

Unit 4 O-MO-TE-NA-SHI Japanese Culture

✓ REVIEW

Put the following Japanese into English.▯

1. 能は、14世紀以来演じられてきた日本で最も古くからある古典歌劇です。
2. 歌舞伎と能の主な違いは、歌舞伎が顔にメイクするのに対し、能は面をつけることです。

Traditional Performing Arts (3)

狂言 Kyogen



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CONVERSATION 1

Key words:

- ・ solemn 厳粛な
- ・ exuberant 元気にあふれた
- ・ inspire を引き起こす

1. Listen to the conversation twice.
2. Now repeat the conversation after the teacher until you memorize each sentence.
3. Role play
Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.



文楽 Bunraku



CONVERSATION 2

Key words:

- puppet theater 人形劇
- elaborately 念入りに
- sophisticated 精巧な

1. Listen to the conversation twice.
 2. Now repeat the conversation after the teacher until you memorize each sentence.
 3. Role play
- Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.

CONVERSATION 3

Key words:

- ・ chant 詠唱する chanter 詠唱者
- ・ puppeteer 操り人形師

1. Listen to the conversation twice.
2. Now repeat the conversation after the teacher until you memorize each sentence.
3. Role play

Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.

CONVERSATION 3

Key words:

- ・ plot 筋
- ・ derive from に由来する

1. Listen to the conversation twice.
2. Now repeat the conversation after the teacher until you memorize each sentence.
3. Role play

Your teacher plays the role of A and you play the role of B.

PRACTICE SENTENCES

Put the following Japanese into English.

1. 狂言は、厳粛な能の合間に演ぜられ、観客に笑いをもたらす短時間の喜劇です。
2. 文楽は、日本の伝統的な人形劇です。



Conversation Script

Unit 3 Traditional Performing Arts (3)

Conversation 1

A: What is Kyogen?

B: It's a brief Japanese play performed between Noh plays to provide comic relief.

A: What's the difference between Noh and Kyogen?

B: Although both are performed on the same Noh stage, Noh is formal, symbolic and solemn, while Kyogen's primary goal is to make its audience laugh. In contrast to the expressionless quality of Noh characters, Kyogen performers depend on exuberant facial expressions to inspire laughter from the audience. Kyogen costumes are much simpler than those used for Noh. Noh with comedic Kyogen was inscribed on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008.

Conversation 2

A: What is Bunraku?

B: Bunraku is a form of traditional Japanese puppet theater. It was founded in Osaka in 1684.

A: What kind of puppets do they use?

B: The elaborately costumed puppets are anywhere from 120 to 150 centimeters long. The heads are complex. All the puppets have eyes, eyebrows, mouths that move. And of course hands and arms can move.



Conversation 3

A: What kind of performers do they have?

B: Three kinds of performers take part in a Bunraku performance. First, the puppeteers. Three puppeteers work together to handle a principal puppet. Then, a shamisen (three-stringed Japanese lute) player. And thirdly, the chanter. He is the story teller as well as the singer. He recites the story in a mixture of chanting and emotional telling.

A: Why three puppeteers per puppet?

B: The most experienced puppeteer, wearing 18th-century dress, who is visible throughout the play, controls the right hand and head. Two helpers, dressed and hooded in black to show they are supposed to be invisible to the audience, control the rest of the puppet.

Conversation 4

A: What is the subject matter of Bunraku?

B: Bunraku shares many themes with Kabuki. The plots related in Bunraku derive from two principal sources: Jidai-mono and Sewa-mono. The former features historical plots dealing with aristocrats and samurai. The latter deals with commoners and explores the conflict between 'gi-ri', which refers to social obligations and 'nin-jo', which refers to human emotions.

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