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Kabuki Play

" EDCOSODACHI OMATSURI - SASHICHI "

Written by Shinshichi Kawatake

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To be presented by Young Actors of  
Kikugoro Troupe at the Mitsukoshi Theater,  
from Feb. 4th, 1948:-



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" EDO SODACHI OMATSURI - SASHICHI "

O U T L I N E

Koito, a geisha girl of Yanagibashi, being forcibly seduced by a samurai named Kurata Bampei at an assignation house, escaped out through the back gate, and saved by a fireman named Omatsuri-Sashichi who happened to pass by. Sashichi took her along to his house and they came to lead a happy life together like a married couple.

In the meantime, Koito's mother-in-law, an ill-natured woman, in collusion with Bampei, incited Koito to sever connections with Sashichi because the lovers' parents were mutual enemies. Koito, taking it for truth, intentionally threatened to be through Sashichi prepared for death. Sashichi tried to kill her out of spite for her inconstancy taking Koito at her word.

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The First Act

Scene I: Kanda-festival.

The stage indicates the wine-offering place before the altar at the Kanda-festival. On the both sides of the altar there stand board fences before which some festival lanterns hanging on poles.

Four girls in dresses of the same pattern are setting tobacco trays on the stools.

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Program-seller: The festival of Myojin Shrine is being held. Here are its programs!

Ground-cherry seller: Here are ground-cherries of Tamba Province.

Umbrella-seller: Here are fine umbrellas with a bull's-eye design. How do you like it?

(Thereupon Kurata-bampeï and geisha girl Koito make their appearance accompanied by waitress Otama and samisen carrier Bonsuke.)



Otama: Some side-shows are rendered before the wine-offering place. How do you like to drop in just a while?

Bampeï: I don't like to see dance, but if Koito is pleased with it, I want you to ask them.

Koito: Say, Otama-don, we must consider those girls in service, eh?

Otama: No, you need not mind such a thing, they are all living in this neighbourhood.

Bonsuke: Then, just drop in and take a rest.

Otama: Hallo, everybody! I have brought some guests. Give a welcome to these persons.

Girl A: Oh, you are welcome! This way please.

Girl B: We have got wine and something eatable.

Girl C: Thank you very much, Otama-don!

Girl D: Please Otama-don!

(Thereupon the sound of wooden-clappers comes within hearing.)

Girl A: Oh, the dancing-lion is coming!

(Fireman Omatsuri Sashichi appears

with the head of the dancing-lion. Yoshimatsu follows him with a folding-fan wearing a festival-short coat. They take steps before the altar and clap their hand putting the lion on the wine-offering stand. With the sound of wooden-clappers, a master of dancing appears accompanied by a number of dancers. They dance a festival-dance with the accompaniment of Kiyomoto reciters. During this time, Sashichi and Koito exchange glances. Meanwhile the dance finishes and the dancers and Kiyomoto reciters exit.)

Bampeï: Now the entertainment is over. I am going to the house to have another drink. Otama and Bonsuke, you will go there with Koito.

Bonsuke: All right, sir. Let's go, Koito-san.

Otama: Thank you for your trouble, everybody.

Koito: Excuse me.

(Bampeï exits to the left with Bonsuke, Koito and Otama. The four girls enters



the back, too. Thereupon Tomijiro comes out accompanied by woman of a shooting-parlour Onaka and a hair-dresser Osachi. On the other hand Denji, a man about town appears with his four subordinates.)

Denji: Hey, guys! Sister gave me more money than I had expected. Let's have a drink somewhere.

Subordinates: That's good.

Denji: But, without a woman it isn't interesting. Oh, Otane is overthere. Let's take her along and make her bear us company in drinking. Hallo, Otane! We are going to have a drink. Won't you keep company with me?

Otane: Oh, you are Denji-san! Now I am working here with my friends. I wish to be excused from going with you.

Denji: I will take you along willy-nilly.

Otane: Please excuse me without saying such a thing.

Denji: Hey, guys, take her along!

The Four: All right.

(Thereupon Yoshimatsu comes out from the right side and gets Denji down.)

Denji: Oh, you are a fireman! Why do you interfere with our work?

Onaka: I am glad to see you in the nick of time, young master.

Tomijiro: Just I am on my way home from a customer's at Marunouchi.

Onaka: I am so anxious, for there are many beautiful girls here.

(Denji brings his henchman.)

Denji: Hey, Onaka! We have been waiting for you.

Onaka: I don't know what your business is, but I have no time to hear it, for I am very busy now.

Denji: We forestalled you and waited here because I had ~~not~~ known you were to come here to meet a green fellow under some agreement, you see.

Osachi: Say, Denji-san! That is your misunderstanding. Don't say such a rude thing.

Denji: Mind your own business. (To Tomiji)  
Hey, chicken! How dare you spoil



my sister Onaka without coming to an understanding with me!

Tomiji: Then, you are her brother? I am glad to see you. Wait a moment, please, (Takes out some money.) Little as this is, I want you to accept it as a token of my acquaintance with you.

Denji: Hum! How can I pardon you by receiving such a small sum of money? To-day I will make her rest from her work and take her along with us. (To Onaka) Hey, Onaka give me ten ryo, then I would excuse you.

Osachi: That's too selfish an idea!

Onaka: Say, brother, it is unreasonable of you. I am in service of the shooting-parlour according to your order. Such a rude behaviour of your toward, my customer is unjustifiable.

Denji: Hold your tongue! (To Tomiji) Now, what do you say to it?

Tomiji: I don't know. Do as you like!

Denji: Hey, guys, knock him down!  
(Denji's henchmen start to strike Tomijiro. Thereupon Yoshimatsu makes his appearance.)



Yoshimatsu: Oh, young master!

Tomiji: Oh, you came in the nick of time!  
I want you to arbitrate.

Yoshimatsu: Now that I have come, set yourself  
at ease. Hey, chicken! Stop your  
nonsense!

Denji and his henchman: Don't interfere with our work,  
you rascal!

Yoshimatsu: Shut up! It's shameless of you  
that you should blackmail young  
master trumping up charges on a  
slight pretext! Now that I am your  
man, you shall know the strength  
of the fireman! Be all ready!

Denji: It's interesting. Down with this  
fellow!

Henchmen: All right!

(The stage revolves.)

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Scene II:

The stage represents a detached room of an assignation house. Bampei is in a doze before a drinking table. Koito sitting beside him.. Bonsuke and Otama to the left side of the stage.

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Koito: It's noisy outside the house. I am afraid something troublesome has happened.

Otama: A man about town is doing violence under the influence of wine, Young men in this neighbourhood became stiff-necked and they are making a great uproar.

Bonsuke<sub>a</sub>: On the day of the festival, a trouble is apt to happen.

Otama: By the way, I am afraid the master may take cold while in a doze. I will go and take the bed clothes for him.

Koito: No, you need not. A cold wind would be good for him to recover from intoxication.



Bonsuke: As it is getting dark, I want you to bring a light.

Otama: Certainly sir. (Exits.)

Koito: Say, Bonsuke-sama, will you please let me go back now?

Bonsuke: What a thing you say, Koito-san! It would be natural for the master to wish to go back ahead lest he should break leave, but it is strange for you to say such a thing. As a geisha, it is natural for you to return late or stay out on occasions. Are you going to meet another man?

Koito: By no means, Bonsuke-san. As you know, the mistress is very particular. I must go back while there is yet time lest she should find fault with me. I hate being mistrusted by her.

Bonsuke: As for it, you need not be anxious, for I already obtained her consent.

Koito:                    Though she consented to it, I must be going now, for I don't like to be talked about between my fellow-geisha girls.

Bonsuke:                As I am attendant upon you, there is no anxiety about such a thing. Don't be so hurried. I am just going for the light. (Rises to his feet.)

Koito:                    One moment! What shall I do then?

Bonsuke:                You need not be worried.

(Bonsuke enters the inner room.)

Koito:                    I cannot depend upon his word.

I must be going now.

(Koito starts to go, when Bampei awakes and rises to his feet.)

Bampei:                 Hey, Koito, where are you going?

Koito:                    You have awaked now?

Bampei:                 I wanted for the chance of our getting all alone, and pretended to be sleeping.

Koito:                    I hear the closing-gime of your mansion is very exact. Why are you staying so long on this particular day though usually you return before getting dark? I thought that was due to the influence of wine, but ---.



Bampeï: I don't mind about the closing-time to-day. I want you to listen to me now. I sought your mistress' understanding about it. Can't you stay here with me?

Koito: I am glad to be patronized by you so much, but I must go for decency's sake, I have never stayed out or go home late in the night though there are many geisha-girls in Yanagibashi, and they have never talked about a scandalous behaviour of mine. I don't like to lay myself open to misunderstanding.

Bampeï: Can't you listen to my request, then?

Koito: You may laugh at me about my senselessness. However, a mere geisha-girl as I am, I am not such a dotting woman as can be so easily seduced by a samurai like you. Don't make little of me.

Bampeï: I guess you have some connections with the fireman I saw a little time ago.

Koito: Eh!

Bampeï: I accompanied you all the way to

see the Kanda festival as wished,  
though I was unwilling. If you,  
Make a fool of me like that I must  
hear your answer to my request even  
by the sword. (Starts to take up  
his sword.)

Koito: Even by the sword?

Bampeï: Well. I cannot be satisfied till I  
hear a good answer from you. If you  
turn a deaf ear to me, would kill  
you on the spot and turn the sword  
to myself for the sake of a samurai's  
honour. Are you against my wish?

Koito: A geisha girl as I am, I will not  
trade on my chastity. Let me go back  
without saying such an unreasonable  
thing.

Bampeï: I will not let you go unless you give  
me an answer. If you value your life,  
you must make an answer!

Koito: There is no alternative but to say  
no!

Bampeï: Then, nothing can save your life.  
Prepare for death!



(Bampeï draws out his sword.)

Koito:

Ah! Help, help!

(Koito escapes towards the garden  
and Bampeï runs after him. The  
stage revolves.)

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Scene III:

The stage indicates the outside of the  
assignation-house in the previous scene.

(Sankichi appears with a lantern and  
Sashichi follows him.)

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Sankichi:           Hey, brother! Now that we cannot  
find them out here, they must have  
run away, I think. Yoshimatsu  
sent Tomisan his home.

Sashichi:           I came here with you as the servant  
of my shop informed me of the  
quarrel. It was of no use having  
run as far as here all the way,  
since they have already escaped  
away.

Sankichi:           Anyhow, let's go and hear how the  
quarrel was.  
  
(Thereupon Koito escapes out through  
the back gate of the assignation-  
house, and Bonsuke follows her.)



Bonsuke: Say, Koito-san! That was only master's threatening words. First of all, you cannot go out in a plight like that. Come back to the room.

Koito: No, I will not! Now I see you are in collusion with him.

Bonsuke: Don't be so obstinate.

(Sankichi steps forward.)

Sankichi: Stop nonsense, you rascal!

(Gives a blow to Bonsuke.)

Bonsuke: Ouch! A robber, a robber!

(Escapes within the house.)

Koito: Oh, you are Sankichi-san?

Sankichi: Oh, Koito-san. Here is Sashichi, you see.

Sashichi: Oh, Koito!

Koito: You came in the nick of time!

Sashichi: You were found to be lying down in the house and escape out?

Koito: No! That detestable samurai nearly committed an outrage upon me threatening with death. I have just managed to escape as far as her. I am extremely glad to have been saved by you.

Sakichi: I was dangerous!

Sashichi: Anyhow, you must not be in a plight like that outside the house. You had better put on this.  
(Puts his overcoat on Koito.)

Sankichi: Hey, brother! Do you care to see this woman to Yanagibashi?

Koito: No I cannot go there, for they are in collusion with the samurai.

Sashichi: You cannot go home? What shall I do, then?

Sankichi: Then we are taking you to your acquaintance's if any. Tell it to me.

Koito: As ill luck would have it, there is no place like that. I would rather drown myself, than to be killed by a man like that.

Sashichi: Now I cannot let you die before my very eyes. You may come to my humble house, if you don't mind.

Koito: Thank you for your kindness. I want you to take me there.

Sankichi: But, you cannot go through the festival place wearing such clothes.



Sashichi: Then, I will ask a palanqueen for you at Edoshin, Mikawacho.

Sankichi: That's a good idea!  
(Thereupon Bampei and Bonsuke make their appearance.)

Bampei: Hey, guy! Wait a moment!

Sashichi: Then it is he who used violence upon you?

Koito: Yes. He menaced me with a sword.

Sankichi: What an outrageous fellow he is!

Bampei: It is you who are outrageous. I hired that geisha-girl. It is insolent of you that you should take her away.

Sashichi: That is what I want to say. I hear, even a prostitute has her own pride and will not sell her chastity to any man she hates. Nevertheless, you forcibly tried to seduce her menacing with a sword. Now that I know the circumstance, I will not give her to you. I must take her along.

Bonsuke: That is none of your business.

Koito-san is in charge of her mother-in-law. Since I am attendant upon her I cannot let you keep her in consideration for her mother.

Sankichi: Don't talk nonsense! You are all of a gang, aren't you?

Bampei: Hey, fireman! What's your name?

Sashichi: I will tell it if you want. As might be expected from a courageous fireman, I am equal to any fire and my fellow-men look up to me as a leader in Kanda. In September last year I distinguished myself when a brawl happened at the festival place.

Since that time, I became one of the leaders of the firemen and came to be called Omatsuri (Festival) Sashichi. This is my name. Remember it well!

~~Sashichi:~~

~~That's right, you're right!~~

Bampei: Then, you are a bitter enemy of us. I will not give Koito to you.

Sashichi: What will you do, then?

Bampei: I will kill you on the spot!



Sashichi: How could you get the better of me?

Bampeï: None of your cheek!

(Bampeï strikes at Sashichi and Bonsuke clinches Sankichi. They scuffle with each other, and the firemen beat down Bampeï and Bonsuke and drive them away within the house.)

Sankichi: His big talk belives him!

Koito: It served him right!

Sashichi: He is too weak for a sumurai, isn't he?

Sankichi: Let's be going before somebody comes to hinder us.

Koito: Then, I will take you at your kind word.

Sashichi: You are barefoot, aren't you?

Sankichi: You had better get on my sandals.

(The three start to go. Thereupon Bampeï shows half the body from the gate.)

Bampeï: Hey guys! wait!

Sankichi: Again he appeared, brother.

Sashichi: Serve him right! Let's go!

(The three exit. Bampeï sees them off with a wistful regret.)

----- The curtain. -----