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: S H O C H I K U :

Kabuki Comedy

" THE INK - SMEARING WOMAN "

(SUMI - NURI - ONNA)



G.C.D. J-2040

31/10/47
MK

Music by Tokiwazu Reciters.

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To be presented by Sumizo Troupe.

Due
31/10

during Their Provincial Tour Of the Tokaido

District From Nov. 3rd To Nov.

, 1947:-

" THE INK-SMEARING WOMAN " (SUMI NURI ONNA)

Synopsis:

Fukutoku Mannojo who had resided in Kyoto owing to a lawsuit won the suit and was expected to return to his native province.

On his way back, he called on Hanano, a woman with whom he had closely become acquainted during his stay in the City. Cunning as Hanano was, she wet her eyes with water in a tea-cup and pretended to shed tears as if being loath to part from Mannojo.

On the other hand, however, Mannojo's servant Taro-Kaja saw through her trick and poured India ink into the cup. For the purpose of tempting Mannojo all the same, Hanano wet her eyes with the liquid in the cup without knowing that it had changed to India ink, so in a twinkling her face became jet-black. After all she lost her temper and smeared all the people present with India ink.

(In an atmosphere of comicality the curtain will fall.)

Characters:

Fukutoku-Mannojo;

Taro-Kaja;

Hanano;

Tsukushi:

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

The main stage is arranged so as to be suitable for a "Noh" play.

In front of the board there is placed a stand for story-tellers where Tokiwazu reciters are seated in a line.

The curtain rises quietly.

Just then from the drop-curtain comes out Fukutoku-Mannojo wearing a brand-new, long ceremonial dress and a sword, followed by Taro-Kaja wearing a short ceremonial dress and a waist-Band.

Mannojo: I am Fukutoku Mannojo.keeping house at a distant country. Although I've long resided in the City, now I'm glad to say that I've won the suit.
First of all, I'll call Taro-Kaja before me and delight him about the matter. Are you there, Taro-Kaja?

Taro: Yes, sir.

Man: Where are you?

Ta: In your presence.

Man: What I've called you before me is this:
"Although I've long resided in the City,
I'm glad to say that I've won the suit,
received the lord's message to my relief
and been granted a new, wide feud by
him, as well. It's a matter of congratulation,
isn't it?"

Ta: Oh, you're very fortunate. Congratulations!

Man: Moreover, I've a good news to please you.

Ta: What is it?

Man: The lord has given us leave to go back
to our native province.

Ta: Oh, now that your cherished-desire has
been realized, indeed you're fortunate!

Man: Right you are! By the way, tomorrow
I intend to go down to our native
province. Shall I bid farewell to
her before doing so or shall I go down
there without telling her of it?

Ta: You see, she is over head and ears in

love with you and besides, she is a resentful lady, so you'd better go and see her.

Man: I quite agree with you in the respect.
Well, then, let's go.

Ta: Alright.

Man: Be ready!

Ta: Very well.

(Thereupon, without a ~~prelude~~ prelude, a "joruri" or ballad-drama is recited by the Tokiwazu reciters.)

"The cherry-blossoms on the hill of Yoshino are at their best late in spring. Even the cherry-blossoms in the garden are fragrant and seem as if urging us to compose a poem on them. Especially the twig of the cherry-blossoms look as if looking in our face."

(During the time, both of them start walking on the right and on the left.)

Man: I don't mind calling her here, but for fear of some trouble or other I'll go there and bid farewell to her.

Ta: That's a good idea.

Man: However, since she is a resentful woman, when she knows I'll start

tomorrow, I'm afraid she'll be disappointed.

Ta: Indeed she'll be discouraged to hear it.

Man: Anyway I'll go to see her. As I'll go straight on, you go to the kitchen and tell her of my coming.

Ta: Certainly.

(Thereupon Mannojo goes to the right. Taro turns to the opposite direction.)
Excuse me, but I want to ask your permission.

"In reply to his voice, over there a beautiful lady shows up gracefully."
(Meanwhile, from the opposite direction comes out Hanano doing her hair in the fashion peculiar to the Genroku Era and gayly dressed. Music starts.)

Hanano: Who's there asking my permission in a familiar voice at the door?

Ta: It's me.

Ha: Oh, you're Taro-Kaja. You needn't stand on ceremony so much. Since this is my own house, you needn't ask my permission to step in. Why won't you step right in?

Ta: I know that, but I thought you might have a visitor, so I asked your permission. Well, the gentleman of your heart has come.

Hana: Has the gentleman of my heart come here, eh?
"She didn't expect to hear such words from him."
(She gets startled and changes her mind.)

I can hardly understand you. The gentleman of my heart has already deserted me, so why could he come to see me? You must have told me a lie so as to please me.

Ta: Oh, no; he's already waiting for you over there.

Hana: Has he come here really?

Ta: I haven't told you a lie.

Hana: Really? (Is about to go to the right hurriedly.)

Although I think you're going to cheat me, anyway I'll go over there.

(Comes to the middle and sees Mannojo.)

Oh, you've really come here.

By golly! How I've longed to see you!

"She is delighted to see him and draws near him as if dreaming."

(She starts going straight near Mannojo, but comes to herself senses and gesticulates to be a little sulky.)

Oh, have you come here out of caprice?

I don't think you've come to see me, but to see any other person.

Man: No wonder you bear a grudge against me, but I've been very ~~by~~ busy recently, so had no time to write to you. Even Taro-Kaja has been busy, so I haven't sent a letter to you by him.

Hana: Don't make an excuse. Even if you've been busy with a lot of your work, you should have sent a letter to me by Taro-Kaja. You must have already forgotten me.

Man: I haven't forgotten you, I can assure you. I've really had no time to spare, so haven't seen you for a long time.

Well, what I've come here for to-day is this: First of all, I hope you'll share a joy with me. I'm glad to say that I've won the suit to my satisfaction, received the message from the lord to my relief and been granted a new, wide feud, as well.

Hana: Oh, it's a matter of congratulation. Although I've been worried about the result of the lawsuit, I'm glad you've won the suit with an increase of your yearly stipend.

Well, then, as you've often told me, will you set up housekeeping in this place and live together with me?

Man: Huh? (Gets shocked.)

Well, I'll tell you.

Hana: When you came here first, you said such a pleasant thing to me instead of making a vow.

Man: Well, well, I'll admit I said so, but, to be frank with you, I've a thing to frighten you out of your wits.

Hana: Oh, it must be a matter of concern. What is it? Will you please tell me of

it right away?

Man: Well, this time the lord has given me leave to go back to the native province, so tomorrow I shall go down there and I've come to bid farewell to you to-day.

Hana: Oh, do you mean to say you'll go back to your native province, eh?

(Gets angry.)

I've been in love with you, though.

"Last summer I became acquainted with you for the first time when you were caught by a shower and took shelter from the rain under the eaves of my house. Owing to the shower with a flash of lightning, such a handsome gentleman as you entered my house when the pine-tree was struck by a bolt of lightning.

Thereupon I brightened up and enjoyed my time with you, but sorry to say my happiness didn't last long."

(During the time, she brings a tea-cup and as if offering him a cup of tea she pours out the water in the

pitcher into the cup and putting the water on her eyes instead of her tears, she pretends to weep. Mannojo has sympathy for her and weeps together with her.

Glancing at Hanano's condition, Taro-Kaja tells his master of it, but his master is weeping, so won't listen to him. Hanano continues to say.)

Well, I've wanted you to stay here for ever, but I shall have to part from you now. I oughtn't to have met you from the first.

Alas!

"She seems to weep bitterly again."

(She puts the water on her eyes and pretends to weep. Mannojo seems to be sorrowful.)

Man: No wonder you are so loath to part from me. However, I'll come up to the city again before long when I shall see you and enjoy my time with you, so you mustn't weep, you mustn't weep.

(Strokes her back and soothes her.)

Oh, I've hit on a swell idea.

I'll display a dance so as to soothe your aching heart, for I shall have to bid farewell to you for the time being.

(Comes forward with a fan.)

"Having crossed many a mountain, I've arrived in the City after all. However, I'm sorry I've left the flower behind. Because of its vision, I stagger along the road. I wish I could fly to you if I had wings."

"In good time, he calls Taro-Kaja and urges the latter to dance with him.

However, Taro-Kaja regards it as a silly thing and shakes his head.

Thereupon he forcibly takes out Taro-Kaja. Both of them dance together.

Meanwhile, Hanano puts the water on her eyes continually and pretends to weep.)

Ta: What's the matter? Please come over here. (Takes Mannojo to the door.)
Do you think she is really weeping?

Man: Don't say such a silly thing. I'll admit she is weeping bitterly from the

bottom of her heart. Why do you say such a thing?

Ta: Oh, you're mistaken. She has placed the water beside her and pretends to weep by applying it to her eyes.

Man: Don't say such a silly thing over and over again. You shouldn't say such a thing.

Hana: Well, well, where are you going?
(Thereupon Mannojo comes near Hanano in a flurry.)
You see, although you've called on me after a long time, you've already thought me a nuisance and gone out.

Now I understand your mind. When you go back to your native place, I'm sorry to say that you'll forget me.
Alas! (Weeps again.)

Man: Since I am on familiar terms with you, I shall never forget you. As soon as I go back to my native place, I'll write to you.

(Meanwhile, Taro feels impatient at Mannojo's slowness, so he takes Mannojo to the left.)

Ta: Haven't you noticed that she pretends to weep by putting the water on her eyes?

Man: I say, don't say such a ^silly thing.

She's really weeping bitterly.

Why do you insist on saying such a silly thing?

Be quiet!

Ta: Let me tell you that she is cheating you.

Man: Don't be silly! I'm sure she's weeping bitterly, as she's loath to part from me. (Says sternly.)

Hana: Hullo, daling. Where have you gone, darling?

(Thereupon Mannojo comes back to her in a flurry.)

Mann: Oh, I haven't gone anywhere else, but I've just been over there, as he wished to see me at the door.

Hana: I can hardly understand your words.

"Your native place is seen far out at sea."

It's unkind of you to say so.

" I shall have to live alone in sorrow after you leave me, so I hope you'll sympathize with me.

" I shan't be able to" keep back my tears.

(Meanwhile, Taro feels vexatious, takes out an ink-case, puts India ink into the tea-cup beside Hanano from the ink-case.

Without knowing it, Hanano puts the water in the tea-cup on her eyes when she becomes jet-black.)

Ta: Ha, ha, ha! (Bursts out laughing in spite of himself, but soon comes to himself, so he goes to the door holding his mouth, looks aside and pretends ignorance.)

Man: Well, I understand you love me so much, so soon after I go back to my native place, I'll send Taro-Kaja for you. What do you say?

Hana: Oh, do you mean to say you'll send Taro-Kaja for me?

Man: That's right. (Happens to notice Hanano's face and gets startled out

of his wits.)

Oh, my goodness!

Hana: What's the matter?

Man: Hm, hm! Well, I mean to say I'll surely send him for you.

"She looks closely at him."

(Hanano looks closely at Mannojo with affectation and reproachingly.)

Hana: Your attitude toward me seems to be very cold, I should say. As the proverb says, "Men are as fickle as autumn weather." I wonder if you're dreaming of going back to your native province so as to see your beautiful lady and am in deep sorrow.

"She still keeps on weeping bitterly..

The master expresses his wrath."

(During the time, Hanano smears her face with India ink in the tea-cup and throws herself down crying.)

Man: Come over here, Taro-Kaja.

Ta: What do you want with me?

Man: What do you mean by doing such a thing?

Ta: You see, you didn't listen to me, so

I was obliged to do so. (Gesticulates that he has put India ink in it.)

Man: Hm, what an abominable guy you are!
(Looks stern when Taro-Kaja checks him.)

Ta: Please keep silent!
(Soothes him and pretends ignorance.)
Apart from such a thing, she seems to be in love with you and loath to part from you, so you'd better go round the street together with her before you bid farewell to her.
(Says so making a sign to Mannojo with the ye. Hanano gives herself airs.)

Hana: I'm loath to part from you. Well, then, I'll go part of the way with you.

Man: Hm, I'll put you to shame.

Ta: Tut, tut!
"Taro-Kaja urges him to behave himself."
(During the time, Mannojo loses his temper when Taro checks him. Hanano adjusts her side-locks and clothes, takes a mirror out of her pocket and tries to look at herself in the mirror

when she notices her jet-black face, gets surprised, looks in the cup and understands Taro-Kaja's trick.)

Hana: Eek! What the deuce is in this cup?

Both: Huh?

Hana: Here, here, Taro-Kaja, you must have put India ink into it.

Ta: I've never done such a thing.

Hana: Don't pretend ignorance. You see, your hands are smeared with India ink.

Ta: Heavens!

Hana: How vexing, how vexing!

"She loses her temper and rises to her feet. Thanks to Taro-Kaja's wit, Mannojo will be able to go back to his native place without thinking of her tenderly any more. Indeed it is a matter of congratulation."

(During the time, Hanano gets angry and tries to smear Taro-Kana's face with India ink when Mannojo checks her.)

Thereupon Tsukushi comes out with some wine-cups on a tray. Just then Hanano smears Tsukushi's face with India ink and runs after Taro-Kaja when she comes across Mannojo and smears his face with India ink while dancing and then runs after all of them rather comically.)

----- Curtain -----