

Kabuki

歌舞伎

WEEKS 8 & 9



Storytelling

The three major traditional performing arts

1000s-1300s

1500s

1600s-1800s

Nogaku

Bunraku
(Puppet Theater)

Kabuki

Noh (drama)

Kyogen (comic)

Rakugo

Kamishibai

Kabuki / 歌舞伎

• kabuku (a verb) → kabuki (noun) → kabuki (song 歌-dance 舞-acting 伎)

*It originated from the word "kabukimono" meaning an eccentric person.

[Genres of today's kabuki]

Kabuki-kyogen (drama w/speech) → dance with music and drama

Pure kabuki and Gidayu-kyogen

kabuki dance (dance) → drama with music and dance

Pure dance

Dramatic dance: derived from Noh and a quick change dance

Drama + Dance + Music = Fusion

Categories

Kabuki kyogen: plays with actors' speeches and actions. Kyogen stands for drama w/ dialogue, not kyogen in noh.

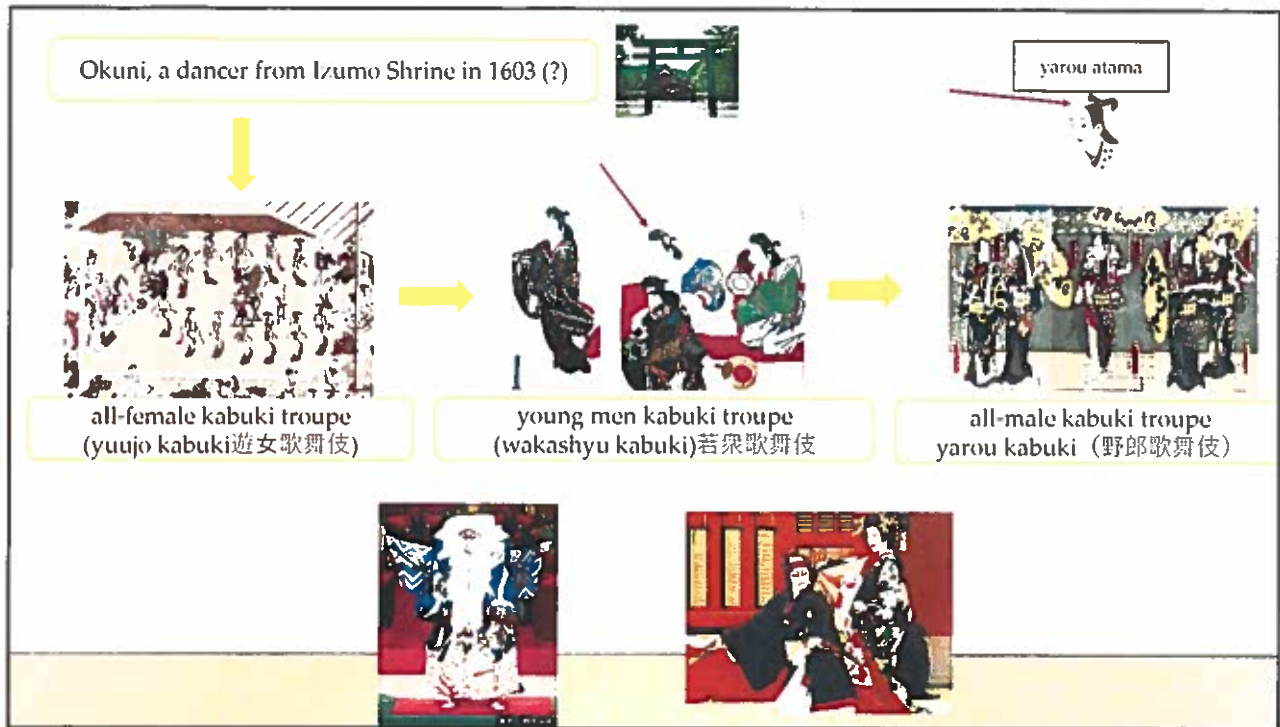
- Jun-kabuki (pure-kabuki) original play
- Gidayu-kyogen a complete copy from a puppet theater play to a kabuki play
sewamono(domestic play) and jidaimono (period play)

Kabuki buyo (kabuki dance): Dances over music.




- Dramatic dances dances with a story. Some are similar to kabuki kyogen.
- Pure dances dances without a story or speeches
- Henge-dances transformation or quick-change dances



Shin-kabuki (New kabuki): New plays written by playwrights other than kabuki writers. Also, transcriptions from foreign novels and plays.

'Super' Kabuki: Modern kabuki with contemporary theme arts, manga, and music such as the Western orchestra.



Super Kabuki "ONE PIECE"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=53&v=Cx7lhxDvY3U

Kanamaruza Theater in Kagawa (1835)
金丸座



Ginza Kabukiza Theater in Tokyo (2013)
銀座 歌舞伎座



hanamichi(花道)
passageway

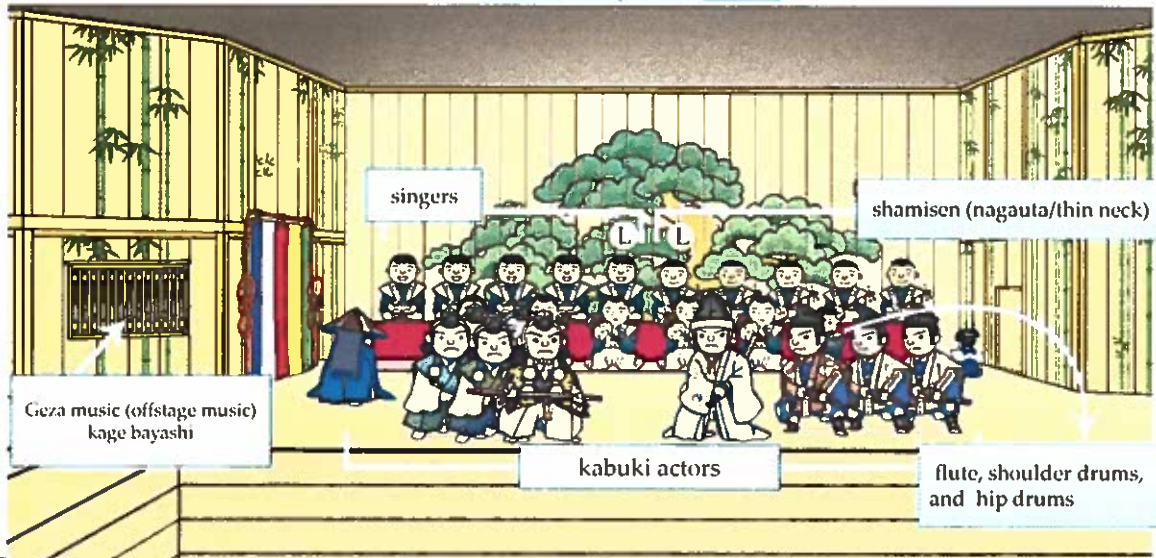
Music of Kabuki

- Music plays an important role: it describes scenes and accompanies the entrance and exit and speeches of actors.
Kabuki is often compared with Western operas and musicals.

Task:

- accompanying dances with songs
- accompanying kyogen
- describing scenes and playing background music by the geza ensemble
- producing sounds effects such as rain, winds, battle sounds, and supporting "mie" (actor's frozen pose) w/percussion.
- giving signals to the audience (the beginning of performance and the end of intermission)

kabuki ensemble seating
(Kanjincho)



Geza music (Kuromusu)/ Offstage music

- ♪ Singers
- ♪ Shamisen
- ♪ Narimono: percussion and wind instruments

Tack-fixed drums: stick drums, gagaku drum, flat-rounded drum, fan drum

Tight drums: sarugaku drum, kakko drum, etc.

Tsuzumi drums: large hip drum, small shoulder drum

Gong/bells: dora gong, medal shaped steel drum, temple bells, horse bells, hand-held cymbals, etc.

Flutes: noh-flute, shinno-flute, shakuhachi, pipes, a cricket whistle, charumera (oboe-like horn).

Others: xylophone, clappers, metal rings, wooden/bamboo clappers, fan, glockenspiel, etc.



Kabuki from YouTube (3/28 in class)

Kabuki Trailer of "Super Kabuki 2 ONE PIECE"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ww-c37bu1k&list=PL>

Super Kabuki 1 Yamatotakeru

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3H46x--1o7I&list=PL>

Sukeroku (the name of the main character)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43Bn_d00T4

Futago sumidagawa (Sumida river and the twins)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24r_A4gqf2o

JPANA 222: Homework #5 "Kanjincho"

Q 1: What instrument(s) did you hear from the Geza (offstage) and what scene(s)?

Q 2: There were singers on the stage. How do you know when they are in performance or not?

Q 3: Describe at least two of your favorite scenes where the actor(s) and music were more dramatic and prominent?