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University Theatre
In Cooperation with the
Music Department
presents

A Kabuki Play by
Ichikawa Danjuro I

Narukami The Thundergod

April 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1987

Kennedy Theatre
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, Hawaii

Narukami The Thundergod

A Kabuki Play by **Ichikawa Danjuro I**

Translated and Directed by **James R. Brandon**
Assistant Director, **Linda C. Ehrlich**
Choreography by **Onoe Kikunobu**
Assisted by **Onoe Kikunobukazu**
Musical Direction by **Yamada Chie** and **Ricardo Trimillos**
Assisted by **Ueno Michiko**
Songs Translated by **Junko Berberich**
Vocal Coach, **David Furumoto**
Set Design by **Joseph D. Dodd**
Lighting and Technical Direction by **Mark Boyd**
Costumer, **Sandra Finney**

CAST (in order of appearance)

White Cloud ..... Troy Okumura
Black Cloud ..... Robert S. Ito, Jr.
Narukami ..... Steve D. Wagenseller
Lady Taema ..... Tamara Andersen
Monks/Soldiers ..... Michael C. Blair, Satoshi Stanley Koike, Ravi Narayan, John Neill, Guangren Shen, Harper Simmons, Gladys Y. Taketa, Angelique Taylor, Ryuko Wakabayashi, William Britton Watkins
First Strongman ..... Jeffrey P. Horovitz
Second Strongman ..... George T. Okada
General Goto Mototeru ..... Mike Hase
Stage Assistant ..... Laurinda Butler, Linda C. Ehrlich, Cheryl K. Kohashi
Clappers ..... Onoe Kikunobukazu

NAGAUTA MUSICIANS

Singers:	Itsuko Tagawa, Gertrude Urata, Diane Sunada
Shamisen:	Chie Yamada, Karen Horita, Nancy Tateyama, Keiko Akana, Janice Trubitt

NARIMONO MUSICIANS

Flute *(nohkan)*:	Robert C. Herr, Tomomi Sugita
Shoulder drum *(kotsuzumi)*:	Makiko Goto, Gertrude Urata
Hip drum *(otsuzumi)*:	Andrew Weintraub
Stick drum *(taiko)*:	Ricardo Trimillos, Robert C. Herr, Andrew Weintraub
Large drum *(odaiko)*:	Sam K. Schank
Bells *(matsumushi, kin, dora)*:	Janice Trubitt

Director's Notes

A Kabuki comedy, "Narukami" was first performed in 1684. The actor-playwright was Ichikawa Danjuro I, who transformed a well-known Buddhist legend of a powerful priest seduced by a courtly lady from a coldly moral tale into a richly human account of man's frailty.

This production is based on the version of the play which was performed in Osaka in 1742 by the author's son Danjuro II. A previous Kennedy Theatre production in 1973 (featuring James Grant Benton and Bari Moss in the title roles) concluded with a scene in which Narukami pursues his seductress and engages the forces of the Emperor in battle. This time we are staging a completely different concluding scene, a bavura sequence of confrontations and battles suggested by Kabuki collegues in Japan—actors, musicians, and stage designers—which I believe audiences will find very exciting.

Audiences who attend University Theatre productions regularly will know by heart now Kabuki's qualities: humor, vitality, bold drama, theatricalism, and colorful beauty. The vocal dexterity, controlled gestures, gorgeous costumes and makeup, furious drumming, and elegant *shamisen* melodies of "Narukami the Thundergod" are Kabuki hallmarks. Veteran teachers of previous University Theatre Kabuki productions, Yamada Chie and Ricardo Trimillos of the Music Department, Onoe Kikunobu of the Dance Program, and Sandra Finney, Mark Boyd, and Joseph Dodd of the Department of Drama and Theatre, bring continuity to this production, as do expert musicians from the community—Itsuko Tagawa, Gertrude Urata, Nancy Tateyama, and Karen Horita, among them—who have joined the ensemble of student performers. David Furumoto, who received his MFA in Asian Theatre at Manoa and played leading roles in previous Kabuki plays, is coaching the student actors in this cast. It is appropriate that the experienced artists of our community pass their knowledge on to the next generation in this, our twenty-sixth English-language Kabuki production at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. We hope you enjoy "Narukami the Thundergod."

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About The Cast and Crews

TAMARA ANDERSEN (Taema) is a Drama and Theatre major at UHM. She last appeared at Kennedy in the Lab Theatre production of *Woyzeck* and played in the Starving Artists' production of *Cloud Nine*. She has also appeared in our productions of *Learned Ladies* and *Godspell*.

MICHAEL C. BLAIR (Monk/Soldier) is a freshman Liberal Arts major at UHM whose credits include the Hawaii Performing Arts Company (HPAC) productions of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Inherit the Wind*, as well as *Peace Child* for the International Year of Peace.

MIKE HASE (General Goto Mototeru), a Drama and Theatre major at UHM, worked on Kennedy Theatre productions of *Jasma, The Cherry Orchard* and *Godspell*. In 1985, he was invited to attend the Toyama International Theatre Festival in Japan.

JEFFREY P. HOROVITZ (First Strongman), an alumnus of the US Marine Corps and a freshman arts major at UHM, made his first stage appearance in *The Cherry Orchard* last semester and has since appeared in our production of *Many Moons*.

ROBERT S. ITO, JR. (Black Cloud), a junior Liberal Arts major at UHM, has appeared in several UHM plays, the last one being *Jasma*. He has also appeared in *Godspell, Hamlet* and *Present Tense*.

SATOSHI STANLEY KOIKE (Monk/Soldier), from Hiroshima, Japan, is pursuing his MA in Linguistics at UHM. He has broadcasting experience and has written several plays.

RAVI NARAYAN (Monk/Soldier), from Bombay, India, has his MS in Mechanical Engineering from UHM and is working on his MS in Information and Computer Science. Ravi previously appeared as Rupa in last fall's *Jasma*.

JOHN NEILL (Monk/Soldier) is an Elementary Education major at UHM. This is his first appearance on Kennedy Mainstage.

GEORGE T. OKADA (Second Strongman) is majoring in English at UHM. This is his first appearance at Kennedy, as well.

TROY OKUMURA (White Cloud) is a junior Drama and Theatre major at UHM. This is his Kennedy Mainstage debut. He has done technical work for the Kennedy Theatre productions of *Many Moons* and *The Cherry Orchard*.

GUANGREN SHEN (Monk/Soldier), from Shanghai, China, is a Ph.D. candidate in Drama and Theatre at UHM. He is also the author of an article on "Bishan Yuefu", a collection of *sanqu* poems by Wang Jiusi.

HARPER SIMMONS (Monk/Soldier), a freshman at UHM, has theatrical credits in acting, directing, stage-managing and lighting design.

GLADYS Y. TAKETA (Monk/Soldier) is a senior Communications major at UHM who currently has an internship at Hawaiian Electric.

ANGELIQUE TAYLOR (Monk/Soldier), Ph.D. hopeful candidate in Drama and Theatre, appeared in her first film at age 4. Since then she has helped write and direct for TV and has taught Art on the college level.

WILLIAM BRITTON WATKINS (Monk/Soldier) is majoring in Asian Studies at UHM.

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Acknowledgements:
We thank Ichikawa Danjuro XII for granting permission for this performance of *Narukami the Thundergod*, one of the "Famous Eighteen Plays" of his family lineage.

The University Theatre and the Music Department received substantial grants to help underwrite this production from the University of Hawaii Japan Studies Endowment—funded by a grant from the Japanese Government and from the Kamigata Bunka Kenkyukai and for this assistance we are most grateful.

The National Theatre of Japan provided assistance in many ways, including the arranging for purchase of costumes, wigs, and properties.

We are deeply indebted to the following Kabuki professionals for their artistic advice and instruction: Hamatani Hitoshi, Stage Manager at the National Theatre of Japan; Tosha Kaho, Master Drummer; and actors Onoe Baiko VII, Onoe Kikunojo II, Nakamura Tomijuro V, Onoe Kikujuro, Bando Kitsusaburo, and Bando Minomushi.

For their personal help and support, we thank: George Akita, Karen Horita, and Nancy Takei.

(NOTICE: Smoking is not allowed in the auditorium, nor may photographs or recordings be made during the performance.)

STEVE D. WAGENSELLER (Narukami) is pursuing his Master's degree at UHM in Asian and Western Drama.

RYUKO WAKABAYASHI (Monk/Soldier), from Japan, has experience in Jazz, Hula and Modern Dance. She also enjoys writing short stories.

KEIKO AKANA (Shamisen) is a nagauta student of Chie Yamada.

LAURINDA BUTLER (Stage Assistant, Makeup) is a sophomore at UHM, seeking her BFA in Dance, with an emphasis on modern dance. She has performed at Leeward Community College for their Music Department's Spring Concert.

LINDA C. EHRLICH (Assistant Director, Stage Assistant) has her Masters in Asian Studies and Linguistics from the University of Michigan and Southern Illinois and is pursuing her doctorate in Asian Theatre at UHM. She appeared in last fall's production of *Jasma*.

MAKIKO GOTO (Shoulder Drum) is currently at the University studying English; she is a koto teacher and performer from Tokyo.

KAREN HORITA (Shamisen) is a graduate of the University and currently serves in the House of Representatives. She has played in two previous Kabuki productions.

ROBERT C. HERR (Flute, Stick Drum) has played music for UH Kabuki productions since *The Road to Kyoto!* in 1977. He holds a Master in Music Education and a Master of Library Science.

CHERYL K. KOHASHI (Stage Manager, Stage Assistant, Properties Master), a senior, is the Drama and Theatre Department's first liberal studies major in Arts Administration. Her last production at Kennedy Theatre was *Cordelia Victorious*, but she has also been involved in *Man of La Mancha, Carnival, Wiley and the Hairy Man*, and as a dancer in many of our dance concerts.

SAM K. SCHANK (Large Drum) is a UH graduate in Piano Performance who toured with the UH Peking Opera in China; this is his second Kabuki production.

DIANE SUNADA (Singer) is an undergraduate Music major in vocal performance at the University; she teaches the world music course for the Freshman Seminar Program.

ITSUKO TAGAWA (Singer) is a specialist in Japanese traditional vocal music, including nagauta. She has performed in five of the Kabuki productions.

NANCY U. TATEYAMA (Shamisen) is a nagauta student of Chie Yamada. She played the shamisen in the UH Kabuki, *Fishing for a Wife* and *The Demon's Hand* at Kennedy Theatre and on its Neighbor Island tour.

JANICE TRUBITT (Shamisen, Bells) is a graduate student in Education (Music); her research topic is public school music in Japan.

GERTRUDE URATA (Shoulder Drum, Singer) is a nagauta student of Chie Yamada.

ANDREW N. WEINTRAUB (Stick Drum) is a graduate student in Ethnomusicology, who has conducted field research in West Java, Indonesia. He is a member of the UH Gamelan Ensemble.

Coming Next

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY SHOW
Terence Knapp as Kean
April 25, Lab Theatre, 8 pm

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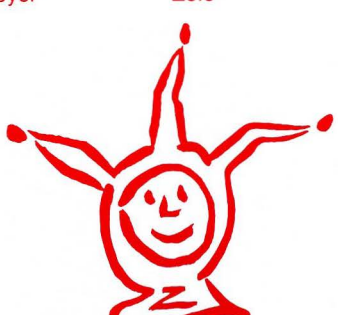

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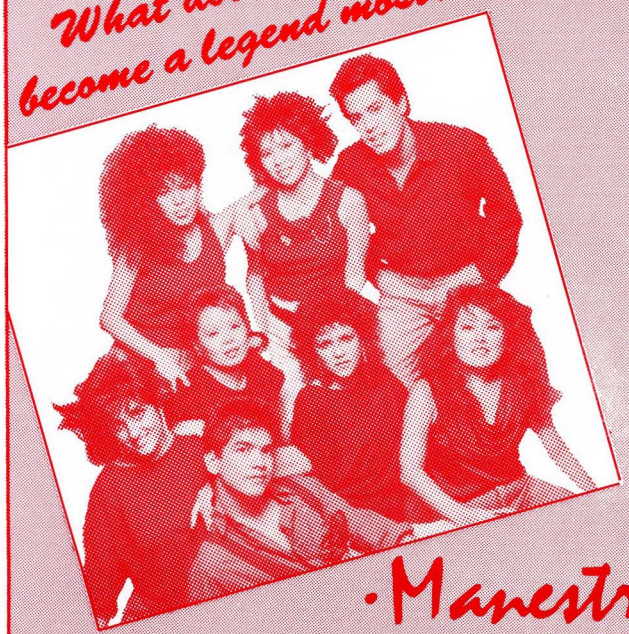

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Fly Crew: Val Bueno

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Set Construction: Danny Feliciano, Michael Dombroski, P. Brian Gilhooly, Dan Kelin II, Tom Brady, Scott Lancaster, Terry Kessel, David E. Sofio, Guangren Shen Brad Marx and students from Drama 101 and 240.

Costume Crew/Dressers: Nicole Thibadeaux, Grace Yasuhara, Mary Thompson, Melanie Miraoka, Linda Letta Tomomi Sugita, Makiko Goto

Wigs: George Wago

Makeup: George Wago, Theresa Martin, Laurinda Butler, Elizabeth Wichmann

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