

## EAST MEETS WEST: THEATRE TRADITIONS UNIT

# KABUKI THEATRE

History	Performance	Technical
<p><b>KA</b> = Song <b>BU</b> = Dance <b>KI</b> = Skill</p> <p>Founded in 17th century by Okuni, a religious dancer who danced in dry river beds in Kyoto to pray for rain.</p> <p>Performances were meant for the common people.</p>	<p>Performances were less about the stories themselves and more about the actors' skill in singing, dancing, acting, and acrobatics.</p> <p>Even though it was originally women who performed Kabuki, it eventually became an all men art form.</p> <p><b>Onnagata</b> = male performers who perform female roles. They are regarded as artists for their believable performances.</p>	<p>Uses elaborate scenery, props, costumes, makeup, and special effects.</p> <p>The stage has a runway that goes from the back of the audience to the stage and it's called the <b>Hanamichi</b> or flower path.</p> <p>A traditional striped curtain is used.</p> <p>Strokes of the makeup follow the angles and veins of the face to make the face more expressive.</p> <p>Different colours denote different characters and emotions.</p> <p>Most characters use the white makeup base <b>Oshiroi</b>.</p>