

Stanley Kaizawa Interview, June 29, 2000

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[See also JB-1, Disk 1&2]

Brandon: Probably the 6th interview if I am counting correctly. (Background: Stanley Kaizawa: yes)

Brandon: You were talking about Mikado, Stanley. Yes, I have a question about that. Was that the English translation version of Mikado down at the Ernie Pile Theatre? Or was this a Japanese language one down at the Hibiya Hall? There were two productions.

Kaizawa: I don't recall.

Brandon: Yes, there were two. Sorry I didn't bring the dates with me. But the English one at the Ernie Pile. So for the troops, only for the troops. The Japanese couldn't come see it. That, I think, was eight months before the Japanese one. And the Japanese one was down at the Hibiya Hall. All Japanese casts, in translated some into Japanese.

Kaizawa: Ok, Nagata Ginjiro, he was a leading senior.

Brandon: Could be. We can check this. Because Oliver Statler, he's left whole stacks of programs and in one of the programs is Mikado. And a great number of articles, in English, there about that Mikado in Japanese. But the thing that I don't understand is that I come across the comments by Faubion (Bowers), which is laughing at how Earle (Ernst) urged that Mikado to be done.

Kaizawa: In a derogatory way.

Brandon: Yes, yes, a very derogatory way, and saying that it never was performed because the British Embassy said it was because of the copyright. So according to (Faubion) Bowers' account, all this money for expenses of rehearsal was done it closed it. So it never was performed. That meant no one ever saw it. But I have never found any confirmation of it.

Kaizawa: Jim, my memory is, and Mikado was in Japanese, my sight is not good. What happened to this?

Brandon: (Faubion) Bowers said the system was going up & down.

Kaizawa: This is a kouta. This is my handwriting.

Kaizawa: Talking about the photos.

Brandon: I have made copies of them. Loose photos. I made copies of these before (Alexander) Calhoun, I am going to see him.

Brandon: Now we are looking at the 2nd photo album.

Kaizawa: This is Gion Kouta (小唄) (See also SKalb1-doc 01). And I remember I was writing this down. Chushingura. Fujiwara jidai, Tenarai, is the representing play of the Fujiwara era, Yoshitsune, Kamakura jidai, Chushingura in Tokugawa...

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Brandon: Oh, that's interesting!

Kaizawa: Three representing plays for any kabuki-tsu (歌舞伎通)'s authority. These three are Fujiwara jidai, Kamakura, and Edo.

Brandon: That is the very clear way putting it. Is this a picture of 6-dai-me (6代目)? And signed by him, Onoe Kikugoro 尾上菊五郎.

Kaizawa: Yes. This is the rokudaime, Onoe Kikugoro. Authority said, "Oh I don't need" you know.

Brandon: This is an invitation from the Shochiku Kabushiki Kaisha (see also SKalb1-doc 2), Kanadehon Chushingura and the date is the eleventh month, 29th day. 29th day? Was this a special performance? Why is the 29th day? It surely started from the beginning of the month.

Kaizawa: Hmm. This was an issued date.

Brandon: Was this a senshuraku 千秋楽? ...Where was the year. Strange. Might be on the other side? What? We need to look it up for this then. It's a Nibusei (2部制), Right? 11 o'clock performance, before 4:30 performance.

Kaizawa: Hiruno-bu and yoruno-bu.

Brandon: There are only 4 acts. And a whole day. Usually they do the whole plays. Unless they are repeating it. That's, there is no date, isn't it interesting? Looks like a big cast...