

Japanese Theatre: DVD Resource List

2015-2017 HSC Drama Syllabus

The Japan Foundation, Sydney Library

www.jpff.org.au



This is a list of DVDs in The Japan Foundation, Sydney Library collection that cover the following performance genres, as listed in the 2015-2017 HSC Drama Syllabus.

1. **Bunraku**
2. **Kabuki**
3. **Noh**
4. **Suzuki Method**

Note:

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is relocating to Central Park (near Central Station) this year. These resources and others will be available for loan after the library reopens at the Central Park premises. The library is scheduled to reopen in September 2014.

Bunraku

The Edo Stage: Kabuki and Bunraku

Documentary

c1982 (reproduction 2007)

1 DVD

In English.

Like the theatre of other cultures, kabuki and bunraku reflect the society in which they were born, its morality, dreams and changes. In the case of Japan, the mid-to-late Edo period was a time of deep-seated dissatisfaction with feudal morality, and kabuki and bunraku plays echo the growing power and consciousness of the common people. This videogram features extracts from two plays "Sukeroku yukari no Edozakura", a kabuki comedy, and "Sonezaki shinju", a tragedy written for bunraku by the great playwright Monzaemon Chikamatsu. These plays reflect both the laughter and tears of Edo-period Japan.

The Lovers' Exile

Performance footage

c2006

1 DVD + booklet

In Japanese with English subtitles.

The story, one Chikamatsu's domestic tragedies, recounts the love between a penniless clerk and an indentured courtesan. In Bunraku, as the reciter tells the story, the master holds the puppet against his chest, and his right arm gives life to the right arm of the puppet. His two assistants are clothed in black; one assistant gives life to the left arm of the puppet, the other gives life to the body, skirts, or legs.

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The Miracle of Tsubosaka Temple

c1974 (reproduction 2007).

1 DVD

In English.

This one-act play written by Danpei Toyosawa and Chikajo in 1877, which depicts the love between a blind music teacher and his wife, is still one of the most popular plays performed by Kabuki, Bunraku and other traditional theatrical groups. In this video, the play is presented by Yuki Puppet Troupe, which has a 350-year tradition in string manipulated puppets. The handling of the strings by the experienced puppet masters is quite remarkable.

Kabuki

Masterpieces of Kabuki, vols. 1 -33 (Kabuki Meisakusen, 1 - 33)

Performance footage

c2004

Optional audio commentary in English.

Each DVD contains footage of an entire classic Kabuki play.

The Edo Stage: Kabuki and Bunraku

Documentary

c1982 (reproduction 2007)

1 DVD

In English.

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Noh

Noh Dojoji

Performance footage

c2012

1 DVD + booklet

In Japanese with optional English subtitles.

Presents highlights of the Noh play "Dōjōji" performed by three different schools of Noh performers.

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In a Thicket (Yabu no naka)

Performance footage

c2004

2 DVD set

In Japanese with optional English subtitles.

Yamato shinkyoku sho: UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Documentary

c2009

1 DVD

In Japanese with optional English subtitles.

Nohgaku was designated in 2001 as a world intangible cultural heritage. This DVD looks at the chant and instruments of Noh performance.

Performance selections from the five main schools of Japanese traditional noh (Yamato shinkyoku shō. 2, Gotai fūshi)

Performance footage

c2010

1 DVD + booklet

In Japanese with optional English subtitles.

Comprising excerpts from nine performance selections from the five main schools of traditional Japanese noh. Filmed at National Noh Theatre in May 2010.

Nohgakushi (Noh performers)

Documentary

c2002

1 DVD

In Japanese with optional English subtitles.

About the Sekine family of noh performers. Looks at the Kanze School of noh performance and how this family practices the noh traditions in their daily life as well as on the stage.

Suzuki Method

Suzuki Tadashi: Selected Theatre Works

Performance footage (plus interviews in Japanese only)

2011 (c1985-2006)

3 DVD set

In Japanese. English subtitles on one performance, *Iwanoff* (Disc 3, item 1)