

## JAPANESE THEATRE

# BUNRAKU

History	Performance	Technical
<p>Bunraku is Japanese puppet theatre - it was named after the theatre in which it was performed</p> <p>The art form developed from combining storytelling, singing, and puppetry</p> <p>Stories are based on older tales and legends but they add human elements (like more emotion)</p>	<p>Each puppet has 3 puppeteers to control it</p> <p>The oldest lead puppeteer controls the head and the right arm - his/her head is uncovered.</p> <p>The second puppeteer controls the left arm - he/she wears a black hood to cover his/her face</p> <p>The youngest and most inexperienced puppeteer controls the feet of the puppet - he/she wears a black hood.</p> <p>There is a storyteller who speaks all of the lines, as well as the narration</p> <p>A musician accompanies the story with a 3-stringed instrument called the <b>Shamisen</b></p>	<p>Puppets are handcrafted works of art</p> <p>The narrator and musician kneel in a special area stage left</p> <p>Props and scenic elements are used to enhance the story and to hide the puppeteers when necessary</p>