

HIST 205: Lecture 06

Taking the Kink Out of Kabuki

(Bring to class the articles "Sex, Art, and Edo Culture" and "Bakufu vs. Kabuki")

1. Sex, Art, and Edo's *Akusho*

- a. Review of article "Sex, Art, and Edo Culture"
 - Define and characterize "akusho"
 - What does this mean: "both types of 'notorious places' commodified sex by transforming it into performance and it is sex and performance which most steadfastly resist systematization, hence control." (pp. 5-6)
 - How does gender fit in?

2. Kabuki's kinkiness

- a. The word "kabuki" ---> inclined to one side, crooked, out of line, wild
- b. Govt. regulation of this kinkiness

3. Onna kabuki: streetdancer/walkers

- a. Transvestitism & prostitution in onna kabuki troupes
- b. Succubi of samurai
- c. Banning onna kabuki (women from all stages 1629, 30, 40, 45, 46)

4. Youth's kabuki: male bonding

- a. Love among the ranks
- b. Regulating female impersonators (*onnagata*)

5. "Fellow's kabuki": better than the real thing

- a. Forelock play:
- b. headwear and wigs: regulation-induced costumes = sexy fashion

6. Playground rules

- a. placement of theaters & brothels post-1657
- b. professionalization: keep to your quarters and no amateurs night!
- c. policing "theater teahouses"
- d. regulating clothes, materials, walk(!)
- e. content of plays: tone down sex and no politics!
- f. no outright suppression