


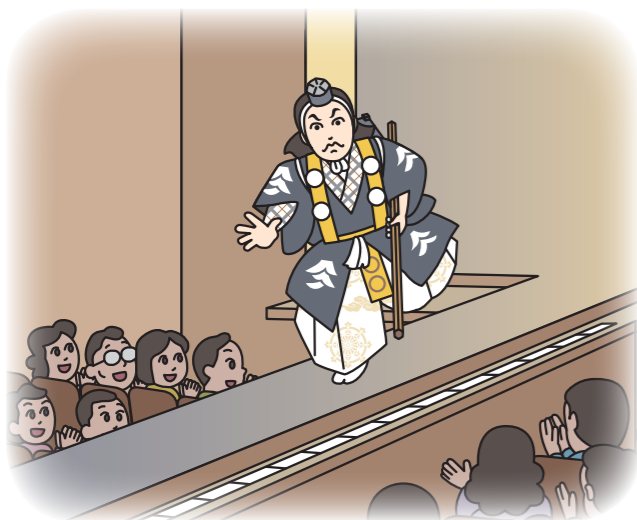
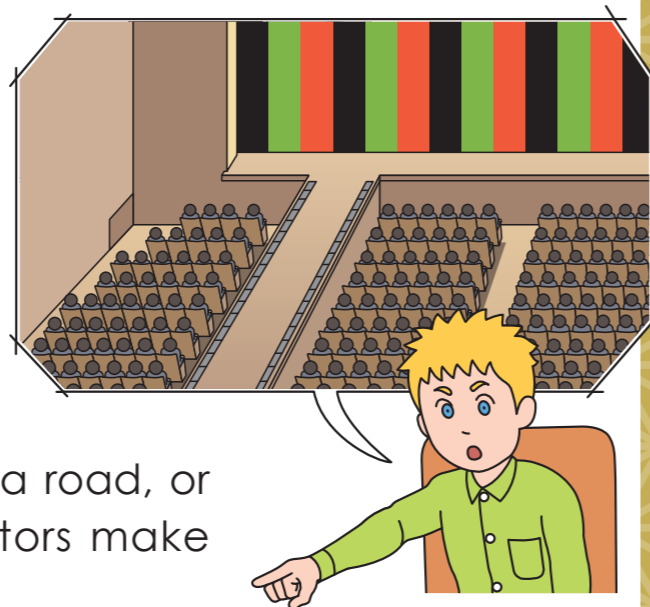
## Scene 5 The amazing Kabuki stage!


 Now let's go to our seats.


 What's that runway?

 That's the *Hanamichi*.

The *Hanamichi* is used as a road, or other kind of spaces. Actors make entrances and exits there.




 The actors are right in front of you.

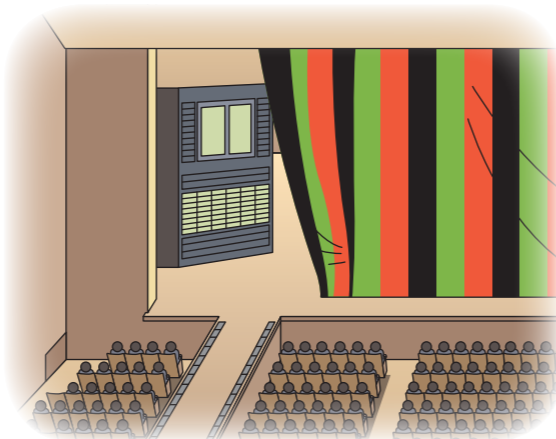
 This makes the audience feel close to the actors.

 Interesting!

 I have seen that curtain somewhere.


 That's the *Joshikimaku*, the curtain for Kabuki. Those are the colors of Kabuki.


Now the curtain is opening.

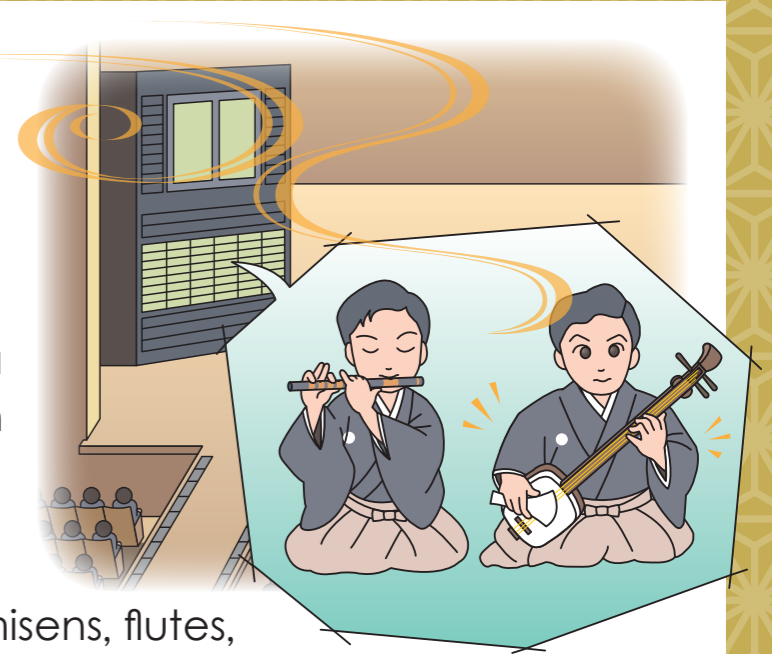


 Oh, I can hear music.


Where is it from?


 Over there. There is a place to play music on the left of the stage.

 There are singers, shamisens, flutes, handdrums and drums and so on.



In Kabuki, music expresses nature, the situation and the personality of the characters.


 The drama becomes more exciting with music.

 There are many ways of enjoying Kabuki.

I'm excited!

 Now the play is starting.

### Column 2 廻り舞台


 Look! The stage is moving!

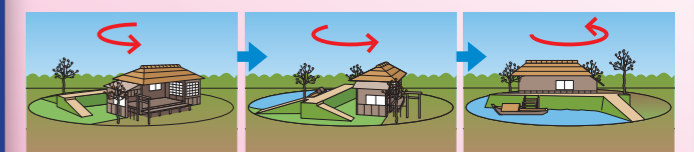
What's happening?

 This is the *Mawari-butai* or "revolving stage."

The stage floor rotates, and it can change one scene to another quickly.

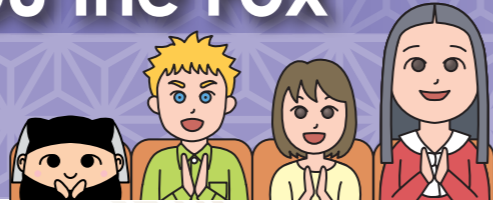
It was invented in Japan 260 years ago.

 That's amazing! The inventor of the revolving stage must have been genius.



## Scene 6 The tale of Tadanobu the Fox

### Story



800 years ago, there was a battle between two military clans, the Genji and the Heishi and it was won by the Genji.

The retired emperor Go-Shirakawa was happy and rewarded the general Minamoto no Yoshitsune the treasured *Hatsune no tsuzumi* hand drum.

A *tsuzumi* is a percussion instrument that you hit.

So the gift is a hidden order for Yoshitsune to attack his brother Yoritomo.

Yoshitsune realizes the hidden order, but can't refuse the imperial gift. He says he will accept the drum, but he will never hit it.

However, Yoritomo suspects that Yoshitsune is plotting against him.

Because of Yoritomo's suspicions, Yoshitsune decides to escape from Kyoto.



Yoshitsune's lover, Shizuka Gozen tries to follow him.

Yoshitsune says, "This is a dangerous journey and I can't take you with me. I'll give you the *Hatsune* drum to remind you of me."

Yoshitsune's retainer Sato Tadanobu appears mysteriously and Yoshitsune orders Tadanobu to protect Shizuka.



Shizuka hears that Yoshitsune has taken refuge on Mt. Yoshino.

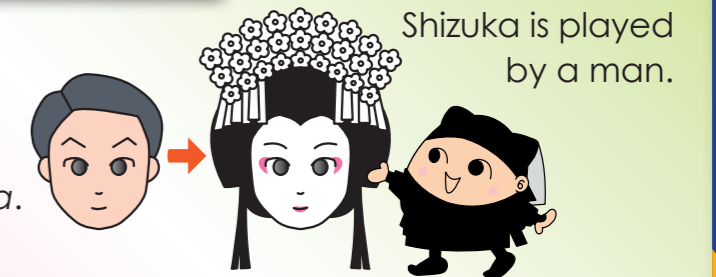
Shizuka travels to Mt. Yoshino with Tadanobu.



### Column 3 女方 おんながた

In Kabuki, all female roles are played by male actors.

These actors are called *Onnagata*.



Shizuka is played by a man.

五 Yoshitsune hides in the mansion of Kawatsura Hogen on Mt. Yoshino.

Tadanobu arrives.

Yoshitsune asks "How is Shizuka?"  
But Tadanobu says, "I don't know."

Yoshitsune is furious and says,  
"You betrayed me!"



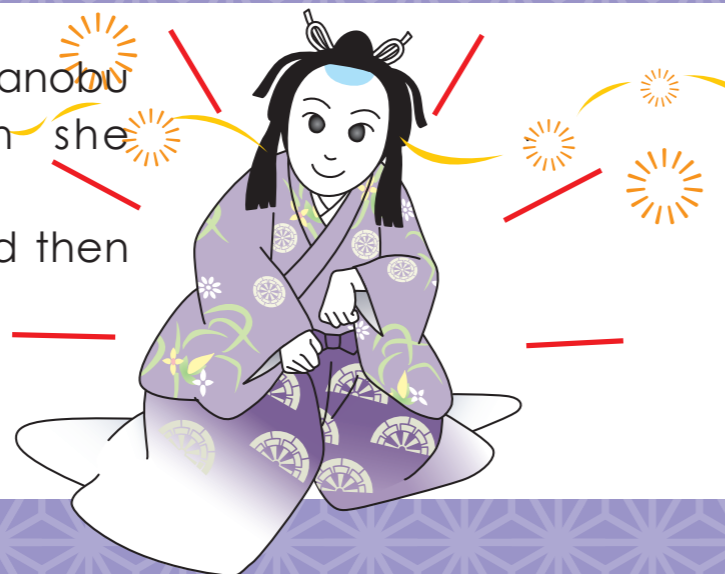
六 Then there is an announcement that Shizuka and another Tadanobu have arrived together.

Yoshitsune and Shizuka are pleased to be reunited.

But strangely, the Tadanobu that accompanied Shizuka has disappeared.



七 Shizuka says that Tadanobu always appeared when she played the *Hatsune* drum. Shizuka plays the drum, and then Tadanobu appears.



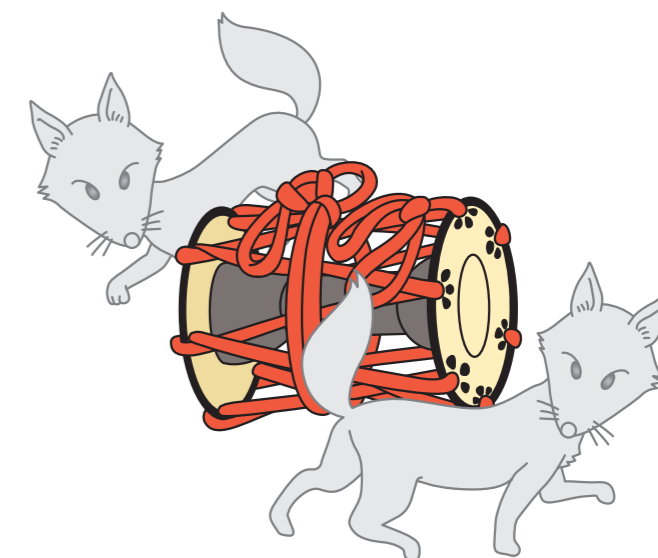
八 When Shizuka questions this Tadanobu he reveals his true identity.

This Tadanobu is actually a magical fox who is drawn to the *Hatsune* drum.



九 The *Hatsune* drum was made from the skins of his parents.

The false Tadanobu is actually the child of the drum.



十 The fox Tadanobu cries and disappears.

Shizuka tries to get him back by playing the drum.

But the drum will not make a sound because the fox's parents are so sad to see him go.



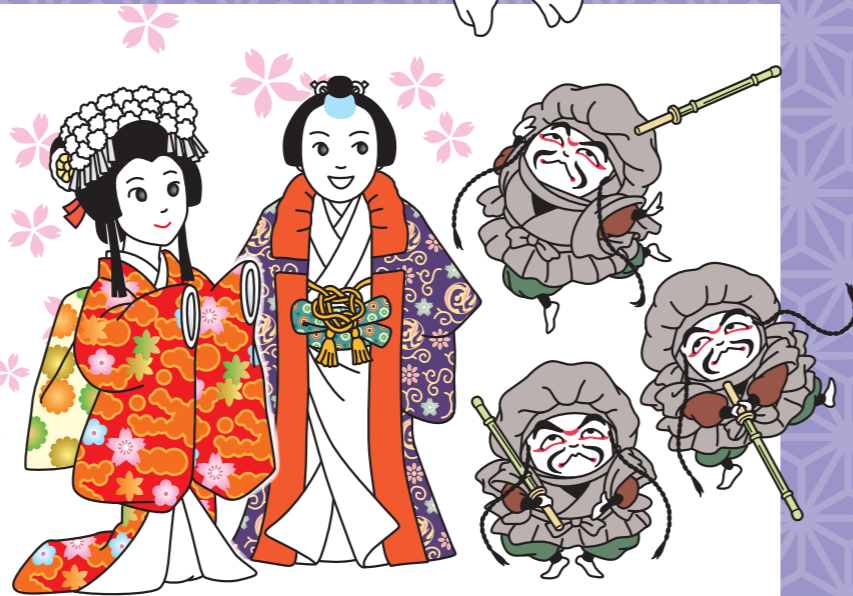
Yoshitsune and Shizuka are moved by the love of parents and child.

The fox appears again.

Yoshitsune gives the drum to the fox.



The fox Tadanobu is overjoyed and with his supernatural powers he defeats a group of villains who attack. Tadanobu flies away with the drum.



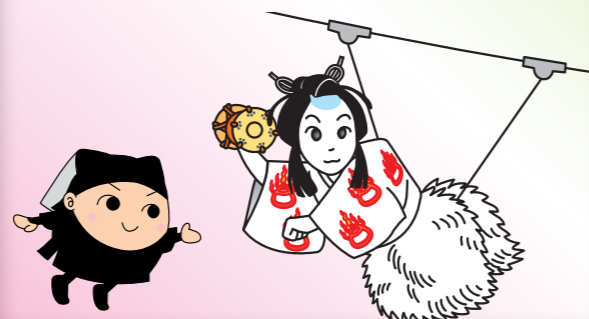
Column4 見得

A *Mie* is a stop motion pose that is like a beautiful sculpture. This is especially used in fight scenes. This technique expresses a character's strong emotion.



Column5 宙乗り

*Chuunori* is a technique that shows some supernatural character flying through the air. This is a technique that has been used since the Edo period.



# Scene 7 Thank you, Kurogo-chan!

Thank you. We enjoyed it very much.

The *Mie* poses were cool!

The princess was so beautiful!

Kabuki has stayed around for so long because it has something to entertain everybody.

That's right. That's why it's still popular now.

There are a lot of Kabuki fans all over the world.

I'd like my friends in America to see Kabuki too!

I want to go to Kabuki with my family next time!

I'm glad you enjoyed it.



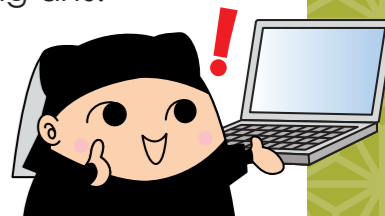
Thank you for coming.

I hope you'll come here again.



## Information about performances

Check the website of the *National Theatre* for information about performances of Kabuki and other traditional performing arts.



# 国立劇場 場所・アクセス

所在地	〒102-8656 東京都千代田区隼町4-1
TEL	03-3265-7411 (代表)

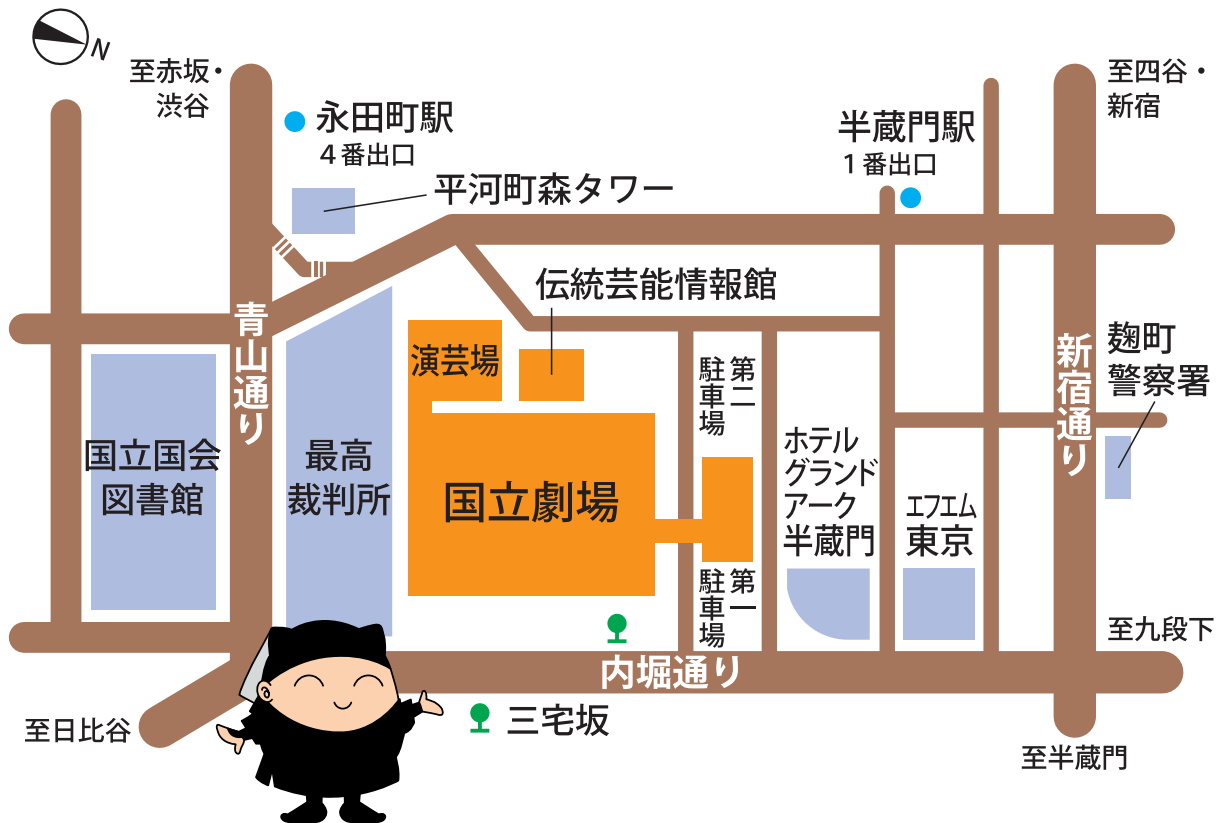


## 地下鉄をご利用の場合

- はんぞうもん半蔵門線 半蔵門駅  
1番出口 徒歩約5分
- ゆうらくちょう有楽町線 / はんぞうもん半蔵門線 / なんぼく南北線 / ながたちょう永田町駅  
4番出口 徒歩約8分

## バスをご利用の場合

- とえい都営バス 都03 (晴海埠頭-四谷駅)  
しゅく宿75 (新宿駅西口-三宅坂)  
三宅坂 徒歩約1分



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