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: S H O C H I K U :

"ICHIJO OKURA MONOGATARI

(STORY OF LORD ICHIJO)

KABUKI PLAY IN 2/ACTS

WRITTEN BY BUNKODO

TO BE PRESENTED BY KICHIEMON TROUPE

AT TOKYO THEATRE FROM AUG. 7

X X X X X X X X

Special

C.C.D. J-2036



SUNOPSIS:

Lord Naganari of Ichijo-Okura, feeling indignant of the gyrranny of the Heike clan & of the decline of the ~~Taira~~ Genji clan, feigned madness & helped the revival of the Genji family.

CHARACTERS

Lord Naganari, master of Ichijo Okura

Lady Tokiwa. Naganari's wife. (at first she was the wife of Yoshitomo, deceased master of the Genji clan. Kiyomori of the Heike clan took her to wife and then gave her to Lord Naganari)

Yoshioka Onijiro

O-kyo, Onijiro's wife.

Yatsuruyi Kageyu

Naruse (Kageyu's wife.)

Yoichi, keeper of the tea-house "Higaki chaya"

Waiting maids

Footmen.

Scene at the Tea-House Higaki-chaya

(A wooden gate on the right hand. Two benches on the left. Footmen A, B, C & D sit on the benches.

Yoichi, the tea-house keeper, makes tea for them.)

Yoichi: Some tea, please. You must be very much tired.

Footman A: Tired? Sure. I've never served such a master as he who goes out every day to see noh play, maple yellow leaves, etc.

B: We footmen really rub off our feet.

C: Moreover, he has lately wedded Lady Tokiwa given by Lord Aiyomori.

D: And it has become more weak-headed than ever.

(A noh-music sounds.)

A: Hush. Just suppose what would happen if Mr. Kageyu hears us.

B: ~~Now~~ The noh play will come to an end soon.
Let's go for our master.

Yoichi: You'd better go at once.

C: Well, fare you well, Yoichi.

Yo: Good bye.

(The four go out.)

Nagauta: "Yoshioka Onijiro Sachitane,
Loyal to the now oppressed Genji family,
Comes along with his wife.
Meaning to take advantage.
Of the noh play of the chrysanthemum festival"
(Meantime Onijiro & her wife O-Kyo come into the
stage passage.)

Kyo: Is the teahouse Higaki-Chaya still far?

Oni: No. It's just over there. Let's go & inquire.

(They come into the main stage.)

Oni: Master, let us sit here for a while, please.

Yo: You're welcome.

Oni: Is this the Higaki chaya?

Yo: Certainly it is. It's called Yoichi chaaya, too,
taking after my name. Though I don't keep my shop
every day, it's my duty to open it whenever a noh-play
is held. I carry here the pure water of Shirakawa &
make tea with it.

Oni: Everything is fine & fashionable here in Kyoto.

I'm from a far-away district, you know. The noh
play is held twice a year, I hear?

Yo: Well, sir, it used to be the custom of the royal court
to hold a "Cherry Noh play" in the spring & a
"Chrysanthemum Noh play" in the autumn.

Now that the emperor is prisoned in Toba and Lord

Kiyomori can have all his way, he holds five & seven

noh plays a monthe ---- of yellow Leaves,
of mushrooms etc. I'm quite at a loss, for I'd
be scolded if I don't open my shop every time
there's a play.

Omi: Well, even my countrymen talk much of the prosperity
~~of the Heike family~~ of the Heike family. Is it true or just a story,
that Lady Tokiwa has wedded Lord Ichijo Okura?

Yo: It's as real as I live. The hard hearted Lord Kiyomori
has been much troubled by his son Lord Shigemori's
admonition on his dissipation, & has given his favorite
concubine to Lord Naganari of Ichijo Okura. Today's
No is held for the honour of the new couple.

Well, Lord Naganari is really the silliest man
in Ayoto to have accepted with thanks the lady whom Lord
Kiyomori kept for more than ten years.

This morning, when he came here this morning,
he looked so dignified. But, sad to say, he's got
no sense at all. And everyone knows it, too.

Kyo: And has Lady Tokiwa come, too? I've heard much of her
beauty. I wish I could see her.

Yo: Oh, she's sick today. Lady Naruse, wife of Mr. Kageyu,
Lord Naganari's chief retainer, has come for her to
take care of the silly lord. Oh, your tea must have
become cold. I'll change it.

- Oni: No, thank you. I'd like to have a little talk with my wife.
- Yo: I'd be very glad to go, for I've got to pull some water.
(Goes out.)
- Nagauta: "Onijiro, left behind,
Addresses her wife confidentially."
- Oni: As you must have heard now, it's quite sure that Lord aganari has got some connection with Lord Kiyomori. The noh play is to be over soon. Just manage to be presented to him and be brought to her mansion at once.
- Kyo: Be at ease about it, please. I'll inquire about Lady Tokiwa and establish a connection with her.
- Oni: Take care, anyway.
- Kyo: All right.
(A drum sounds behind the stage.)
- Oni: Ah, the noh play is over now. Bonne aventure.
- Kyo: You'd better not be with me when I'm introduced to him.
- Oni: I think I'll hide myself behind the screen there.
- Kyo: Hurry on.
- Oni: Take care.
- Kyo: All right.

Nagauta: "And so Chitaro hides himself."

"Soon there appears Lord Ichijo Okura,
attended by Naruse, Kageyu's wife.
Though he looks tall and stately,
It's much to regret
That his brain is as vacant
as the casting of a cicada."

Kyo: Wait a minute, please. I've got something to say to the
lord.

Waiting maid A: It's so impertinent of you ----.

" B: To make a direct appeal to our lord.

C: You should have proceeded a petition to his mansion.

C: Go off at once.

Naruse's voice: Wait, folks.

Maid A: The voice is ----.

Maid: Madam Naruse.

Naruse (coming into stage): Oh, you're O-Kyo.

It's a good chance for you, for my lord is with good-grace
now. My lord, this is O-Kyo, a woman entertainer.

My husband Kageyu has engaged to employ
her. ~~you~~ You had better take her with you.

I would be much honoured if you would
give her a word or two.

Okura: Ah, she is the woman artiste I've heard much of.

Naru: Yes, my lord.

Okura: Lift up your face, woman -----

Ah, you've got a good fat face. And where's
your birth place? ~~Good~~

Kyo: Well -----

Naru: He asks where you were born.

Kyo: At Kumano, my lord.

Okura: You must be very hairy to be a bear's child
(Kuma-no-ko). Just know that you'd be in my
service hereafter.

Kyo: Thanks, my lord. Favour me with your grace, please.
(me-o-kake)

Okura: Weigh your weight (me-ni-kake)?

Sure. I'll order a balance as soon as I get home .
You'll weigh more than 100 pound. I like her age,
too. They say women are $\frac{1}{2}$ at their prime
(abura-ga-noru) at 24 or 25. What does it mean
that a woman get as much fat (abura) as she can?

Naru: Now, O-Kyo, he says such a silly thing,
you know. It's because of his silliness that I've
employed you. When you play such plays as Hagidaimyo
and Kuritaguchi, in which noble people are put to
ridicule because of their silliness, he'll
feel ashamed of his, and become more reasonable.

And you, my lord, even you noble lords must not
be always silly and happy-yo-lucky in these days.

Remember it well. please.

Okura: I'll remember it well, please. You say,
Naruse, that it's a good remedy for silliness
to see Kyogen plays. Just play one at once,
O-kyo.

Naru: My lord wants you to dance, O-kyo.

Kyo: Certainly.

Nagauta: "My lord's future is as full of years
as the young pine-tree is.

The stork dances gracefully. etc."

(Meanwhile O-kyo dances. While Lord Okura looks
at her dance, he falls from his bench. Naruse and
the maids help him to his bench.)

Okura: Well done. You shall get prizes. Be pleased:

Nagauta: "And, imagining himself.

To be the hero of a Kyogen play ----."

Okura: O-kyo, Taro-kaza (first, crown)

Kyo: Well, my lord?

Okura: And Naruse, Jiro-kaza (second crown)

Naru: Here am I.

Okura: Well done. Well done.

Both: Thanks, my lord.

Nagauta: "And so O-kyo follows her lord,
On the first day of her service."

(Lord Okura and his followers go into the stage-passage. Onijiro comes out of the tea-house. He and Lord Okura, looking at each other, hide their faces behind their fans. The stage changes with the sound of wooden clappers.)

THE SCENE BEHIND LORD

Okura's Mansion.

Nagauta: "Here comes Yoshioka-Onijiro,
In the darkness of the night,
Carrying a black-sheathed sword."
"O-Kyo, at his sign,
steals to the door
And opens it for her."

Kyo: Oh, Onijiro.

Oni: Well, you've written in your letter that Lady
Tokiwa thinks nothing of the Gejji clan.
Is that true?

Kyo: Well, though I have paid much attention
to her conduct, she never seems to be sad.

She makes toilets and speak soft words to Lord

Okura. He passes his nights in playing "Bow and arrows."

It seems that she has forgotten all about the Genji clan.

So I thought it useless to tell her that I am Onijiro's wife.

Oni: It was admirable of you to have written to me and told me of it. You needn't stay here now.

Kyo: I think I'll go out of this house at once.

Oni: But I hate Tokiwa so much.

Kyo: That you want to see her once again ----.

Oni: And put her to shame to please the late Lord Yoshi Tomo.

Kyo: Then you mean to ---?

Oni: Show me to her room.

Kyo: All right.

Nagauta: "So the two steal along
To the inner rooms.

The same of Lady Tokiwa's Room

Nagauta: "It is past midnight.

And the moon shines brightly

When Lady Tokiwa is absorbed

In playing "bow and arrows."

(Lady Tokiwa sits on her cushion and plays with
a miniature bow and arrows.)

Tokiwa: I've hit. How glad I am.

Nagauta: "Just as she looks full of contentment,
Onijiro approaches and snatches her of her arrow."

Toki: Why, you're ----.

Oni: Yoshioka-Onijiro. And this is O-Kyo, my wife.
You're such a brute to have betrayed us.

Toki: I didn't notice when you came in. I was so absorbed in
playing "bow and arrows."

Kyo: Don't say so, Lady Tokiwa. If you've got time
enough to play miniature bow and arrows, you may have
thought of learning real bow and arrows to revenge
on the Heike clan. No wonder you didn't, for you're
a lady to wed twice, three times. But, aren't you
afraid of divine punishment?

Nagauta: "So O-Kyo admonishes,
With tears in her eyes
And with loyalty in her heart."

Toki: It seems to be reasonable that you accuse me.
But, after all, retainers are retainers.
They don't understand how deeply their masters and
mistresses think of things.

Oni: All right. I'll just beat you so that you mend your
way of thinking.

Nagauta: "And he beats her
With her bow."

Toki: You beat your mistress? You beast.

Oni: I won't have you as my mistress, for you're so
mean-hearted.

(He beats on.)

Toki: Admirable.

Oni: What?

Toki: I've become so suspicious because I have
seen many traitors. But now that I know your
loyalty, I'll confide you of my real heart.
Even since I parted from Lord Yoritomo, my
husband, I hid myself in Fushimi with my three sons, aged #1/
#2/ six, four, and one.

Then Aiyomori came and found me and made love to me. Though I felt Sudder whenever he whispered fond words in my ears, I had to give myself to him to save my children out of death. Just suppose what I have suffered all these years.

Nagauta: "As she speaks confidentially and sincerely, Onijiro feels pity for her."

Oni: I feel pity for you about it. But you have become faithless enough to spend your time in amusing yourself.

Toki: How silly you are. I play "bow and arrows to curse the Heike family.

Nagauta: And lo.

There is Kiyomori's portrait
Behind the white curtain.
She takes up three arrows
Symbolizing her three sons.
And shoots Aiyomori's painted breast with them.

Oni: It was very bad of me ---.

Kyo: To have beaten you without knowing what you really thought.

Oni:

Ky: Excuse us, please.

Nagauta: "As the two shed bitter tears of remorse,
Yatsurugi-Kageyu, who has eavesdropped,
appears and says:"

Kageyu: I've heard all. I'll just go and inform Lord
Kiyomori of it.

Nagauta: "Just then Naruse, his wife,
Runs in and checks him.

Naru: Don't be so agitated, please. If Lady Tokiwa is
accused of traiting, her husband Lord Okura will
be also accused. Do you mean to lead your master
into a trouble?

Kage: Shut up. I won't have such a silly man as my master.
I have long been planning to usurp this family.

Oni: Try if you can go.

Kage: What?

Nagauta: "The two fight and struggle each other,
when someone gives a cut
To Kageyu from behind."

Okura: I, Naganari, Lord Ichijo Okura, have punished an
unfaithful retainer.

Nagauta: "So saying, Lord Ichijo appears
With a long sword in his hand,
Looking quite different
From his usual slow-minded self."

Okura: Though I have kept it secret for a long time,
I'll tell you my real feeling now, lest Maruse should
resent me for killing her husband.

Well, I am, of origin, related to the Genji family,
but have become a court lord for some
reasons. And though I have learned both literary
and military arts, I have long been feigning silliness.

Nagauta: "And so,
Neither the Genji make much of me,
Nor the Heike cherish hatred to me."

Okura: Kageyu, knowing nothing of it, has despised me
as a fool and have been trying to usurp my house.
Though I have overlooked him up to now, I couldn't
do so this evening. Now, Unijiro, go and tell
Ushiwaka that it was for the Genji family that I have
feigned foolishness.

Nagauta: "Human life is
At the mercy of divine providence.
All the Genji generals
Have been scattered by Miyomori
And Yoshitomo himself
Was killed at Nagata!"

"Tokiwa, his wife
Was caught by Kiyomori
And was made his concubine.
She is not to blame for it,
For it was all for her husband's children.
It is admirable of her
That she plays "bow and arrows
Every night in order to curse

Okura: . Come, Onijiro, take Kiyomori this tanzaku
(a piece of paper with a poem written on it)
to Yoritomo staying in Hiratsa-Kojima and to
Ushiwaka at Kurama.

Oni (reading the tanzaku): "The young pine tree is the
symbol of long life." What do you mean by this?

Okura: It hints on the Heike family, you know.

Kiyomori is not to be dreaded. His son Shigemori,
who is called young pine (Komatsu), however, is a wise
man and is not to be held cheap. If the Genji are
to revenge on the Heike, they must not be impatient but
wait patiently till Shigemori dies.

When there is no more Shigemori, the Genji will have
their day again, and you, too, ----

(Hints "cut off their heads" by gesture.)

Oni: Well, my lord ----.

Okura: Come, -----.

Nagauta: "Remember well

How the king of Etsu (chinese history, about 450, A.D.)

Revenged on the king of go

At the fight of Kaikeizan."

"Naruse, taking up her husband's sword,

Stabs-her own throat."

Naru: I'll get salvation through your story.

I vow that I did know nothing of my husband's
intrigue.

Nagauta: "So saying, she breathes her last."

"Kageyu, though mortally wounded,"

Kage: Oh, I've been thinking I was to deceive

Okura, and really it was that he was deceiving me.

How vexacious. How remorseful to die without

getting the money belonging to the Ichijo family.

Okura: What a mean man he is. On the other hand, his wife

Naruse is much to be praised. Anyway, I'll return to

my silly self and pass my days in happy obscurity,

being laughed at and enjoying kyogen plays.

Nagauta: "As the morning star
Shines in the west sky -----"

Okura: Oh, the day is going to breale.
Hurry out, both of you.

Nagauta: "But U-Kyo clings to Lady Tokiwa
Reluctant to part."

Okura: Go ~~go~~ before you're found by the guard.

Oni: You have been very kind with us.

Okura: You needn't mention it. Just go at once.

Oni: Yes, my lord.

Okura(producing a sword)E

Wait a minute. This is the ~~w~~ sword handed down
in the Genji family and which. Kiyomori robbed of.
Nine years ago, his son Munemori fell seriously ill,
and Kiyomori made Buddhist priests hold religious
services for his recovery, putting it on the
altar. I took the chance and got it back for the
Genji family. No~~o~~ one suspected that the
willy Lord Okura should have done such a thing.

Take and give it to the young lords, Onijiro.

Oni: Oh, I thank you ever so much. The genji is sure
to have their days again now that the treasure sword has
come back.

Nagauta: "Kageyu stands tottering up
And trys to get the sword."

Kage: Give me the sword -----.

Okura (catching hold of him): You'll have the punishment
you deserve.

Toki: Sins are to return to the sinner.

Oni: We'll one day ruin the now-flourishing Heike.

Kyo: And let come the days of Genji.

Okura (cuts off Kageyu's head and puts it in his
sleeve): Just do like this with Kiyomori's head.

How happy it would be to have such days.

(The curtain falls with the sound of wooden
clappers as all the party smile looking at each other.)