



Japanese Language Center
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J L C 通信

Japanese Language Center (つうしん)
Newsletter December 2007

歌舞伎 (かぶき) Kabuki

The origin of the name of the public entertainment Kabuki is the verb kabuku, meaning to be eccentric or extraordinary or outstep the bounds of common sense.

"In the Azuchi-Momoyama period and early Edo period, people who had striking hairstyles, wore clothes in the peak of current fashion, and rebelled against the order of society, were called kabukimono. The history of Kabuki can be traced back to the Kabuki-odori of Izumo no Okuni, but the name came from the fact that Okuni imitated the costumes and makeup of the most advanced kabukimono so symbolic of those times; this type of entertainment began to be called Kabuki.

Kabuki developed strongly and flexibly by avidly taking in other entertainments and fashions while overcoming various difficulties in each period in its history of about 400 years, passing down the spirit that prevailed when Kabuki was born. As a result, Kabuki as we have now inherited it is a "comprehensive art" incorporating various elements of Japanese theatrical performances, dance and music.



Various characters
 From left, Shirozake-uri, Sukeroku, Ikyu, Shiratama, and Agemaki

extravagant sums enjoying himself in the Yoshiwara, has this sword. Eventually Sukeroku takes back the sword.

In the nearly 2 hours of this performance, various characters appear on stage, including Shirozake-uri (a sake seller) who is taught by Goro how to start quarrels, Manko, the mother of Goro and Juro, who tells Goro to stop fighting, and gives him a Kamiko (paper kimono), Kampera Mombe and Asagao Sembei who started to fight with Goro (Sukeroku) and are beaten up by him. Audiences never tire of this play.

There is a famous phrase "Akutai (insulting remarks) by Agemaki" In the first half of the play, Agemaki, upbraided by Ikyu for her relationship with Sukeroku, talks back to Ikyu using abusive language. She speaks figuratively, likening Sukeroku and Ikyu to snow and black ink respectively, and declares at the risk of her life, "Kuragari de mitemo Sukerokusan to Ikyusan o torichigaete yoimono kainaa" (I wouldn't mistake Ikyu-san for Sukeroku-san even in the dark). This is an important scene showing the dignity of Agemaki as played by the Tateoyama (leading Onnagata).

助六 (すけろく) Sukeroku

This work, one of the Kabuki uhachiban is commonly called "Sukeroku."

Soga Goro Tokimune has become a kyokaku calling himself Hanakawato no Sukeroku. He goes in and out of the Yoshiwara (licensed prostitution quarters in Edo) repeatedly in order to find the sword called Tomokirimaru, a Genji treasure. Sukeroku, who loves Agemaki, a courtesan from the Miuraya brothel, has heard that an old man called Ikyu, who spends

🏠 コーススケジュール 🏠 Course Schedule

Winter/Spring 2008 course schedules have been announced. Group course has basically 8 sessions (110-mins lesson), and tuition is \$230. We also would like to announce new courses, JLPT courses and Teens 300/SAT. JLPT courses require \$10 as material fees. All classes listed on the schedule of our website have space available.

To enroll in the class you have to complete your registration and payment \$230 no later than 72 hours before the first class of each course.

Courses with less than 4 registrants will be transferred from the regular group course to the Special Offered Course automatically. The Special Offered Course provides 5 private lessons or 6 semi-private lessons with the same tuition that you paid for group course.

The schedule may change without notice, so please visit the website for the updated schedule, <http://www.japanese-language.net/schedule.htm>. We will close enrollment and remove the schedule from the list when a course becomes full.

* 作文 (さくぶん) * Essay of JLC students

GO GREEN うちの会社に無料のコーヒーやお茶があります。それにキッチンの中には、紙のコーヒーカップがいつも入っています。毎日キッチンに行って、紙のカップをひとつ取って、コーヒーやお茶を飲んで、カップをごみ箱にすてるのは、とても楽です。

しかし、二週間程前から、その紙のコーヒーカップがだんだん不人気になってきました。私のグループの人たちが自分のカップをキッチンに持って来るようになったんです。

なぜだと思いませんか。それはグループの中の“ゴーグリーン”という運動ですよ。自然のために、できるだけ紙のカップを使わないようにする運動です。小さいけれど、みんながすれば、大きな結果になるかもしれません。自然環境は大切ですし、自然を守る運動は素晴らしいですね。私は心からそう思います。(J)



Course	Day	Start	From
JPN 101	Sun	11:10am	12/9
JPN 102	Sat	7:10am	1/5
JPN 103	Fri	7:10pm	12/14
JPN 104	Sun	11:10am	12/9
JPN 201/202	Wed	7:10pm	1/9
JPN 203/204	Sat	11:10am	1/5
JPN 301/302	Mon	7:10pm	1/7
JPN 303/304	Sat	9:10am	1/5
Teens 101	Sun	11:10am	12/9
Teens 102	Wed	4:40pm	12/19
Teens 200	Fri	4:40pm	12/14
Teens 300/SAT	Sun	9:10am	1/6
JLPT 1	Sun	11:10am	1/6
JLPT 2	Sun	11:10am	1/6
JLPT 3	Sun	11:10am	1/6

新薬 最近仕事で、益々忙しくなってきました。もうすぐ学年末ですからこれは当然ですが、それでも、そんな働きすぎの日について考えると、かなり憂鬱になってしまいます。

昨日インターネットを見ていて、面白い記事を見つけました。この記事によると、最近便利な薬が見つかったそうです。この薬は普通の眠りの代わりとしての効果があります。コーヒーとかお茶とは違って、この薬は副作用がないそうです。この薬を飲めば、寝なくてもいいのです。

僕は長い間こんな物を待っていました。もしこの薬が本当だとしたら、僕はたぶん仕事を全部片付けることができるでしょう。それに、日本語の勉強もできるし、運動の時間もくつろぐ時間もできるというわけです。(B)

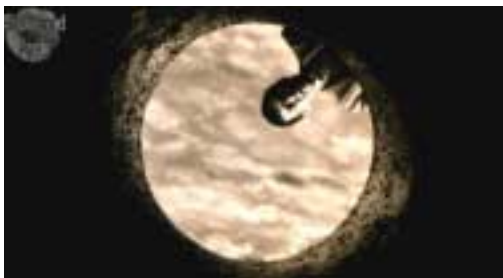
日本語 商談という漢字を拝見すると、「商品」と「相談」という二つの語彙を思い浮かべます。日本語のせいかもしれませんが、知らないうちに背広を着ているサラリーマンを想像し始めてしまいます。喫茶店でタバコを吸いながらコーヒーを飲んでいる、年上の男性たちが頭の中に現れてきます。

実際の話であれば、年上の男性のみならず、20代もしくは30代の男性、またサラリーウーマンもいるでしょう。しかし、一年間日本に留学していた私にとっては、日本のサラリーマンはまだ年上の男の世界です。私の経験からすると、電車の中でサンドイッチを食べたり、他人を押し込んだりして、サラリーマンのマナーは最悪です。しかしながら、いつかそんな彼らと対等に仕事ができるようになりたいです。マナーの悪い人々と正確に話し合えるということは、日本人と同等の日本語まで上達したという証拠だと考えられるからです。

ちなみに、話し合うということにつきましては、見た目より深い意味が含まれています。日本語が通じるだけではなく、相手の立場もよく理解した上で考慮し、自ら伝えたいことを明確に伝えることが必要とされます。その中で最も難しいのは、簡易でありながらも明確に言いたいことを伝えることではないでしょうか。10の文字で意見を表すより、その半分で同じことを言えれば効率が良いです。表現の豊かな日本語を複雑に考えるより、楽しく勉強したいと考えています。(C)



* **映画鑑賞 (えいがかんしょう)** * **Japanese Movie Night “リング” (Ring)**



We have Japanese Movie Night and Potluck Party at 7:00PM on 11 Dec. that is open to everybody. It's organized by Japanese Language Meetup, and event fee is \$1.00. If you would like to come, please sign up early.

After record-breaking box office attendance in Japan, critical hyperbole and a lot of hype, along with a dedicated fan-base, Ring has spread from being a national phenomenon into a global success.

Based on a series of best-selling novels by Kôji Suzuki, Ring was first brought to the Japanese public's attention by a TV series. The film itself is a truly innovatory work. Nakata proved conclusively that you don't need buckets of tomato ketchup and a special effects budget of millions to make a really horrifying film.

The film opens with two teenagers, Tomoko and Masami discussing a popular urban legend; that a boy in the Izu peninsula tried to videotape a late-night film on a Tokyo channel, but that channel didn't work in Izu.

However, there was something on the tape; strange, seemingly disconnected images and a "scary woman" telling him that he would die a week after he had watched the tape. Of course, in the true spirit of urban legends, no one knows anyone who has seen the video in question, but everyone has a friend of a friend who knows someone who's seen it...The atmosphere of the film is greatly enhanced by a fantastic soundtrack featuring the work of the Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki, and also original music by Kenji Kawai, who has been making movie soundtracks since 1986.



* 諺 (ことわざ) * Proverb 「過ぎたるは及ばざるが如し」

(Sugitaru wa oyobazaruga gotoshi)

The bad barber leaves neither hair nor skin. Too much of something is like something that's not enough.



* レストラン * Restaurant Nishino

Since 1995, Tatsu Nishino and his chefs have kept standards high. Nishino himself often steps out of the kitchen to observe the bustling sushi bar, making sure counters are tidy and orderly. Servers know uni from tamago at a glance, as well as how to keep the courses coming at an appropriate pace.

Perfectly fresh, cool sashimi and sushi are the main draws. Standard-setting versions of the usual (salmon, tuna, shrimp) are available, but braver diners will enjoy geoduck or salty surf clam. The terrific sashimi sampler is a great way to start, but hungry diners should order extra

maguro (tuna)--it's raspberry red and heavenly. Japanese vinegar salad with crab is great when shared. The raw fish-phobic can opt for the Kinoko tofu. (A. Austin)

No cheap date, but quality has its price. The Omakase dinner, a 10-course seafood extravaganza, highlights their best.

Mon-Sat 5:30-10:30pm Sun 5:30-9:30pm ☎(206)322-5800
3130 East Madison Street, Seattle, WA 98104

* おしらせ * Remarks

- An early registration with payment by check/cash before your present course ends can get \$7 discount.
- Please bring your friends to JLC. Any referrals signing up for a class results in a 10% discount of your next block of lessons (for you and your friend).
- JLC supports a Japanese Language conversation group in the community and JLC's instructor Junko is the organizer of **Bellevue-Factoria Japanese Language Meetup**. The regular monthly meet up session is on the second Tuesday at the Bellevue region Library. Monthly Field Trip is on the fourth Tuesday. Japanese Movie Night is at 7:00PM on 11 Dec. Please visit the website, <http://japanese.meetup.com/17> for more information. Event fee is \$1.00.



あいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつてとなにぬねのはひふへほまみむめもやゆよりるれろわんあいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつてとなにぬねのはひふへほまみむめもやゆよりるれろわんあいうえおかきくけこ



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Japanese Language Instruction

and Translation Services