

Spring Scenery Chikushi Lagoon Najima Pilgrimage

～Synopsis～

【about 30min】



① A group of Feudal lords, who strongly believe in Benzaiten, lead their attendants to Chikuzen. They decide to visit Najima Shrine (It's still in Fukuoka City Higashi Ward today).



② In Chikushi Lagoon, where Najima Shrine is located, small boats sailing by a gentle spring breeze come and go peacefully, and their sails float on the spring waves.



③ The cherry blossoms, in full bloom, have dyed the Najima Shrine a pale crimson color. Spring is in full bloom in the country of Tsukushi. The Feudal Lords are drinking sake at the teahouse in front of the gate.



④ The Feudal lords, who are tilting their sake cups to drink, are intoxicated by the spring scenery. Without thinking they keep moving their sake cups forward to drink, and before they know it, they become sleepy.



⑤ In the dreams of the drunken Feudal lords... Benzaiten, dressed as a dancing princess, appears with her child servant Kinzai, one of the 15 child servants who serve beside her.



⑥ In dreams, Benzaiten soars from Najima Shrine to Atago Palace, and to Hakozaiki Hachiman Shrine.



⑦ Benzaiten descends and dances in Chiyo no Matsubara... Finally, they danced at Najima Shrine again.



⑧ In the dream, Benzaiten dances in front of the shrine to her heart's content, accompanied by her child servant Kinzai, while the cherry blossoms are falling around her.

Yame Fukushima no Tourou Ningyou 八女福島の燈籠人形

Najima, Atago, Hakozaiki, and Chiyo are familiar seaside attractions, still in Fukuoka City today.
How many times have you visited?



Please look at Benzaiten's elegant dance with a feudal lord
There are not many ups and downs in the story, but you can get a picture of the famous places at that time in your head. It's like watching a wonderful travel show.

What role do the puppets on the stage play?



Benzaiten
(Horizontal Control Puppet)
One of the familiar Lucky Seven Gods.
In the story, she invites the Fuedal Lord's party to gracefully dance.



Kinzaioji
(Sub Control Puppet)
One of the fifteen children who follow Benzaiten.
The incarnation of Yakushi Nyorai, is called the God of Prosperous



Maid
(Horizontal Control Puppet)



Fuedal Lord's Vassal
(Decorative Doll)

※Doesn't move on the stage
A vassal who believes in Benzaiten. Takes the party of Fuedal Lords on pilgrimage.

There is no fox this year either!

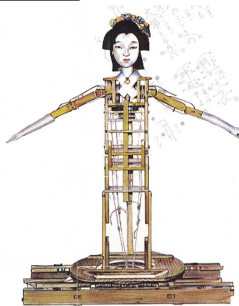


What's going on inside the stage?



Japanese theater form (Kyogenkata)

The puppeteer and musician move in sync with the Kyogen actor. The levels above and below cannot see each other. Synchronizing with the kyogen actor in the sizeable wooden space is an important role.



Songs · Musicians (Uta · Hayasikata)

This is the song that tells the story, with the shamisen directing the scene. There is a perfect blend of the musical accompaniment filling in the exquisite space between the partition drums (shikiridaiko). Everything matches with the movement of the puppets to move the story forward in the live performance.



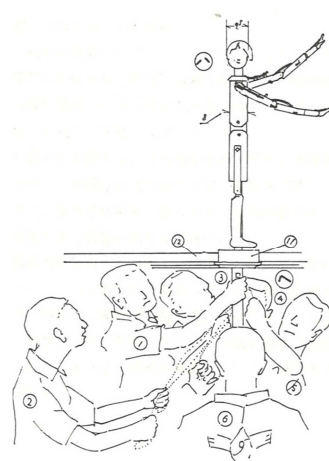
Guardians (Kokenyaku)

The children take turns watching the puppets' movement from the side of the stage. A long time ago their role was to fix the puppets' costumes and help them on stage.



Costumes (Ishoukata)

Sou-nuki means a quick change of clothes, etc. The costumes of the dolls are changed quickly one after another.



Horizontal control (Yokozukai)

It takes 6 people on each side of the stage to move the puppet. Being away from the sides of the stage, there is a very difficult technique to perform delicate operations from this place. Okuriwatshi, or moving the puppet smoothly from left to right and from right to left, is one of the highlights of horizontal control. Pay attention to the synchronization of the operation from left to right!

Sub control (Shitazukai)

Six people move the puppet from below the stage. It takes a lot of physical strength to look up and operate the puppet!

