

“Awa Ningyo Joruri”, a beautiful treasure that has been passed down for generations

阿波に伝わる美しい宝石「阿波人形浄瑠璃」

By combining “Puppet” operated by three people and Japanese music “Joruri” in which “Tayuu”(narrator) tells a story accompanied by three-stringed instrument “Shamisen”, “Ningyo Joruri” was established, and has been developed for more than 400 years. “Joruri” means “beautiful treasure” in Japanese, “Awa Ningyo Joruri” is unmistakably the treasure of Tokushima.

三人で人形を操る人形遣いと、
三味線の伴奏で太夫が物語りを語る「浄瑠璃」が出会い、
400年以上に渡り、磨き抜かれてきた人形浄瑠璃。
「浄瑠璃」は美しい宝石という意味の言葉ですが、
阿波人形浄瑠璃はまぎれもない徳島の美しい宝石です。



Puppeteer Ningyo-zukai

人形遣い

Three people control one puppet. Main puppeteer “Omo-zukai” operates the head and right hand of a puppet, “Hidari-zukai” the left hand, and “Ashi-zukai” both legs. If one of these lacks, you can't operate the puppet.

人形遣いは、頭(かしら)と右手を操作する「主遣い」、左手を担当する「左遣い」、両足を動かす「足遣い」の三人で成り立っています。一人でも抜けると人形を操ることができません。

Omo-zukai
主遣い

Ashi-zukai
足遣い

Hidari-zukai
左遣い



Narrator Tayuu

太夫

Tayuu tells a story with well-modulated voice, a high or low tone, a quick or slow tempo, and so on. They individuate all characters in a story with emotional narration, getting into the roles. Although there are individual differences, they spend over one year to master one program.

太夫は、低い声や高い声、早く語ったりゆっくりと語ったり、メリハリをつけて物語を語ります。セリフは感情をこめて、それぞれの役柄になりきって、すべての登場人物を語り分けます。個人差はありますが、一つの演目を一年かけて覚えます。

Three-stringed Instrument Shamisen

三味線

The sound quality of Shamisen changes, depending on how the nails of the player are maintained, and it's necessary to modulate the playing style in accordance with the gender of characters. This musical instrument is so difficult to play that it takes more than 3 years to master it. 三味線はツメの手入れひとつで音色が変わったり、登場人物の性別で弾き方を変えるなど、弾けるようになるまで3年はかかる難しい楽器です。



Charm of “Keisei Awa no Naruto” 「傾城阿波の鳴門」の見どころ

“Keisei Awa no Naruto” is a story of a family feud, created by using the names of Bando Jurobe's family members for the main characters. Jurobe was executed as a victim of the clan, without the charges told.

人形浄瑠璃「傾城阿波の鳴門」は、1698年罪状も明らかにされないまま、藩の犠牲となって処刑された板東十郎兵衛の名を借りてつくられた、お家騒動の物語。阿波人形浄瑠璃に息づく日本人の感性をお楽しみください。