
THE INNER WORLD OF THE NOH 2 credits (Spring)

古典芸能の内面性 2単位(春学期)

THE INNER WORLD OF THE NOH 2 credits (Fall)

古典芸能の内面性 2単位(秋学期)

The influence of esoteric concepts on the classical drama of Japan, as evidenced through an analysis of the choreographic manuals of the Umewaka family

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Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:

My doctoral thesis has attempted to define the concept of movement in the Noh theatre, through analyzing the katazuke (choreographic manual).

Some movements are governed by certain transcendent elements, a significant number of which, conceived by Zeami and Zenchiku, were latterly developed further by subsequent Noh masters to be formalized and incorporated into the katazuke. However, the fact that the most of

Zeami's treatises only came to light during the early 20th century may prompt some to argue that, since the Noh seems to have fared well without them during the long meanwhile, their influence can hardly have been much. Upon looking at the katazuke, however, it soon transpires that some of the concepts in the treatises, as arcane as they seem, coincide with aspects of the choreography to a remarkable degree.

Whilst it is easy enough to trace some choreographic movements back to the treatises and a few others to older courtly, folkloric or religious sources, there are many movements included in the katazuke which are almost impossible to attribute to any particular source. For example, one may find a single choreographic movement in the katazuke which, formed from the combination of two different types of movement from varying backgrounds, can become very difficult to take apart again and trace back.

Moreover, when performed on stage, movements with transcendent connotations can reflect a slightly different mood or spirit according to the performer. In other words, the same movement might convey intensity, brilliance, vagueness, grace or, if the player's skill is inadequate, even something rough or superficial. So, whether the gesture is abstract (i.e. "inner") and its meaning difficult to interpret or relatively straightforward, minor variations in its performance do exist.

Course Plan:

- 1 Introduction to Inner world of Noh
- 2 'Empire of Sign' by Roland Barthes
- 3 'Empire of Sign' by Roland Barthes
- 4 Inner world of Noh
- 5 Inner world of Noh
- 6 Video analysis
- 7 Discussion
- 8 Video analysis of contemporary Noh
- 9 Discussion
- 10 Introduction to Katazuke(choreographic manual)I
- 11 Introduction to Katazuke(choreographic manual)II
- 12 Discussion
- 13 Discussion

Other Summery

Method of Evaluation:

1. Exam (20%)
2. Attendance (60%)
3. Participation (20%)
4. Other

Textbooks:

Empire of Sign by Roland Barthes

The doctoral thesis of the lecturer

'Inner world of Noh' by Naohiko Umewaka