

# 歌舞伎－KABUKI

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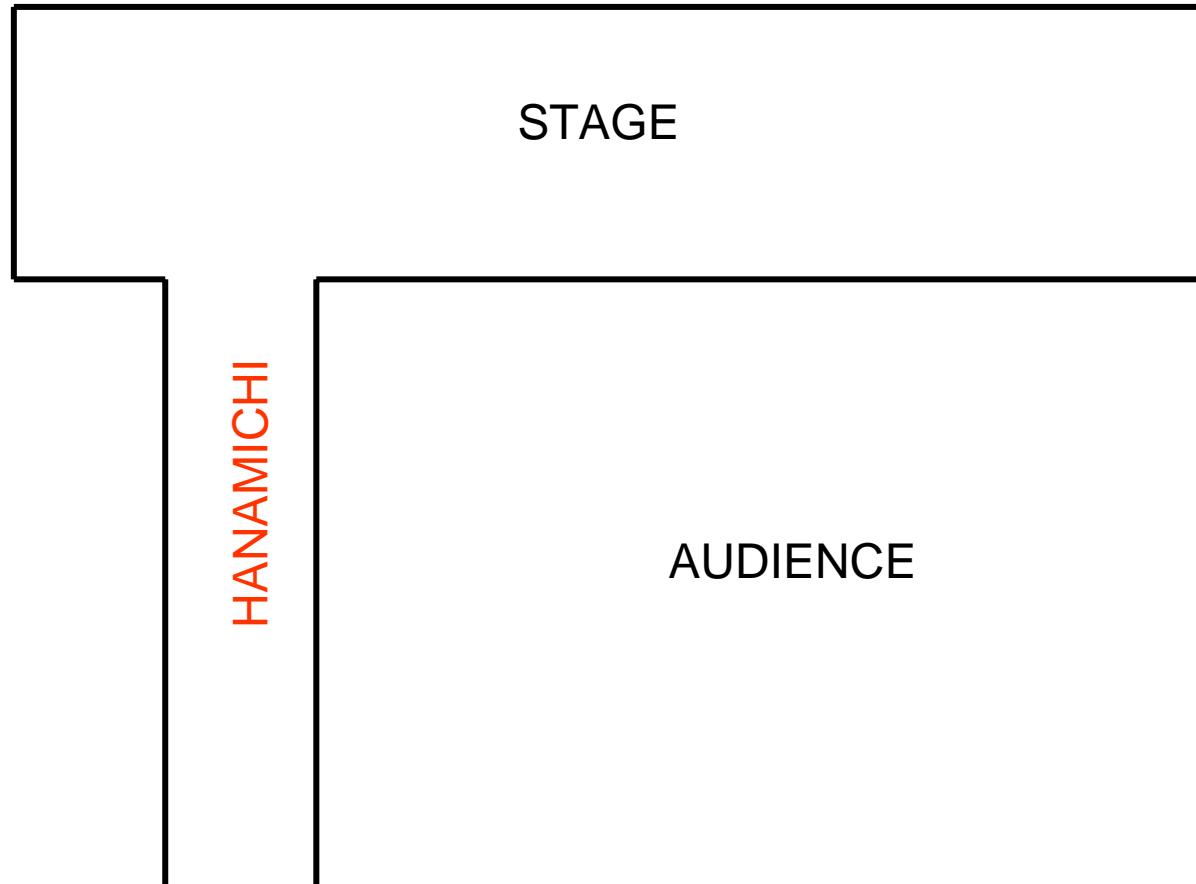
# Origin of Kabuki

- Kabuki dates back to the performance of a female group led by Izumo-no-Okuni in the early 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.
- Since then Kabuki has been an all-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 period, under the influence of *Bunraku* (puppet plays) and *No-Kyogen* (Greek tragedy-like plays)
- In the late Edo period, 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.

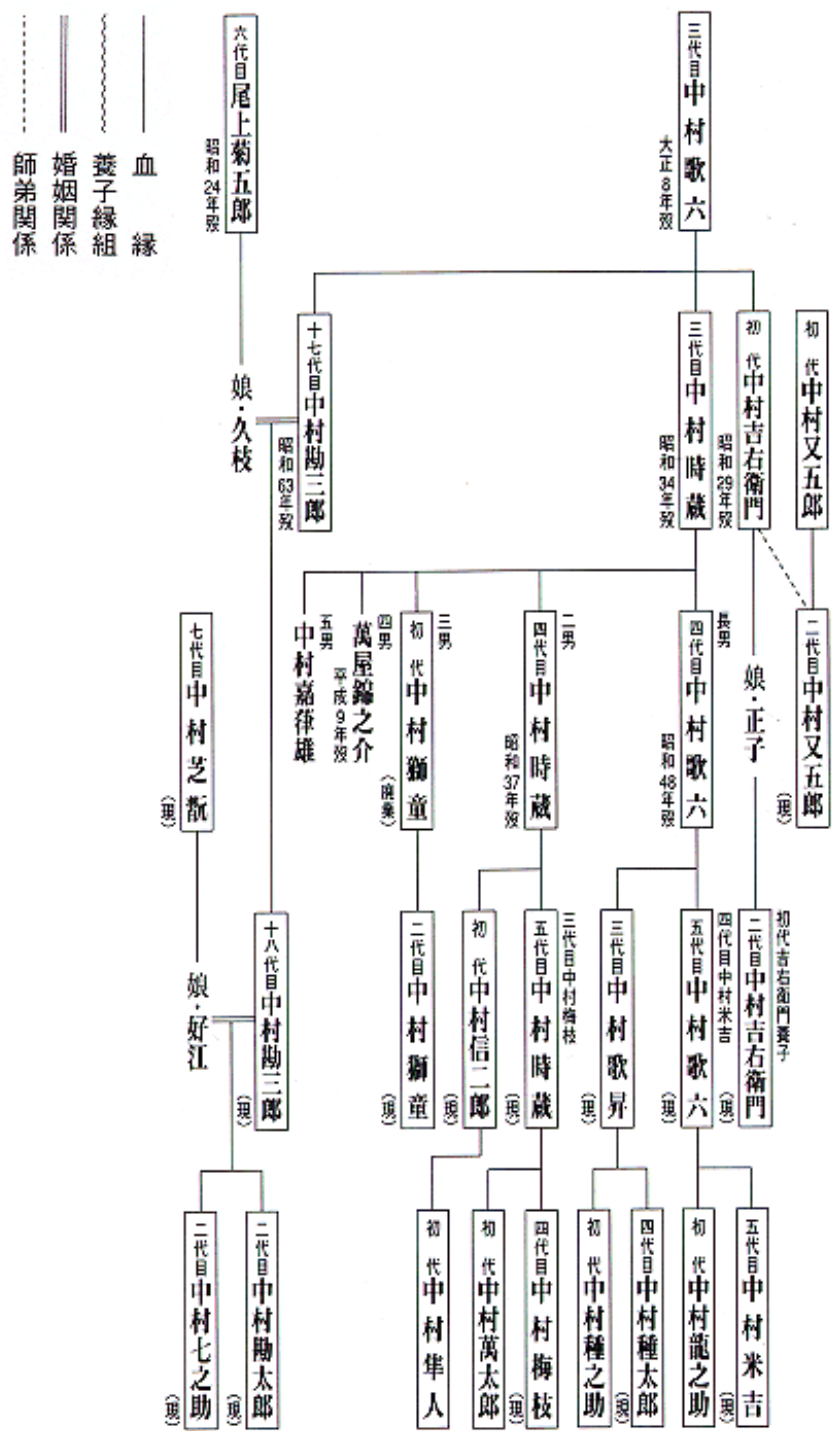
# Actors

- All Kabuki actors are male.
- Female roles are played by male actors called “onna-gata”.
- Each Kabuki actor has a stage name, which is succeeded from their ancestors.
- Some prestigious stage names dates back to the early Edo period.

# Famous Actors and Actress

- Tachi-yaku (male leading role)
  - Ichikawa Danjuro
  - Matsumoto Kohshiro
  - Nakamura Kichiemon
- Onna-gata (female role)
  - Nakamura Jakuemon
- Both
  - Onoe Kikugoro
  - Nakamura Kanzaburo
  - Sakata Tohjuuro

〔中村吉右衛門家〕播磨屋  
 〔中村時藏家〕萬屋  
 〔中村勘三郎家〕中村屋



# Nakamura Kanzaburo XVIII

- He is one of the most popular and talented Kabuki actor of today.
- He is the son of Nakamura Kanzaburo XVII, and a grand-son of Onoe Kikugoro VI.
- He is the heir of the one of the most honored Kabuki dynasties. His ancestor was the owner of a Kabuki theater in the early Edo period.

# Kanzaburo's sons

- Nakamura Kantaro dances *Amagoi Gitsune*.
- Nakamura Shichinosuke plays *Gompachi* in *Suzugammori*.
- They are expected (and almost promised) to succeed Kanzaburo or another great Kabuki stage name.

# Kojo

- *Kojo* is a ceremony to announce that an actor takes a new stage name.
- In *Kojo*, the actor is celebrated by the top stars of the company and the audience.
- *Kojo* is also held as a memorial ceremony of honorable actors in the past.

# O-Mukoh

- In Kabuki, the audience calls the actor's house name (*yago*) in a loud voice in order to encourage his vigorous performance.
- *Yago* is different from the stage name.
- (Examples)
  - Nakamura Kanzaburo: Nakamura-ya!
  - Nakamura Hashinosuke: Narikoma-ya!
  - Nakamura Tomijuro: Tenohji-ya!
  - Ichikawa Sadanji: Takashima-ya!

# Today's Program

- Suzugamori (1 act)
- Kojo
- Benten musume Meo no Shiramnami  
(Benten Kozo and the Five Thieves, 2 acts)
- Amagoi Gitsune (A Fox Prays for Rain - dance)

# Suzugamori

- Outline: In Suzugamori (forests of bells), Shirai Gonpachi meets Banzui-in Chobei, and they become friends.
- This is a Hamlet-meets-Romeo-like story.
- Both are heroes in the originally different stories.
- Gonpachi's amazing fight against thieves impresses Banzui-in Chobei.

# Benten Musume

- This is one of the most popular Kabuki plays.
- The full-length play is long and complicated. Two scenes are usually presented on stage.
- (1) *Benten Kozo* disguises as a beautiful woman who is revealed to be a man and a member of the notorious *Shiranami* (white wave) gang.
- (2) The five thieves of the Shiranami announce who they are in flashy speeches.

# 弁天小僧菊之助

● 知らざあ言つて聞かせやしよう  
浜の真砂と五右衛門が、  
歌に残せし盗人の  
種は尽きねえ七里ヶ浜、  
その白浪の夜働き、  
以前を言やあ江ノ島で、  
年季勤めの稚児が淵  
百味講で散らす蒔錢を、  
あてに小皿の一文子  
百が二百と賽錢の、

● くすね錢せえ段々に  
悪事のはのぼる上の宮  
岩本院で講中の、  
枕捜しも度重なり  
お手長講と札付きに、  
とうとう島を追い出され、  
それから若衆の美人局  
ここやかしの寺島で、  
小耳に聞いた祖父さんの、  
似ぬ声色で小ゆすりたかり  
名せえ由縁の、  
弁天小僧菊之助たあ俺がこと  
だあ！

## 日本駄工門

- 問われて名乗るもおこがましいが  
生まれは遠州浜松在  
十四の頃から親に放れ、身の生業  
も白浪の  
沖を越えたる夜稼ぎの、盗みはす  
れど非道はせず、  
人に情けを掛川の、金谷を掛けて  
宿々で、義賊と噂高札に  
廻る配符のたらい越し、危ねえその  
身の境界も、  
もはや四十に人間の、定めは僅か五  
十年、六十余州に隠れのねえ  
賊徒の張本、日本駄右衛門。