



Special **KABUKI** Performance

Sunday, October 7, 2018

20:00 – 21:00

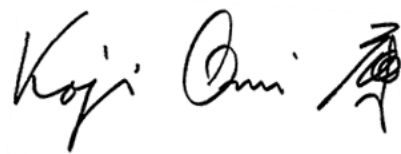
Event Hall

Distinguished participants,

Kabuki is a traditional performing art with a history of more than 400 years.

In commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the STS forum, we would like to present a short excerpt from a kabuki play.

Sharing the same spirit as the Future Leaders at the STS Forum, young actors are entrusted with the future of the kabuki world. I hope you will enjoy their performance and this will be an unforgettable moment for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Koji Omi' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Koji Omi,
Founder and Chairman, STS *forum***

Performances

Produced by SHOCHIKU

ご挨拶 Introduction

Nakamura, Kazutarō Ronald Cavaye

石橋 SHAKKYŌ [The Stone Bridge]

CAST: Nakamura, Takanosuke

STORY:

‘Shishi’ are sacred beasts associated with the Buddhist deity Monju (Mañjuśrī). The scenes involving ‘shishi’ usually take place on the sacred mountain called ‘Seiryōzan’, said to be Monju’s dwelling place on earth. As the legend goes, at the top of this mountain is a stone bridge spanning a deep ravine, on the other side of which is the Buddhist paradise. In the Nō play, also named ‘Shakkyō’, one or more ‘shishi’ appear on stage as auspicious omens. There are several dances in kabuki featuring ‘shishi’ that are based on this Nō play and the dance performed today is the closest to the Nō version. In the exciting finale, the ‘shishi’ dances vigorously and shakes his mane, accompanied by the magnificent Nagauta Lyrical Ensemble and the brilliant Hayashi Percussionists.

歌舞伎解説 Kabuki Talk

Ronald Cavaye

藤娘 FUJI MUSUME [The Wisteria Maiden]

CAST: Nakamura, Kazutarō

STORY:

A beautiful maiden in a black lacquered hat, holding a branch of wisteria flowers over her shoulder, stands under wisteria flowers hanging from a big pine tree. She is, in reality, the spirit of the wisteria plant. She expresses a woman's romantic thoughts in dance. Then she compares the man she likes to a pine tree and portrays becoming slightly intoxicated. Originally, this work formed one out of five sections in a ‘transformation dance’ in which five different characters came out of a picture and danced, but today it is performed independently as a short but varied piece illustrating the spirit of the wisteria.

Profile



中村 壱太郎

成駒家



Nakamura Kazutarō

Nakamura Kazutarō was born on August 3rd, 1990. His acting house name is ‘Narikoma-ya’. He was born as the first son of Nakamura Ganjirō IV. His grandfather is Living National Treasure, Sakata Tōjūrō IV.

He made his stage debut in January, 1995 at the Nakaza Theatre in Osaka where he first took the name Nakamura Kazutarō.

As an actor he has a very broad range: from sweet and tender ‘onnagata’ female roles to chivalrous male roles. He is a young kabuki star who is currently attracting much attention. In September, 2014, he succeeded as the 7th head of the Azuma School of Japanese Dance, taking the name Azuma Tokuyō.

Profile



中村鷹之資

天王寺屋



Nakamura Takanosuke

Nakamura Takanosuke was born on April 11th, 1999. His acting house name is ‘Tennōji-ya’. He is the first son of the late Nakamura Tomijūrō V, who was a Living National Treasure. He made his stage debut in April, 2001 at the Kabukiza Theatre where he appeared under the name of Nakamura Dai. He made his took the name Nakamura Takanosuke at the Kabukiza Theatre in November, 2004.

He is especially recognised for his talent at dance. He is a young kabuki actor for whom hopes are very high in the future.

Profile

Ronald Cavaye

Ronald Cavaye is a concert pianist who studied in London, Hannover, and Budapest. He was professor of piano at the Musashino Academy of Music in Tokyo, and a founding narrator of the English language “Earphone Guide,” commentaries at Tokyo’s Kabuki-za and National Theatre. He performs regularly in Japan and the USA, and has written two books on music education, and articles for the *Edinburgh Festival*, the *Paris Autumn Festival* and *The Times*. He is the author of *Kabuki - A Pocket Guide*: Tuttle, Japan, *A Guide to the Japanese Stage*: (with Paul Griffith and Akihiko Senda), Kodansha International, Japan and he has translated for the University of Hawai’i Press’s *Kabuki Plays on Stage*.



STS forum – Science and Technology in Society forum