

S H O C H I K U

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DAN-KIKU FESTIVAL

"HANAKURABE KABUKI NO NISHIKIE"

TO BE PRESENTED BY KOSHIRO AND KICHIEMON

TROUPE AT THE TOKYO THEATER IN APRIL, 1947.

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C.C.D. J-2036



THE FIRST SCENE

The stage indicates the big flight of stone-steps. A stone-wall is seen to the both sides of the stage with a vermilion-laequered corridor in front. The curtain rises with an overture by samisen. Kudo's retainers, Omi and Yahata make their appearance respectively from right and left, both of them carrying wooden stands.

Omi: Spring has come with the breeze. Today I have come to offer up prayers at the Hachiman Shrine of Tsurugaoka.

Yahata: I am named Yahata after the Hachiman Shrine. I have come here, too, to pray for my lord's happiness. On my way here, Mt. Kamakura seemed very impressive in the starry night.

Omi: Soon the stars gradually disappeared and the morning has risen with the haze hanging over the fields and hills. Songs of nightingales have begun to be heard merrily here and there.

Yahata: There, we see the harbinger of spring.

Omi: Three cranes are flying away and the sun is rising.

Yahata: And the sky is cloudless.

Omi: Rippling waves are beating upon the shore of Yui.

Yahata: What an interesting view it is!

(Music starts and the two meet with each other in the middle of the stage.)

Omi: Oh, you are Mr. Yahata Suburo, aren't you?

Yahata: Oh, Mr. Omi.

Omi: We who are the favourite retainers of Lord Suketsune and ~~always~~ always wait upon him -----.

Yahata: Happened to meet having come to pray offers for our lord's happiness.

Omi: Both of us always think of the happiness of our lord's family.

Yahata: Yes, our minds are the same.

Omi: Indeed.

The two: It is a good luck that we should meet here..

Yahata: By the way, will you please give an expert opinion on a thing, taking advantage of this chance? For usually we have not enough time to ~~taka~~ talk with each other taken up with the lord's business.

Omi: What is the thing?

Yahata: It is this. (sends in his wooden stand and looks at Omi's face taking up the roll on the stand.)

Yahata: You ought to remember this roll. On my way here I got it by chance, in which I found the name Kosui. This must be your assumed name, and all the ~~the~~ other names are those of your confidants. Now will you give an expert opinion?

(Yahata looks at Omi. Omi pretends to know nothing.)

Omi: I am afraid I cannot do well, but I should like to take it in my hand if you don't mind.

Yahata: Well, I may let you have, if you read fully the remarks in this roll in my presence.

Omi: I am afraid, I can't do it here.

Yahata: If you don't, it is difficult to let you have it.

Omi: Now that things have come to this, it cannot be helped. I must have it by all means.

Yahata: Well, also I must investigate chosely the purport of the remarks.

Omi: Can you do such a thing?

Yahata: Of course I will.

Omi: All right!

Yahata: Now!

The two: Come on!

(Both put their hands on the hilts of the swords.

Music starts and a scuffle begins. Omi snatches the roll from Yahata and throws it into the gorge.

Thereupon Outa, waitress in the gay quarters of Oiso, makes her appearance.)

Ota: Wait a moment, gentlemen! I am afraid you might get injured.

(The two continue to fight, but Ota hold the swords with the box-lantern.)

Omi: Oh, you are Mr. Suketsune's waitress aren't you?

Yahata: Mind you own business! Get out of the way.

Ota: No, I can't. You are well-known intimate friends with each other, aren't you? I don't know the circumstance, but I am glad I have come in the nick of time. Pardon me for my being too forward, but won't you ~~leave~~^v ~~take~~^{he} matter to me?

Omi: Setting other things aside, I can't leave this matter to you, for this roll is ----.

Yahata: This is suspicious looking written oath.

Ota: As there are found some flood-stains, the rool must be the compact under joint signature of a certain band.

Omi: What!

Ota: Now, leave the matter to me; I will hush it up lest it should give trouble to you.

Yahata: But if we part leaving the matter as it is ---.

Omi: I am afraid.

Yahata: The grudge will remain in each other's mind.

(The two look at each other and make ready to attack.)

Ota: Wait a moment! Put up the swords, please.

(The three look at one another and the stage revolves.)

THE SECOND SCENE

The stage represents the dike of Oiso outside the red-light quarters against distant Mt. Fuji covered with snow. Suketsune, Asahina and Goro make their appearance. Suketsune stands in the middle putting his right ~~ax~~ hand on the edge of the sword. On the left side Asahina squats down with a plum-twig in his right hand. On the right Goro squats down folding his arms.

Music starts.

Throwing away the hat, Suketsune takes out a roll out of his pocket and stretches the right arm. Asahina rises to his feet and shifts the twig from the right hand to the other. Goro steps forward and stretches his left arm.

Suketsune: It is still early in the morning and the fragrant plum-blossoms outside the quarters ~~just~~ look like remaining stars.

Asahina: Soon the matins have fled away and the note of a cock has come within hearing while the ^Sun has begun to colour the eastern sky.

Goro: A weeping willow is seen among the plum-blossoms.

Suketsune /: What a calm and peaceful view!

The three: Indeed!

(Thereupon Tsurumaki Sanzo secretly appears and pits himself against Suketsune. Suketsune strikes Sanzo with the end of the roll and puts it in his pocket, when prostitutes Tsukisayo and Kametsuru make their appearance respectively from right and left. They seem to be in search of Asahina through the dark and exit changing each other's place.

Sanzo tries to pits himself against Goro but the latter grasps Sanzo's arm and twists it up. Soon the sound of the wind comes within ~~hearing~~ hearing and the bell is heard tolling the daybreak. The four step back. Suketsune takes the sword and Goro exposes his shoulders. Sanzo grasps Asahina's right arm. Then they again step forward when Asahina thrusts away Sanzo who runs into the left side. The three look at ~~one~~ one another. The curtain falls with the sound of wooden clappers.)

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THE THIRD SCENE

Outside the curtain.

Music starts. From the right side a palanquin appears.

The bearers put the palanquin on the stage.

Kinta: Say, master, ~~we~~ now we have arrived.

Ginji: I am glad we could bring you here safely.

(The bearers open the palanquin. Juro Sukenari is seen in it covering his mouth with a half-opened fan with the left hand in his pocket.)

Kinta: If you frequent the quarters.

Ginji: Please.

The two: Order us again.

(Juro nods and gets out of the palanquin. The bearers wipe the sweat exposing their shoulders, when Juro takes out a package of money.)

Juro: Now, you may have this.

The bearers: Thank you very much.

Juro: Thank you for your trouble.

(The palanquin beares express their thanks to Juro and go back the way they came carrying the palanquin. Thereupon Hagetayori makes her appearance ~~with~~ carrying a black letter box accompanied by buffoon Mamehachi.)

Hagetayori: Mr. Sukenari, here is your letter from the courtesan.

Mamehachi: She is waiting impatiently for your coming.

(Juro nods and receives the letter-box. He takes out the letter and puts it in the pocket, giving back the box to Hagetayori.)

Juro: Now you may go away.

Hagetayori: Certainly Sir.

(Hagetayori goes to the stage passage and stops.

Juro takes steps towards the passage accompied by Mamehachi.)

Mamehachi: Mr. Sukenari, the courtesan is eager to meet you.

Tayori: Now let's go quickly.

Sukenari: Don't hurry. I am going now, you see.

(Juro takes the letter out of his pocket.)

Mamehachi: Now let us go.

Tayori: As soon as possible.

Juro: O.K.

(The three leave the stage with a song to Samisen)

---- The Curtain ----