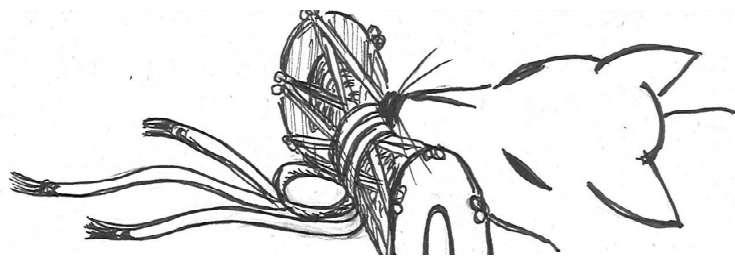




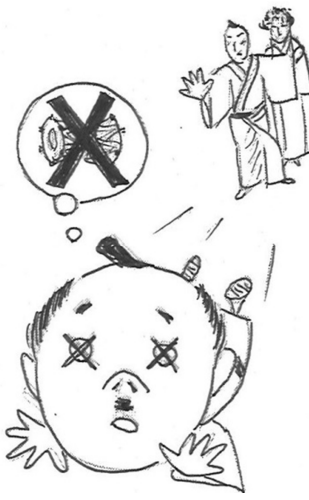







The Yoshinoyama Kitsune Tadanobu

Hatsune no Tsudumi



【about 30min】

～Synopsis～

	<p>①</p> <p>After Yoshitsune conquers Heike, one of the biggest Samurai groups at the time, he receives Hatsune no hand drum from the imperial court as a reward for the victory. Although the hand drum is a reward, he does not want it. The hand drum is actually a message from the imperial court, which means [Kill your brother, Minamoto no Yoritomo]. (The pronunciation of <i>kill</i> and <i>beat a drum</i> have the same sound.)</p>		<p>②</p> <p>Yoshitsune is loyal to his brother, so he asks his love, Lady Shizuka to hold on to the hand drum in his place. This is a gesture meant to show that he has no intention of killing his brother. His brother however is suspicious of Yoshitsune and sends his army against him.</p>
	<p>③</p> <p>Hand Drum Tota is ordered to find Lady Shizuka and Yoshitsune's hand drum. He attempts to capture her and steal the hand drum away from her. However, Yoshitsune's vassal, Tadanobu Sato, helps her.</p>		<p>④</p> <p>Yoshitsune gives a reward to Tadanobu, then he orders Tadanobu to protect Lady Shizuka. Yoshitsune leaves Lady Shizuka and Tadanobu behind in order to escape from his brother.</p>
	<p>⑤</p> <p>One day Lady Shizuka knows that Yoshitsune is staying in Yoshino, Nara, so she takes Tadanobu and travels to visit him there in Yoshino. She arrives in Yoshino to find out that there is a different Tadanobu.</p>		<p>⑥</p> <p>This Tadanobu says he is not the man who protected Lady Shizuka. They also find out that the Tadanobu, who protected Lady Shizuka, is nowhere to be found. Yoshitsune orders Lady Shizuka to find out where the real Tadanobu is.</p>
	<p>⑦</p> <p>Whenever Lady Shizuka beat the hand drum, Tadanobu turned up soon after, so she beats the hand drum and Tadanobu shows up. Lady Shizuka asks Tadanobu what has happened.</p>		<p>⑧</p> <p>Tadanobu says that he is a fox and that the hand drum's leather is made from the hides of his parents. This is the reason why he guards Lady Shizuka. Since she carries the hand drum on her, he will always be there to protect her.</p>
	<p>⑨</p> <p>Yoshitsune, whose relationship with his parents and brother is weak, is moved by the fox's love for his parents. He appreciates that the fox has protected Lady Shizuka. He gives the hand drum to the fox.</p>		<p>⑩</p> <p>In appreciation for receiving the hand drum, the fox let's them know that the army is coming soon. He then takes the hand drum in his mouth with great joy, and returns to the mountains.</p>

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

This fox loves his parents whose hides were used to make the leather on the hand drum, so he kindly protects Lady Shizuka, who carries the hand drum on her.



The theme for this year's story is based on "Yoshitsune Senbonzakura" which is a very popular Kabuki program. (Senbonzakura means one thousand cherry trees)

What is Hatsune no Hand Drum?
Hatsune no hand drum is a legendary hand drum. The hand drum's leather is made from the hides of a fox and a vixen which lived for a thousand years. It is said that by banging the hand drum, it causes rain.

What role do the puppets on the stage play?



Lady Shizuka (horizontally controlled puppet)

Lady Shizuka: two teams operate this puppet from both sides of the stage.

Lady Shizuka is the love of Yoshitune's life. She holds on to the hand drum for him. She travels with Tadanobu to visit Yoshitune.



Minamoto no Yoshitune (decorative puppet)

Minamoto no Yoshitune: This puppet does not move. He stays on the left side of the stage. Yoshitsune is the younger brother of Yoritomo Minamoto, the head of Genji, which was one of the largest Samurai groups. He asks Lady Shizuka to hold onto the hand drum as a gesture of loyalty to his brother, but his brother sends the army against him anyway.



Kitsune Tadanobu (sub controlled puppet)

Kitsune Tadanobu: a team operates this puppet from below the stage.

Kitsune Tadanobu is a fox who takes the shape of Yoshitsune's vassal, Tadanobu. He protects Lady Shizuka since she carries the hand drum on her, and the fox's parents' hides were used to make the hand drum.



Hand Drum Tota (sub controlled puppet)

Hand Drum Tota: a team operates this puppet from below the stage.

Hand Drum Tota attempts to capture Yoshitsune and tries to steal the hand drum.



Female attendant (horizontally controlled puppet)

Koshimoto: two teams operate this puppet from both sides of the stage.

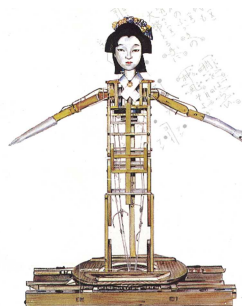
Koshimoto is an attendant of Lady Shizuka.

What's going on inside the stage?



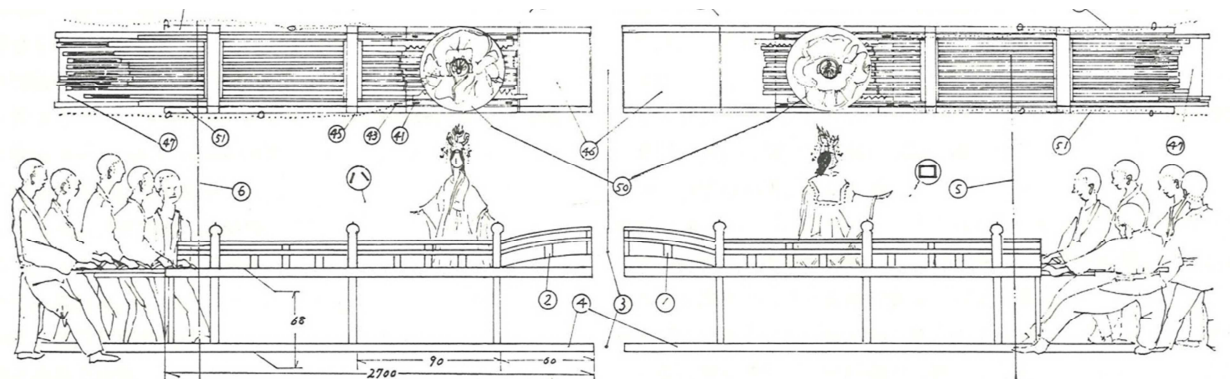
Japanese theater form (Kyogenkata)

Kyogenkata plays a role in matching the timing of the puppets' operating team with the musical accompaniment. Since the puppet operating team and the musical accompaniment do their roles on different floors of the theater they cannot make eye contact with each other. The *Kyogenkata* beat wooden clappers and the puppet operating team and the musical accompaniment match the timing by listening to the sound of the clappers. The *Kyogenkata* plays a very important role.



Songs · Musicians (Uta · Hayasikata)

Uta · Hayasikata is the musical accompaniment. The singer tells a story using the melody. The band is composed of *Shamisen*, a Japanese stringed instrument, *Tsudumi*, a Japanese hand drum, and *Taiko*, a Japanese drum. The singer and the band perform live, matching the puppets' performance.

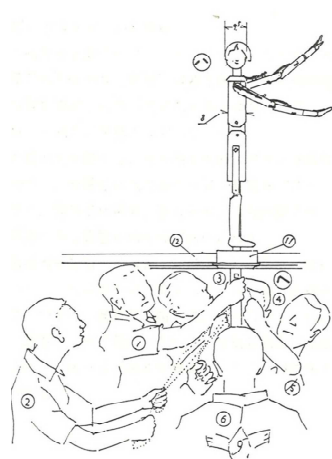


Guardians (Kokenyaku)

Kokenyaku are children who stay on the side of the stage during the program. They are used to take care of the puppets, doing such things as straightening out the puppets' costumes.

Costumes (Ishoukata)

Ishoukata is the team that takes care of the puppets' costumes. A puppet changes costumes several times during the program. Changing costumes quickly is called *Sunuki*.



Horizontal control (Yokozukai)

Yokozukai is a team that operates puppets from both sides of the stage. On each side, 6 person teams operate the puppet. It is quite difficult to operate the puppet from the sides. The highlight of the operation is *Okuriwatashi*. This means moving the puppet smoothly from left to right and from right to left. To perform a successful *Okuriwatashi*, the two teams must match the timing very carefully. Pay attention to the moment the puppets move from side to side.

Sub control (Shitazukai)

Shitazukai is a team that operates the puppets from below the stage. Since they are constantly looking up to operate the puppets from below, it is physically challenging work.