki

- Shigenobu leaves to paint a dragon at Nanzoin Temple.
- Namie seduces Oseki, threatening her baby. Though she initially resists, Oseki grows fond of Namie and begins inviting him over.
 - This section has been the most often performed by the rakugo performers, demonstrating the art of story-telling.

Waseda Restaurant

- Namie, wanting Oseki permanently, plans to kill Shigenobu.
- He pays off Uwabami Sanji, a thug who knows his past, and coerces servant Sosuke to help.

Ochiai Hotaru Kembutsu

- Sosuke gets Shigenobu drunk at a firefly-viewing event, and Namie's men kill him.
- Sosuke sees Shigenobu's ghost painting at the temple; once the dragon is finished, the ghost vanishes.
- Namie marries Oseki, who becomes pregnant.

Tsunohazu-village: Ghost at the Waterfall

- Oseki's milk dries up, and Namie orders Sosuke to kill Mayotaro.
- Sosuke throws the child into a waterfall but, moved by Shigenobu's ghost, repents and saves him.
- Sanji, sent to kill them, is dragged into the waterfall by the ghost, and Sosuke escapes with Mayotaro.

Akatsuka-village: the Sacred Enoki Tree

- Sosuke raises Mayotaro at Shogetsuin Temple using sap from the miraculous "Breast Enoki" tree.
- Oseki, tormented by sores and Shigenobu's ghost, goes mad and dies after losing Namie's child.
- Namie tracks down Sosuke and Mayotaro, but the fiveyear-old Mayotaro, aided by Shigenobu's ghost, kills Namie to avenge his father.

General Instructions

- Have breakfast/lunch 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.

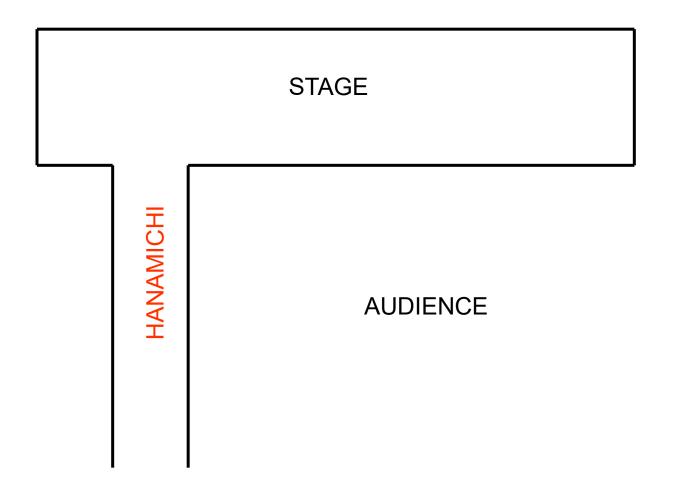
Origin of Kabuki

- Kabuki dates back to the performance of a female group led by *Izumo-no-Okuni* in the early 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), 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.







