

THEATRE YEAR-BOOK
1999

Theatre in Japan

I.T.I. JAPAN CENTRE

I.T.I. JAPAN CENTRE

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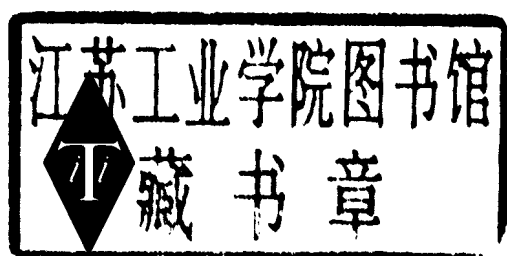
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**Under the auspices
of
The Agency for Cultural Affairs
and
The Japan Foundation**

**JAPAN CENTRE
OF
INTERNATIONAL THEATRE INSTITUTE
(I.T.I./UNESCO)**

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Foreword

Theatre Yearbook Japan has been published since 1972 under the auspices of The Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japanese government, and from this year with the partial support of The Japan Foundation. The yearbook's purpose is to inform readers abroad about the Japanese theatrical scene, and to introduce international activities to the Japanese public.

This issue contains photos of the best performances of the year, selected by Japanese critics from among the many performances of 1998. Specialists in twelve genres wrote on last year's theatre activities, showing the current trends in Japanese theatre.

Beginning with the issue of 1997, we publish two yearbooks, *Yearbook-Theatre in Japan*, to be sent abroad, and *Yearbook-Theatre Abroad*, written in Japanese, for distribution in Japan. In the latter yearbook, critics reported on theatre activities in fifteen countries outside Japan in 1998.

In 1998 ITI Japan Centre had International Kabuki Workshop (under the direction of Living National Treasure Nakamura Matagorō) for non-Japanese and also for the first time open to Japanese. And we also organized BeSeTo Festival in Tokyo with ITI Chinese Centre and Korean Centre. We also try to inform these events at the same time as the last year's theatrical activities of each genre.

We sincerely hope our efforts in publishing the yearbook and sponsoring the theatrical events will contribute to our common goal ; better understanding between the peoples of the world through theatre.

March , 1999

Nagayama Takeomi

President of ITI Japan Centre

N. B. Japanese names are written the Japanese way family names come first and given names second.

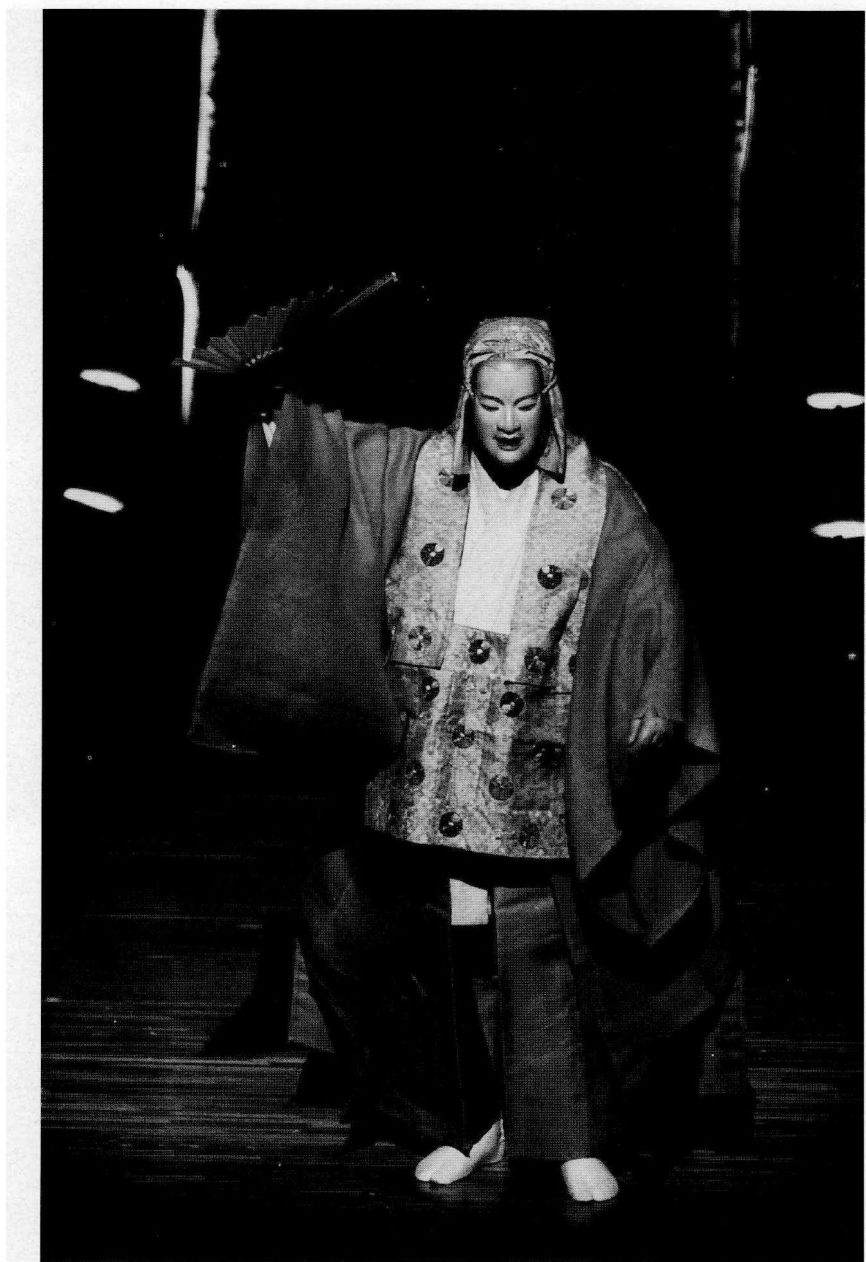
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**STAGE PRODUCTIONS
WELL-RECEIVED
IN JAPAN 1998**



Dōjōji by Ohtsuki Bunzo at Kanze Noh Theatre
Photo by Maejima Yoshihiro



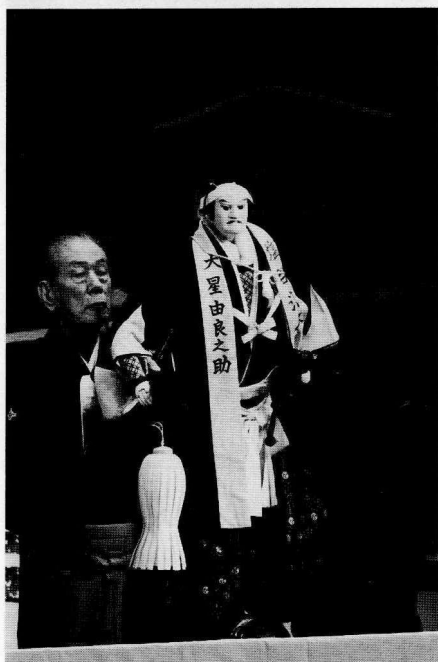
Kūkai by Umewaka Rokurō at Suntory Hall
Photo by Takahashi Noboru



Sekidera Komachi by Konparu Nobutaka at National Noh Theatre
Photo by Yoshikoshi Ken

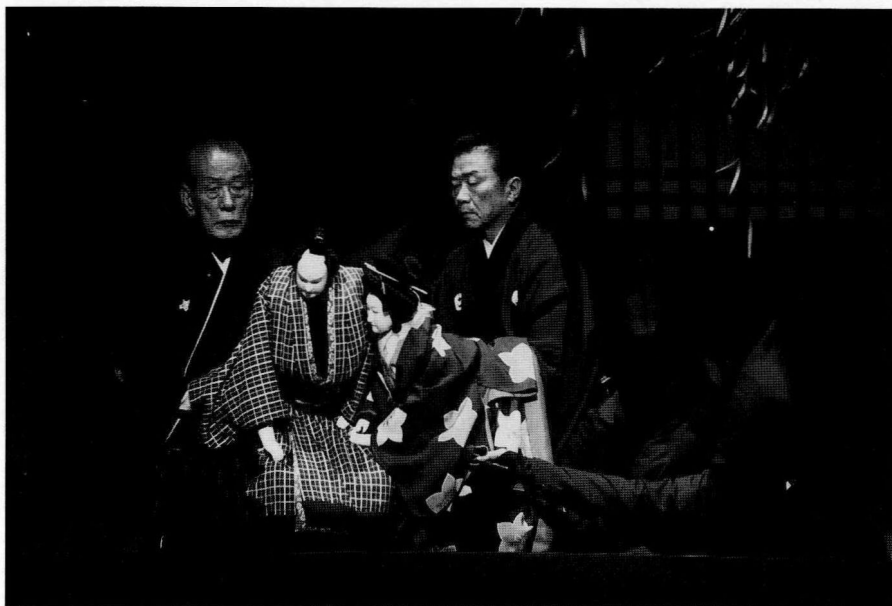


Kyogen-Kongeki Friendship Performance at National Noh Theatre
Photo provided by Mansaku no Kai

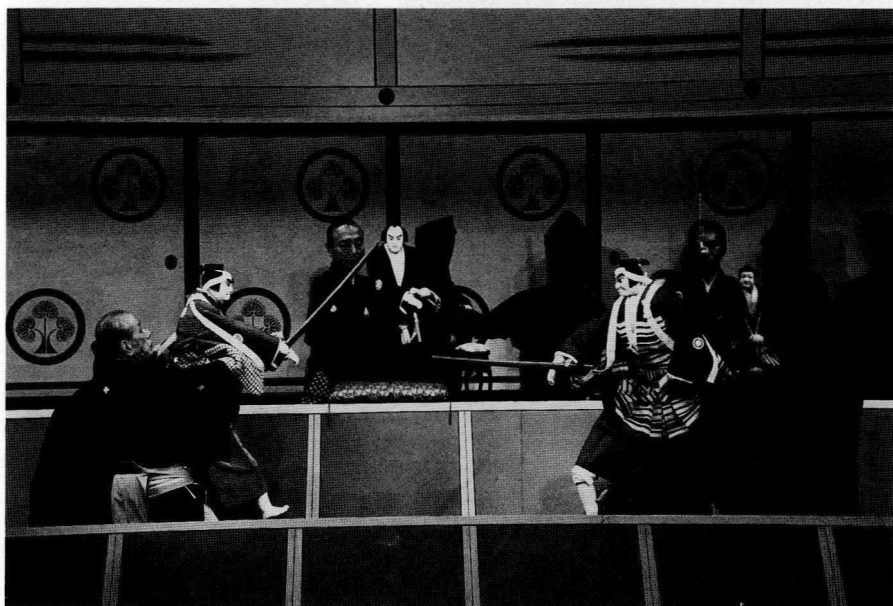


Kanadehon Chūshingura,
scene of Shiro Akewatashi
at National Bunraku Theatre ↑

Kanadehon Chūshingura,
scene of Hanamizubashi Hikiage
Puppeteer : Yoshida Tamao
at At National Bunraku Theatre ⇐



Sonezaki Shinjū at National Theatre
Puppeteers : Yoshida Tamao, Yoshida Minosuke



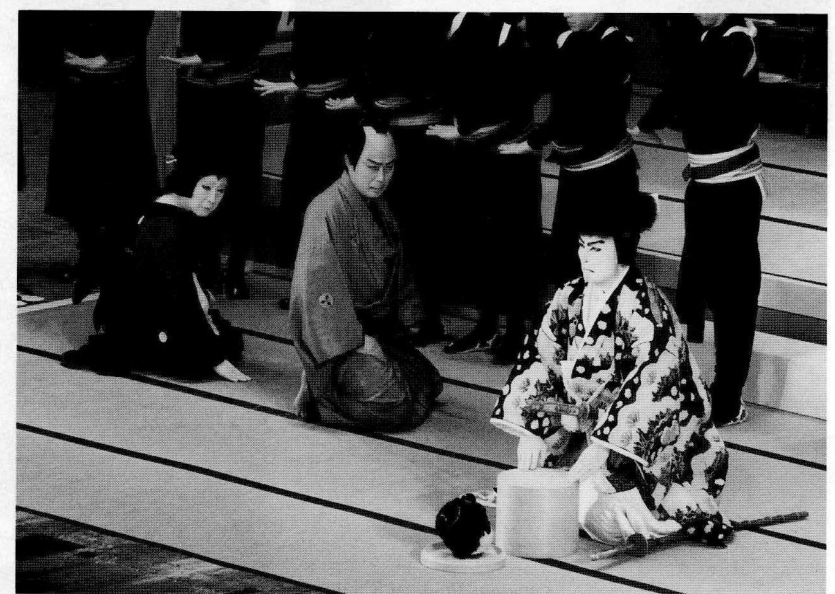
Igagoe Dōchū Sugoroku at National Theatre
Photo provided by National Theatre



Kuruwa Bunshō at Kabuki-za
Photo provided by Kabuki-za



"Kōjō" in Shūmei scene of Kataoka Nizaemon at Kabuki-za
Photo provided by Kabuki-za



Terakoya at Kabuki-za
Photo provided by Kabuki-za