



How puppets are made and what are their facial expressions
私たちの構造や表情

Puppet making

人形制作

Materials

材料



The materials of puppets are paulownia and cypress woods, whale teeth, gohun (crushed shell powder dissolved in nikawa), nikawa (animal glue) and cat skin. Paulownia and cypress woods are used for the main parts of the head, whale teeth as a spring to move the eyebrows and eyes, gohun for painting the head, and cat skin for the finger joints of the hands of a female doll, which are called "Momiji-te (maple leaf-like hand)".

人形の材料は、桐や楠、くじらの歯、胡粉、にかわ、猫の皮など。桐や楠は頭の本体になります。くじらの歯は、鼻や目を動かすバネとして使われています。胡粉は鼻を染めた粉で、にかわで固めて顔に塗ります。猫の皮は「もみじ手」と呼ばれる女性の手の指のつなぎ目に使われています。

Coating

塗り



The coating of Bunraku puppet's head is matte, whereas the head of "Awa-deku puppet" in Tokushima is finished glossy so that the puppet can stand out even at open-air stages in rural areas.

文楽の人形の塗りは、つや消しですが、阿波木偶は農村舞台など野外でも映えるように光沢のある塗りで仕上げます。

Various kinds of puppet heads



様々な人形の頭



Weight of puppets

人形の重さ

A puppet is heavier than expected. A child puppet weighs 2 to 3kg, Adult one is more than 10kg.

人形は思ったより重い。子どもの人形でも2~3kg、大人の人形は10kg以上のものもあるそうです。

How much time is necessary to make a puppet?

人形をつくるのに必要な時間

It needs 2 to 3 months only to make a puppet's head. The head part is finished very carefully and finely, taking a long time.

なんと頭だけで2~3カ月かかるそうです。頭部分には細かく仕上げられているんですね。

Square-eyed head



角目

Used for the main male character
主に使われる悪人の男

Round-eyed head



丸目

Used for the main evil character
悪人の男

Old man



寄年

Characterized by deep wrinkles
男性の老人。鼻、しわがある。

Young man



若男

Characterized by a handsome face
若い男性で、すらりとした鼻立ち。

Old woman



婆

Characterized by high cheekbones and deep wrinkles
ほお骨が出て深いしわがある。

Married woman



女房

Characterized by shaved blue eyebrows and blackened tooth
すり落とした青い眉とお歯黒

Maiden



娘

Characterized by a beautiful white face with a sharp nose
鼻筋の通った白い美しい鼻立ち

Child



子ども

Characterized by an innocent face
あどけない鼻立ち

Ichiyakukashira



一役頭

The head is mechanized. The mouth can be torn and horns come out (upper picture), or the face can be cracked in half (lower picture) etc.
特殊な頭。口が裂け角が生えたり(左)、顔が半分に割れたりする。(右)

Differences between male puppets and female ones

男入形と女人形の違い

A female puppet can close her eyes. 女人形は目をつぶることができます。

A female puppet has no legs. In order to show that as if it has legs, puppeteers move the hem of kimono to look like the doll is walking, and cotton pads are set inside kimono to make knees when the doll sits.

女人形には足がありません。足があるように見せるため、歩く時には着物の裾をさばいて足があるように見せたり、着物に綿を入れて座っている時に膝をつくるなど工夫をしています。

A male puppet has legs, and can move the eyes, eyebrows and mouth, which enables to express the emotions of the doll.

男人形には足があります。また、目や眉、口を動かすことができ、感情表現が豊かです。

What they have in common 共通点

By emphasizing the characteristics of the movement of men, women or children, they look like real humans.

男・女・子どもらしさを強調してつくることで、より本物らしく見えます。

Hands of puppet 人形の手

"Momiji-te" mechanism is used for the hands of female puppets to emphasize femininity. The number of finger joints of a female puppet is one fewer than that of a human, but this structure enables to express the supple movement of female fingers.

女人形の手は女性らしさを強調した「もみじ手」を使います。指の関節は人間より一つ少ないのに、しなやかな表現が可能です。

The hands of a male puppet are made to express the dynamic movement of men. Some male puppets can move all the joints of five fingers.

男人形の手は力強さを表現するため、すべての指の関節が動くものもあります。

Additional features おまけ

A puppet can look alive by manipulating it to look at the tip of its fingers when it puts hands together in front of the body.

人形の目線に手先を合わせることで生きているように見えます。

The hair of a puppet is made of real human hair.

人形の髪は、人間の髪を使っています。

