

The 20th

National Children's Kabuki Festival in Komatsu

May 4 (Friday) and 5 (Saturday) ,
2018 (Public Holidays)

Main Hall, komatsu Theater Urara
(710, Doihara-machi, Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture)

Tsuri Onna

Demachi Children's Kabuki Hikiyama Higashi Hikiyama Association,
Tonami, Toyama Prefecture

Kanadehon Chūshingura Shichidanme, Gion Ichiriki Jaya no Ba

Shōohzangumi
Maibara Hikiyama Festival Preservation Society,
Maibara, Shiga Prefecture

Futa Omote Mizu ni Utsusu Urami no Omokage, Hōkaibō Yabase Kihan no Ba

Honmachigumi Kasugazan
Nagahama Hikiyama Festival,
Nagahama, Shiga Prefecture

Kabuki Jūhachiban no Uchi, Kanjinchō

Children's Kabuki Kanjinchō Organizing Committee,
Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture





Show Schedule



10:00 Doors open. Welcome drums.

10:30 Curtain raised. Ceremonial announcements.

10:45 **Tsuri Onna**

Demachi Children's Kabuki Hikiyama Higashi Hikiyama Association
Tonami, Toyama Prefecture

11:35 Intermission

11:55 **Kanadehon Chūshingura Shichidanme,
Gion Ichiriki Jaya no Ba**

Shōohzangumi, Maibara Hikiyama Festival Preservation Society
Maibara, Shiga Prefecture

12:50 Intermission

14:00 **Futa Omote Mizu ni Utsusu Urami no Omokage,
Hōkaibō Yabase Kihan no Ba**

Honmachigumi Kasugazan, Nagahama Hikiyama Festival
Nagahama, Shiga Prefecture

14:55 Intermission

15:30 **Kabuki Jūhachiban no Uchi, Kanjinchō**

Children's Kabuki Kanjinchō Organizing Committee
Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture

17:00 Curtain close



The master of ceremonies will be

Mr. Seiji Kasai

Expert kabuki compere and classical
performing arts commentator.

Tsuri Onna

10:45 / 釣女

Demachi Children's Kabuki Hikiyama Higashi Hikiyama Association,
Tonami, Toyama Prefecture



Plot Outline

A daimyo from a certain land is in need of a wife. Accompanied by his servant, Tarōkaja, he sets out on a pilgrimage to Nishinomiya Shrine, which is famous for the god of connections. The daimyo does not know the area they are traveling through, but believes that Tarōkaja is familiar with it, and makes him act as a tour guide. Tarōkaja, however, does not actually know anything about the area, but pretends he does, making up all kinds of stories about the sights. Eventually, the pair reach Nishinomiya Shrine. It is decided they will spend the night in the shrine precincts conducting an all-night vigil. Despite being disturbed many times by Tarōkaja, the daimyo falls asleep. In his dream, he is told that his wife will be waiting for him on the stairs of the Western gate. Delighted, he sets off for the gate. He picks up a fishing rod he sees on the ground and starts to fish, whereupon he catches a woman of unequaled beauty. The daimyo has a bamboo flask of sake with him, so the couple use that to celebrate their wedding on the spot.

So envious he cannot stand it, Tarōkaja borrows the fishing rod and casts the line, crying "Me too!" However, what does he catch? ...



Demachi Children's Kabuki Hikiyama Higashi Hikiyama Association

For more than 220 years, the Demachi Children's Kabuki Hikiyama has been part of the annual spring festival at Demachi Shinmeigu Shrine, heralding the arrival of spring in Tonaminomachi. This festival takes place on April 29-30 every year.

There are three hikiyama floats – Nishimachi, Nakamachi, and Higashi. In the past, all three floats would perform each year.

Since 1969, it changed to having the floats take turns to perform each year. The Higashi Hikiyama Association comprises four districts – Higashimachi, Shinmachi, Kawaharamachi, and Kibunemachi. Cooperating across district boundaries, they continue to pass down the traditions.

Cast

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Daimyo | Kana Mizutame | 6th Grade, Demachi Elementary School |
| Hag | Oto Hongō | 5th Grade, Demachi Elementary School |
| Tarōkaja | Yume Mizuki | 4th Grade, Demachi Elementary School |
| Noblewoman | Yayu Inagaki | 4th Grade, Demachi Elementary School |
| Stage assistant | Sukai Toyoshi | 5th Grade, Demachi Elementary School |
| Stage assistant | Mai Ōshiro | 4th Grade, Demachi Elementary School |
| Stage announcer | Hiroto Matsumura | 3rd Grade, Demachi Elementary School |

Choreography

Kiraku Senkawa

Norihiro Horiuchi

Kanadehon Chūshingura Shichidanme, Gion Ichiriki Jaya no Ba



11:55 / 仮名手本忠臣蔵 七段目 祇園一力茶屋の場

Shōohzangumi, Maibara Hikiyama Festival Preservation Society,
Maibara, Shiga Prefecture

Plot Outline

After vacating the daimyo's mansion in the Ōgigayatsu district of Kamakura, Ōboshi Yuranosuke and his family are now living quietly in Yamashina in Kyoto. People on the street are gossiping about when the retainers of Magistrate Enya will avenge their master, but the slovenly Yuranosuke appears to be totally absorbed in drink and women. On this night too, Yuranosuke has become very drunk at the Ichiriki Teahouse in Gion. It is here that Ōboshi Rikiya delivers to him a secret message from Magistrate Enya's wife, Kaoyo Gozen.

Hayano Kanpei's wife, Okaru, who is now a courtesan, is trying to sober up by the window on the second floor of the teahouse. Curious about the letter that Yuranosuke has started to read, Okaru uses a mirror to peek at the letter. Yuranosuke notices her in the act and proposes to pay to release her from bondage. He plans to kill her because she now also knows the secret. Okaru's older brother, Teraoka Heiemon, realizes Yuranosuke's true intent. Hoping to convince

Yuranosuke to let him join in the vengeance plot, he draws his sword and attempts to kill Okaru himself.

Okaru is shocked, but when she is told that her father, Yoichibee has died and her husband, Kanpei, has committed seppuku, she resigns herself to her fate. Just

as Heiemon's sword is about to fall, he is stopped by Yuranosuke, who agrees to let Heiemon join him.



Shōohzangumi, Maibara Hikiyama Festival Preservation Society

The Maibara Hikiyama Festival Preservation Society is an organization whose objectives are the promotion of the Maibara Hikiyama Festival; the preservation of the hikiyama floats, and the cultivation of Kyōgen theater and hayashi music.

The Maibara Hikiyama Festival is an annual festival of the Yutani Shrine, that protects the district. It is believed to have begun in the second half of the Edo Period (1603-1868), emulating the Hikiyama Festival of Nagahama. The hikiyama floats are believed to have been built and the Hikiyama Kyogen performances begun in the Meiwa Era (1764-72), when the town started to flourish as an important transport

hub. The floats have been rebuilt and repaired numerous times since then and are still treasured today.

The Hikiyama Festival takes place during Health and Sports Day long weekend in October. It is divided into three kumi or groups, namely the Asahiyamagumi (Kitamachi), Shōohzangumi (Nakamachi), and Juzangumi. In all three kumi, the youth groups play the main role in organizing and running the festival, with sewakata (older members who have graduated from the youth group) guiding them. The actors in the Children's Kabuki are all boys from first to sixth grade in the respective districts' elementary schools.

Cast

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|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Ōboshi Yuranosuke | Jōta Ōhashi | 6th Grade, Maibara Elementary School |
| Teraoka Heiemon | Yukihiro Tanabe | 6th Grade, Maibara Elementary School |
| Okaru | Taketo Nishi | 6th Grade, Maibara Elementary School |
| Ōboshi Rikiya | Yushin Nakamura | 5th Grade, Sakata Elementary School |
| Senzaki Yagoro | Kenshin Nakamura | 3rd Grade, Sakata Elementary School |
| Otose (Maid) | Kōta Miyagawa | 2nd Grade, Hikone Municipal Jōtō Elementary School |

Choreography

Danshirō Ichikawa



Futa Omote Mizu ni Utsusu Urami no Omokage, Hōkaibō Yabase Kihan no Ba

14:00 / 双面湖国月嘆魄 法界坊矢走帰帆の場

Honmachigumi Kasugazan, Nagahama Hikiyama Festival, Nagahama, Shiga Prefecture

Plot Outline

Disguised as shinobu fern sellers, Matsuwakamaru and Okumi arrive at the Yabase wharf, where Oshizu the ferrywoman is waiting. When they learn of Princess Nowake's violent death, they burn a fukusa cloth, a memento of Princess Nowake, to pray for the repose of her soul. Then, a woman who is the spitting image of Okumi suddenly appears. In an attempt to determine which is the real Okumi, Oshizu commands Okumi and the Okumi look-alike to describe how they first met Matsuwakamaru, but the two women will not budge in their battle over the man. The false Okumi eventually reveals her true identity - the terrifying form is a combination of the ghost of Hōkaibō, a corrupt monk who had been killed while in love with Okumi and that of Princess Nowake, who had been killed by Hōkaibō while still obsessed with Matsuwakamaru. At that moment, Tawara no Tōta comes along and, together with the powers of the Kanzeon, makes the ghosts disappear.



Honmachigumi Kasugazan, Nagahama Hikiyama Festival

Honmachigumi Kasugazan is one of the 13 float kumi that take part in the Nagahama Hikiyama Festival, an annual spring festival of Nagahama Hachimangu Shrine. This notable festival's history goes back more than 400 years, and last year was registered on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Inheriting the history and traditions of Honmachigumi Kasugazan, the

older, youth, and children actors and hayashi music performers have continued to pass down the culture of the Hikiyama Festival in a long and uninterrupted line from parent to child and onto their own children. The elaborate and gorgeous hikiyama floats and the children's kabuki performed on top of those floats are a magnificent sight to behold.

Cast

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Goheishi | Hiroto Murai | 3 year old |
| Hōkaibō | Takuya Nakamura | 1st Year, Nagahama-Nishi Junior High School |
| Matsuwakamaru | Tonan Takehana | 5th Grade, Nagahama-Minami Elementary School |
| Okumi | Haru Nosaka | 3rd Grade, Nagahama-Kita Elementary School |
| Oshizu | Kazuma Higashino | 3rd Grade, Nagahama Elementary School |
| Tawara no Tōta | Keito Takehana | 3rd Grade, Nagahama-Minami Elementary School |
| Hanayoten (constable) | Nao Isozaki | 2nd Grade, Nagahama Elementary School |
| Hanayoten (constable) | Shōto Murai | 2nd Grade, Nagahama-Kita Elementary School |
| Hanayoten (constable) | Kaito Kosuga | 2nd Grade, Asahinomori Elementary School |
| Hanayoten (constable) | Sō Nosaka | 1st Grade, Nagahama-Kita Elementary School |

Choreography

Shijūrō Tachibana

Kabuki Jūhachiban no Uchi, Kanjinchō

15:30 / 歌舞伎十八番の内 勧進帳

Children's Kabuki Kanjinchō Organizing Committee, Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture

Plot Outline

Minamoto-no-Yoshitsune had distinguished himself in military victory against the Taira clan, but he has fallen out of favor with his older brother, the powerful Yoritomo, and is now running for his life. Yoshitsune and a small band of followers disguise themselves as traveling Buddhist monks, and, with Benkei as their leader, make haste along the Hokuiku Road with the intent of taking refuge with the Fujiwara clan in Ōshū. Meanwhile, Yoritomo has set up checkpoints all along the road to Ōshū in the hope of capturing Yoshitsune.

When Yoshitsune's band approaches the Ataka Checkpoint, they are stopped by the chief guard, Togashi. In the face of Togashi's questioning, Benkei pretends that a blank scroll he happens to have on him is a Kanjinchō, a letter soliciting donations for the rebuilding of Tōdaiji temple in Nara, and pretends to read a long letter. This satisfies Togashi, who allows them to pass. However, when a checkpoint guard protests, 'One of them looks like Yoshitsune,' Togashi

calls for the group to halt again, and the atmosphere at the checkpoint becomes very tense. To dispel their suspicions, Benkei starts to beat Yoshitsune violently with his staff. Togashi is so moved by Benkei's desire to protect his master to the

extent of carrying out such a disrespectful act, that he lets the group pass the checkpoint, even while knowing that they are Yoshitsune and his servants.

This is a moving tale of three men, Benkei, Yoshitsune, and Togashi, and their "intelligence, benevolence, and bravery." Even today, some 800 years later, it never fails to capture the hearts of the Japanese people.



Children's Kabuki Kanjinchō Organizing Committee

The city of Komatsu is the location of the Ataka Checkpoint, which is the setting of Kabuki Jūhachiban no Uchi, Kanjinchō, or Kanjinchō of the Eighteen Best Kabuki Plays. The Hikiyama Children's Kabuki is performed at Komatsu's Otabi Festival every year in May, with this year marking the 250th year it has been performed. The National Children's Kabuki Festival in Komatsu began in 1999, and Kanjinchō is performed every year.

Elementary and junior high school children play the on-stage roles, and children from elementary, junior and senior high school play a central part in the nagauta songs and the hayashi music. This kind of performance of Kanjinchō, with children acting, singing and playing the music, is very rare in Japan, and it serves to pass down the culture of Kabuki, which has continued since feudal times.

Cast

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|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Musashibō Benkei | Haruka Mitsuyasu | 1st Year, Rojō Junior High School |
| Togashi Saemon | Shino Kitagawa | 1st Year, Rojō Junior High School |
| Minamoto no Yoshitsune | Miharu Nakagawa | 6th Grade, Futsu Elementary School |
| Shitennō Kamei Rokurō | Anji Ukai | 6th Grade, Chishō Elementary School |
| Shitennō Kataoka Hachirō | Itsuki Hatta | 5th Grade, Noshiro Elementary School |
| Shitennō Suruga Jirō | Yūnosuke Hirai | 5th Grade, Noshiro Elementary School |
| Shitennō Hitachibō Kaison | Aoi Hori | 6th Grade, Nomi Elementary School |
| Guard Gunnai | Saki Senda | 6th Grade, Daiichi Elementary School |
| Guard Gennai | Norihito Hashi | 6th Grade, Imae Elementary School |
| Guard Heinai | Ran Kishimoto | 6th Grade, Futsu Elementary School |
| Sword-bearer Otowaka Stage announcer and stage assistant | Rian Kohara | 5th Grade, Chishō Elementary School |
| Sword-bearer Otowaka Stage announcer and stage assistant | Miko Fujimori | 5th Grade, Chishō Elementary School |
| Stage announcer and stage assistant | Ryota Nakaya | 6th Grade, Imae Elementary School |
| Stage announcer and stage assistant | Ko Sawamura | 5th Grade, Araya Elementary School |

Nagauta and Hayashi Performers

Nagauta

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Osamu Iwai | |
| Masaru Hirano | |
| Masanori Chatani | |
| Mana Haida | 2nd Year, Shōyō Junior High School |
| Nagi Kawakami | 1st Year, Ataka Junior High School |
| Sakura Ikeda | 6th Grade, Futsu Elementary School |
| Hikari Horie | 5th Grade, Daiichi Elementary School |
| Chiho Yoshimura | 5th Grade, Shōtō Midori Elementary School |

Large drum

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ryu Kawanishi | 3rd Year, Shōyō Junior High School |
| Daito Taka | 6th Grade, Kokufu Elementary School |

Flute

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|---------------------|---|
| Aoi Ōya | 2nd Year, Marunouchi Junior High School |
| Rina Honbo | 2nd Year, Marunouchi Junior High School |
| Mei Hayashi | 1st Year, Rojō Junior High School |
| Ako Watazaki | 5th Year, Nomi Elementary School |

Shamisen

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ritsuko Nakagawa | |
| Amane Okumura | 3rd year of senior high school |
| Minako Makino | 3rd year of senior high school |
| Saki Minamide | 3rd year of senior high school |
| Yuzuki Kidō | 2nd year of senior high school |
| Narumi Kurita | 2nd year of senior high school |
| Himeno Wakasugi | 2nd year of senior high school |
| Hanayo Yokota | 1st year of senior high school |

Small drum

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Hiroshi Terashima | |
| Karen Kita | |
| Suzu Yasuda | |
| Hitoha Nakamura | 2nd Year, Marunouchi Junior High School |
| Manami Akashi | 2nd Year, Miyuki Junior High School |
| Yuki Matsuda | 2nd Year, Miyuki Junior High School |
| Wakana Hayashi | 6th Grade, Chishō Elementary School |
| Kenshin Sakai | 6th Grade, Hizue Elementary School |
| Hanta Nakamura | 6th Grade, Hizue Elementary School |
| Reira Yoshioka | 5th Grade, Daiichi Elementary School |
| Reno Nagawa | 5th Grade, Imae Elementary School |
| Yuzuki Ōta | 5th Grade, Nakaumi Elementary School |

Instructors

| | |
|---|---|
| Choreography/Nagauta and hayashi instruction | Hiroshi Terashima |
| Nagauta and hayashi advisor | Mitsue Takakuma |
| Nagauta and hayashi/Shamisen instruction | Makiko Kaburaki, Ritsuko Nakagawa, Mihoko Yokogawa |
| Komatsu Municipal Senior High School Traditional Japanese Music Club Advisor | Akiko Teragishi |

Staff

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Stage assistants | Midori Hosokawa, Saki Yoshioka |
| Black-clad stage assistants | Kiyohiro Nishide, Tomomitsu Uehara, Nobuko Nishio, Haruna Yoda |
| Wooden Cloppor Support | Takeyuki Kaku |
| Volunteer dressers | Masako Kanda, Kazue Ōta, Yumiko Oda, Toshiko Kawabata, Yumi Nishide, Yuki Hayashi, Emiko Matsuzaki, Satoko Mizuno, Tamaki Yamamichi, Toshie Yoshida, Tamaki Nakamura, Miwako Ōta |



Inquiries

National Children's Kabuki Festival in Komatsu Executive Committee (Tourism and Culture Division)

91 Konmademachi, Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture, 923-8650 Tel: 0761-24-8177

<http://www.city.komatsu.lg.jp/3347.htm>



Organizers

City of Komatsu, Ishikawa; National Children's Kabuki Festival in Komatsu Executive Committee;
Komatsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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