

JAPANESE THEATRE: DIFFERENCE AND DIVERSITY

EXERCISES

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Exercise 1

- **What is theatre? Do we have only one definition?**

Would you agree that there is no one definition? Theatre is closely linked with culture and what we experience in one part of the globe is different somewhere else.

- **How should we behave in theatre?**

Perhaps, in accordance with local etiquette? In Japan, we behave differently as an audience, depending on the type of theatre we experience. To give an example:

in Kabuki, the audience is active and shouts phrases such as “wonderful” in specific moments of performance.

In Kagura, you can eat during the performance, as they last for hours.

In Nō, you need to know the play before you go to theatre, you should be elegantly dressed, and you should be silent.

Exercise 2

Choose one of the following tasks (or perhaps all of them?):

- Write 100 words on presenting ghosts and memories on stage (*Nō*).
- Write 100 words on making theatre as part of politics (*Kumiodori*).
- How different is theatre in Japan to theatre in Poland?
 - Write 100 words
 - Collect 10 images of Japanese theatre and Polish theatre to create a visual essay.

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Exercise 3

Read one ghost story from *Kwaidan* or a story from Japanese mythology. Make a visual storyboard with collected images and drawings, and present the story to your classmates.

- Theatre in Japan uses mythology, legends, and ghost stories to make dramas. Do you think ghost stories are interesting? If so, why? Why do we need them in literature and theatre?
- Do you know any Polish drama that is about ghost stories? Example: *Dziady (Forefathers' Eve)* by Adam Mickiewicz.
- Write your own short ghost story that will really scare a 10-year-old child.



Exercise 4

Make a short video that takes its inspiration from elements of Japanese theatre. Take a story from ghost stories or mythology and present it in any style. Make sure you do not copy elements of Japanese theatre but take ideas and make your own version; you can take inspiration from multiple theatre forms. Be creative - the stage is yours!

As an example, you can see the work presented at the Between.Pomiędzy Festival 2021 by Arts Management students at the University of Gdańsk.

