

Asian Theatre History





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Noh Play: classical Japanese drama,
Reserved performance style
performed for the upper class

Crash Course Theatre History: Just Say Noh:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1IyUPMXwS0>

Characteristics of a Noh Play

- only males on stage
- includes a chorus and an orchestra
- multiple performances during a day
- costumes: large and elaborate
- Setting: nearly bare stage



Noh Performers

Shite: leading actors, main performers



Noh Performers

Tsure: Companion to the Shite



Noh Performers

Waki: antagonist of the Shite (villain)



Noh Performers

Hayashi: Noh orchestra

Four instrumentalists, Flute, 3 drums



Noh Performers

Jiutai: Noh Chorus

Kanami Kiyotsugu:

A founder of the
Noh play





Kyogen: short comedy performed
between Noh plays

Noh Play:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ModfyW8wDvo>



Kabuki:

classical Japanese dance-drama,
exaggerated performance style

Crash Course Theatre History: Kabuki and Bunraku.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc3dWwbctw4>



Okuni.,
creator of Kabuki

young female dancer



Onna-kabuki with courtesans on stage
("Shijo kawara yuraku zu byobu" Seikado Bunko Art Museum collection)

Onna Kabuki: early form of Kabuki, mainly women on stage



Wakashu Kabuki:
form of kabuki
performed mainly by
young men

Replaced Onna



Yara Kabuki:
modern form of
Kabuki, performed
mainly by older men,

*focus on training and
discipline*



Kabuki Character Types

Onnagata: male actors who played female roles



Kabuki Character Types

Tachiyaku: Brave Heroes



Kabuki Character Types

Katakiyaku: Villains



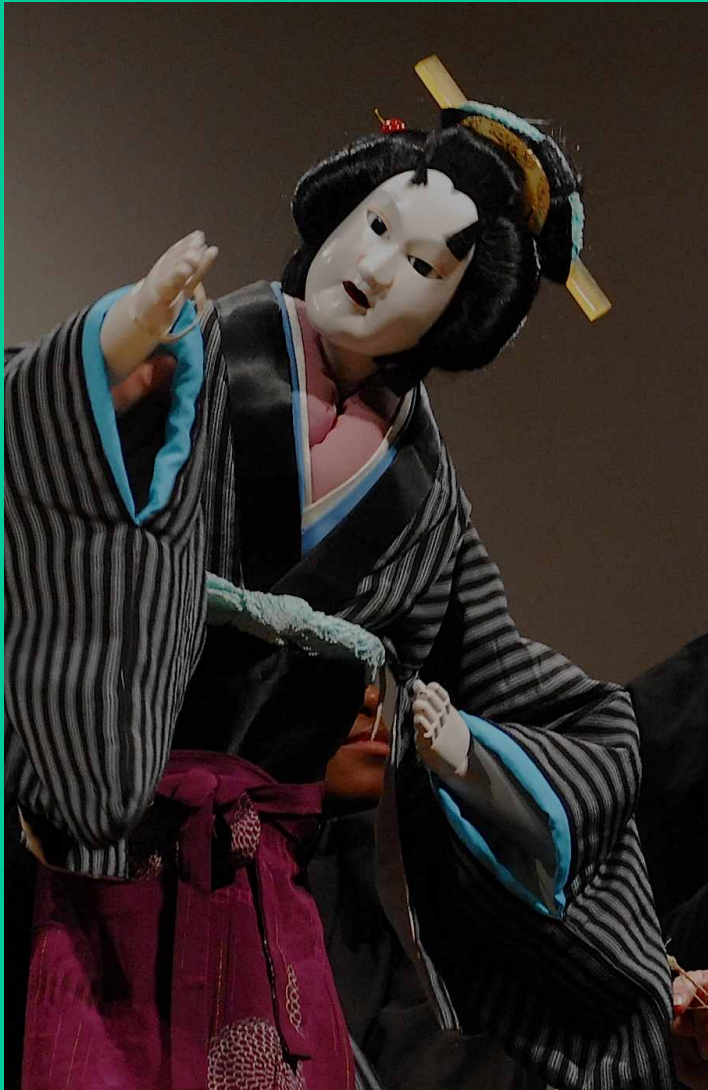
Kabuki Character Types

Koyaku: Children's Roles

Kabuki Performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oZu80KZAM4>

Bunraku: Traditional Japanese puppet theatre



Bunraku Theatre:

<https://unctv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ja-cult.arts.drama.bunraku/japanese-culture-bunraku/#.X4XienhKhfU>



Bunraku Performers

Puppeteers:

three people control
the puppet

(Ningyotsukai)



3 Bunraku

Puppeteers:

First (Main) puppeteer: controls head and right hand of puppet (*omozukai*)

Second (left) Puppeteer: controls left hand of puppet (*hidarizukai*)

Third Puppeteer: controls feet and legs of puppet (*ashizukai*)



Bunraku Performers

Chanter: one person
voices all puppets

(Tayu)



Bunraku Performers

Musician: plays 3
stringed instrument

*(Shamisen, similar to
guitar)*



- Japan's Bunraku Puppet
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qcBSAwQVpw>



Sanskrit Drama: Ancient Indian Performances, includes many art forms

Poetry, dance, instrumental and vocal music, spoken poetry and prose

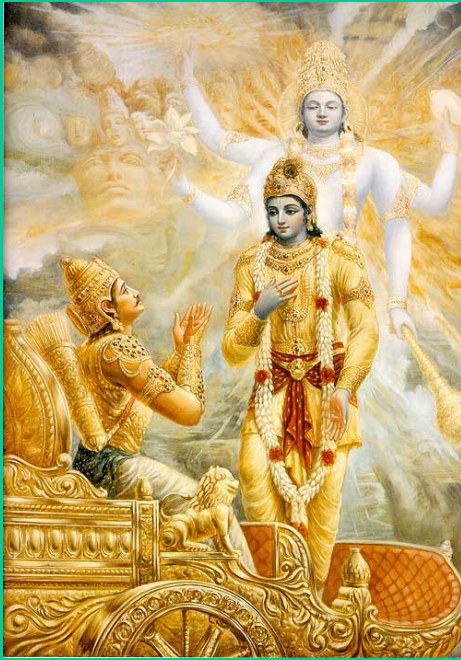
- Crash Course Theatre History Sanskrit Drama (watch through about 5:00)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3mj4QQH8TM>



Natyashastra:

Handbook on Dramatic
Art detailing early
Sanskrit Theatre

'The Art of Theatre'



Mahabharata and Ramayana:

early Indian epic poems

source for Sanskrit Dramas, Kathakali



Kathakali: Indian dance/drama

*evolved from classic performance
styles around 300 years ago*

- Crash Course Theatre History: Kathakali
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51p-HBv-3bA>

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T13UKV1z91M>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uIan6u3UrQ>