



# A Torchlight Performance Of NOH THEATER

**Time** Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Ceremony at 5:30 p.m., Performance at 6:00 p.m.

**Place** Matsumoto Castle Courtyard

**Program**

1. Noh play: "Kagetsu"
2. Interlude: "Futari Daimyo" (a *Kyogen* comedy)
3. Noh play: "Adachigahara Hakuto Kyushin-no-de"

## SYNOPSIS (NUMBERS INDICATE FRAMES IN COMIC STRIPS)

### "Kagetsu"

1) Following the tragic disappearance of his son, a man from the Tsukushi province in Kyūshū goes on a Buddhist pilgrimage around the provinces and becomes a monk. After traveling for some time, he arrives at Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto. A local man living near the temple tells him of a boy who performs *kusemai* (story-telling with dance) by singing songs in front of the Temple.

2) The boy, named Kagetsu, appears and explains the origins of his name. He sings a love song together with the local man. After singing, the boy almost shoots a Japanese nightingale with an arrow as the bird spoils cherry flowers, but stops when he remembers it would violate the Buddhist precepts against killing.

3) Kagetsu then performs a *kusemai* about the origins and history of Kiyomizu Temple, during which time the monk comes to the realization that the boy is his long lost son. They joyously celebrate their reunion.

4) Encouraged by the local man, Kagetsu plays a *kakko* (small two-sided drum) and performs a *kusemai* that narrates the story of his life since he was kidnapped by a *Tengu*

(long-nosed goblin) at the age of seven. Kagetsu and his father-monk then set out together on a journey to train in the way of Buddhism.

### "Futari Daimyo"

1) Two *daimyo* (feudal lords) head for Kyoto unattended. On the way, they look for a temporary attendant and coerce a passing man into the job.

2) The arrogant lords make the man carry their swords, answer them exactly as their vassals would and treat him in an overbearing manner.

3) Becoming outraged, the man catches them off guard and threatens them with their swords. He orders the helpless lords to act like dogs and make fools of themselves to get even with them.

4) In the end, the man strips them of all they have and runs away.

### "Adachigahara Hakuto Kyushin-no-de"

1) From the province of Kii, the Buddhist monk, Yukei, travels across the country with mountain priests. It is already dark when they arrive at Adachigahara. They find an old,

dilapidated house inhabited by a very old woman. Needing somewhere to stay, they request a room for the night. At first she refuses, saying it would be too embarrassing to show them her old house. However, after Yukei beseeches her, she finally gives in and accepts his request.

2) At Yukei's request, she shows him how her spinning wheel for making thread works. Identifying herself with the spinning wheel, she laments her long, miserable life and begins to cry. As the night gets colder, she goes outside for firewood to keep the house warm after making Yukei and the others promise not to look into her bedroom while she is gone.

3) As they try to get some rest, one of Yukei's followers, Ai, cannot resist looking into the old woman's bedroom. To his shock, he finds a number of bones and piled up corpses. They discover that she is an ogress, one who has been rumored to reside at Kurozuka (Black Mound) in Adachigahara, and run away. When she finds out that they broke their promise and revealed her secret, she transforms herself into an ogress and tries to catch them.

4) When Yukei and the others pray by holding their Buddhist rosary, she finally weakens and disappears into the night.