

The Koutougakkou
Drama Club Presents

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We invite you to enjoy
an evening of lust,
betrayal, war
and murder

Based on the award winning film
by Akira Kurosawa

ACT 1: The Palace

Great Lord Nanno divides his lands between his sons: Shogo, Minesuki, and Shinkou. Shinkou and his wife Koharu criticise the plan, foreseeing treachery, and Lord Nanno banishes them both. Kaito warns of disaster but the fool is ignored.

Yukiko, Shogo's wife, begins to sow dissent between Lord Nanno and her husband. She wants revenge for Lord Nanno massacring her family. Kaito ridicules Shogo, and Shogo orders Kintaro to kill the fool. Lord Nanno slaps Kintaro. Shogo is furious. They argue and Lord Nanno storms out.

Lord Nanno travels to Minesuki's castle, only to be used as a pawn in a power play between Minesuki and his wife Shizue. Again Lord Nanno storms out.

Lord Nanno wanders through abandoned villages. Koharu (in disguise as a man) helps them, telling them that Shogo has decreed death to whoever aids his father. Koharu and Kaito sneak away to learn more.

Nanno and his army takes refuge in the Last Castle.

ACT 2: The Castle

Together Shogo and Minesuki ambush the Last Castle. It is a horrific massacre. All of Lord Nanno's forces fall, suicide or are killed by fire.

During the fight Minesuki betrays and kills Shogo. Kintaro mourns his master, but is tricked by Minesuki into believing Nanno struck the blow.

Lord Nanno tries to commit seppuku but his sword has broken, and no-one can strike him because of his high status. Nanno falls to madness and is lost in the smoke.

Minesuki returns and takes Lady Yukiko as his wife. She becomes the power behind the throne. Kintaro tells Minesuki not to trust his new wife.

Koharu learns that Minesuki is hunting Nanno and goes to get help from Shinkou, her husband.

Kaito discovers Nanno wandering mad in the wilderness. They hide in a forest shrine and Kaito runs off to inform Shinkou.

Shinkou returns with his army to help his father. Minesuki marches out to stop them. Shinkou begs a truce, leaving Kaito and Koharu as hostages, then rides off to meet his father.

Meanwhile, Lady Yukiko orders Kintaro to kill Shizue. Kintaro disobeys the orders, warns Shizue and together they ride off, meeting and joining Shinkou on the road.

ACT 3: The Last Battle

With Shinkou gone, Minesuki breaks the truce, but despite having surprise, his large army is slaughtered. Enraged he beheads Kaito, but Koharu mortally wounds him before he kills her.

Shinkou, Shizue and Kintaro find Nanno. Father and son embrace and Nanno's sanity returns. But Shinkou is suddenly killed from behind by Yukiko. Shizue tries to save Nanno, but is also killed by Yukiko. Seeing this Kintaro beheads Yukiko in a rage.

Overcome with grief, Nanno dies. Kintaro weeps.



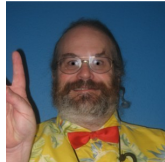
Highlight of the Koutougakkou Cultural Festival.

Opening Night
Performance

Seats ¥5000

(about \$60 Australian)

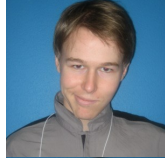
Tickets can be booked
via the front office or
purchased at the door.



Nanno = The Great Lord who rose to power through war and treachery. Passes his lands to his children, but is betrayed.



Kaito = The lord's Fool. Wise, loyal and clever, his advice is tragically ignored by almost all.



Shogo = The first born son. Powerful and proud but wrathful. Married to the cunning Yukiko.



Yukiko = Shogo's wife. A femme fatale. Beautiful and clever but manipulative. Driven by thoughts of revenge.



Kintaro = The embodiment of Samurai honour. Loyal and unbeatable in battle.



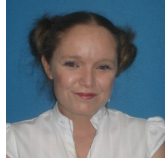
Minesuki = The middle child. Practical and efficient but ruthless. Married to the holy Shizue.



Shizue = Minesuki's wife. A devout Buddhist. Kind, humble and courteous.



Shinkou = Third and youngest son. Loyal and honest but impulsive. Married to Koharu.



Koharu = Shinkou's wife. Brave, wise and capable. Driven by her love for Shinkou.

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"What if this fascinating man had bad sons?" Kurosawa

- - -
"God! Are you so bored that you enjoy seeing us human suffer?! Why can't you let this poor man live happily with his son! What kind of God are you crushing us like ants?!" - Kaito

- - -
"Stop blaspheme! Don't you think the God been weeping for us?! The Gods has already wept for us since the beginning of humanity! Instead of love we choose death and destruction! We even celebrate murder!" - Koharu

MUSIC

Performed by the Koutougakkou Music / Band club on a mix of traditional and modern instruments.

An original score composed by club members:- **Toson** and **Michiko**.

COSTUMES

Provided by the Koutougakkou fashion club.