

Wednesday, April 03, 2019

The 46th Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai meet

Group conveying play to manipulate puppet called "Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai" is in Kanagawa. These puppet plays seemed to be in 15 troupe from the Edo period through the Meiji period. It is five troupe of "Ashigara-Za" of Minamiashigara-shi "Shimonaka-Za" of Odawara-shi now "Sakitori-Za" of Hiratsuka-shi "Hayashi-Za" and "Hase-za" of Atsugi-shi that succeeds to these traditional arts. In the New Year, "Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai meet" is held by sponsorship of association of Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai society once a year. Kanagawa-ken was by turn, and it was held and, in 2018 to count the 46th, was held in Odawara-shi on March 2. We report "the 46th Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai meeting" staged in Odawara civic center coliseum.



"Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai meet"

Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai meet has high serious popularity, and prior application with double postal card is necessary, and lottery is performed. Several hundred people did not seem to be able to watch as a result of lottery this time. As you said that person of neighborhood runs after puppet play, it may be said that we are supported by ardent fan.



It is the opening of princess and high five at entrance of venue

Before the opening of 12:00, is long; was able to stand in line. At entrance, princess of puppet met and high-fived customer.

Civic center coliseum was full and rose in heat of people who waited for the start. After all, the audience showed a lot of elderly people, but children or young couple participated a lot. We felt that it was traditional arts expected from wide layer. As for the traditional arts, it is apt to be thought, "We do not know even if it is difficult and sees". However, originally, as for the puppet play, you should enjoy emotion of person incorporated in story if you think without taking seriously from the Edo period because it was entertainment of general public how you express with puppet realistically.



Full civic center coliseum

While three people of mole (kuroko) "puppet master" manipulate puppet, greetings puppet play plays story, but high technique is demanded from puppet master. Puppet and ability that does not let you feel are sought all too soon by person watching. Each puppet troupe of Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai is not professional. Even if it is amateur, it is worked hard to act that "puppet is more human than human being" and can see by everyday severe training.



Before the start of
Chairperson Hayashi

At first, there were greetings of Chairperson Mineko Hayashi of Shimonaka-Za that came up with attire of puppet master and greetings of Mayor Odawara. Then let's easily introduce presentation program of each troupe.

The first program is "Keisei-Awa-no-Naruto" by Sakitori-Za of Shinomiya, Hiratsuka-shi district. Precious sword coming to the Tamakis of the Awa Tokushima lord of a castle is stolen. Retainer, Jyurobe and Oyumi couple of senior retainer get into company of thief in Osaka and look for sword. When Oyumi stays at home, daughter of pilgrimage comes over and comes. Oyumi is found to be Otsuru of daughter whom we left in hometown when we hear hard luck story of daughter who came from Awa. Lines of Otsuru of "totosan no naha Jyurobe, kakasanna Oyumi to moushimasu" are famous. Oyumi that crime of thief was afraid of thing equal to daughter repels daughter and bursts into tears. However, bow which changed its mind is about to follow crane without being able to get over. In background of this story being good in young successor of the feudal lord Tamakis being drowned to Keisei called Takao, bad retainer is plan to plan house takeover. Therefore "Keisei" begins title. It will be that the audiences in the Edo period to know that remote cause of misfortune of family has violent conduct of young lord shed tears into tragedy developed in the unreasonable world even more.



Program of mother, to be
considerate of daughter.

The second was "Tsubosaka-kannon-reigen-ki Sawaichi-uchi-no-dan" by "Hase-Za" of Hase, Atsugi-shi district. Sawaichi and Osato were close couples. In Sawaichi, eyes were inconvenient, and Osato prayed at the pot slope Kannon every night when that was cured. Sawaichi which doubted action of Osato questions closely, but Sawaichi which knew true circumstances goes for prayer to the Tsubosaka-Kannon with Osato.



Sawaichi, to doubt action at night of Osato

The third that was "Tsubisaka-kannon-reigen-ki Yama-no-dan" by "Hayashi-Za" of Hayashi, Atsugi-shi district ". It is story following "Sawaichi-uchi-no-dan". Invisible, Sawaichi finds himself annoying to Osato and throws himself into a waterhole. Osato which knew that follows and throws the body from cliff. Two Kannon who granted couple love saves two people. Stage blacks out in scene of the Kannon appearance, and the shining Kannon appears. Eyes of open by miracle of the Kannon, too. In scene where puppet throws the body, we actually drop from high place. It will be that there is technique to show like throwing itself.



With his eyes open, Sawaichi happily dances

The fourth that was "Meiboku-sendai-hagi Masaoka-chugi-no-dan" by "Ashigara-za" of Minamiashigara-shi. The title "Meiboku" is a famous agila tree of fragrance. We are doing this story about "disturbance that actually happened in earlier period of Edo period for show". Therefore it is "Sendai". Feudal lord, Tsunamune Date was absorbed in sybaritism for three generations and seemed to go to Yoshiwara in footwear which we made with agila wood. In addition, we seemed to name "predecessors in the family line bush clover" because the name of "bush clover" was 8th stage, and "bush clover" which forefather, Hidehira took good care of told about plot of house. When rebellious retainer for assassination of young princess holds out poisoned cake in this story, child, Senmatsu of Masaoka rush in and eat cake. Senmatsu die while suffering. Masaoka of mother protects young prince without changing one complexion. Masaoka which became alone hugs dead body of Senmatsu and sheds tears. It is masterpiece about sorrow of Masaoka placed in feeling of parent and child and interval of loyalty.



Senmatsu hugging Masaoka and grieve

Hadesugata-onna-maiginu Sakaya-no-dan

Finally it was "Hadesugata-onna-maiginu Sakaya-no-dan" by "Shimonaka-Za" of Odake, Odawara-shi district that appeared. As for the tayuu (tayuu) who recited story, Kuroyanagi Kimie, shamisen were Takemoto Tosako. There was not thing that it becomes Sankatsu and love relationship of woman's dancing entertainer and gains of son, Hanshichi to child called Otsuu of noble people while there is wife called Osono and returns to house of liquor shop "Akaneya" of Osaka. Father, Sogan of angry Osono brings back to the parents' house.



Tayuu:Kuroyanagi Kimie
Shamisen:Takemoto Tosako

As the but Osono live in sorrow every day from the right, Sogan which we pitied comes to put apology in Akaneya with Osono. However, we push curtly when two people lowering head do not need wife as Hanbe of the master disowned son. Then Sogan points out that Hanbe has a rope. He wanted to prolong the life of his son, Hansichi, who had been guilty of murder, because he wanted to prolong his life. And that was also the compassion of Hanbe, who was unhappy about Osono became young widow.



Akaneya
master:Hanbe,mother:Okou,father:Sogan,Osono

When the three of them retracted to talk about the future, Osono, who was left alone, "Imagoro ha Hansichi san, dokodedoushitegozarouzo", "kyonen no natsuno wazuraini isso sindesimoutara koushita nangiha senumonowo", and show of painful chest. It is famous lines called "Osono no Kudoki". It is chance for puppet master to show what he/she can do how you play Osono that became alone.



Lowering head Sogan and Osono

"Osono no Kudoki" that still longs for not becoming aware at all husband that without returning one at the storefront is the highlight. We sit straight and lean neck to one side, and gesture of Osono that became some forward bending expresses sad thought of pretty daughter. In addition, even sex appeal of woman was puppet master who felt without breaking knee in dancing posture a little, and I thinking with daughter that gesture to put hand with sleeve on top of one another was young at all.



Hanbei tied to a rope

While Osono where prominent one started in gesture watches of the night bent with body back, it was figure which "Beauty looking back" of Ukiyo-e. It was thought that "Osono no Kudoki" would completely change the mood, not only in the lines but also in the way Osono's gesture was directed.



The gesture of Osono

We watched puppet play of manipulate posture five troupe, and, with all troupe, each was completed for puppet play to hardly think of to be puppet master of amateur. Above all, we felt that Shimonaka-Za included the best ability in five troupe. Probably because the skill that was outstanding in Osono's puppeteer was transmitted.



Osono's Standing Figure

During the breaks and in the foyer after the performance, there was an interaction with the puppet. The elaborate construction and gorgeous costumes of the puppet seen up close were the perfect subjects for the shoot.

The world of puppet play

Puppet play has many stories about "feeling" such as love and parent and child or couple of man and woman whom way does not become. As for the genre called "drama of contemporary life", daily life of public people is background. It is sacrifice to repay pledge with consideration of couple, failure of business and harlot of red light district, tangle and favor of parent and child. In addition, it was theme that was important to loyalty to lord. In the story that became the



Looking back on Osono's standing

tragic ending, the audiences in the Edo period put own circumstances on top of one another and might have watch it after it was reverse to their thought and fell into the world that did not always go as we want.

There were many troupe of puppet play once in various parts of Japan. Puppet play of village prepared for puppet and the stage in the villager and we continued taking a lesson of puppet operation and the talk, shamisen and staged in front of villagers. Puppet play was villagers' familiar entertainment that we built up together and enjoyed. Even if we read history of Shimonaka-Za and saw, "Wakashuyado" took the succession. By sympathizing with feeling of person whom puppet play expressed, local people would communalize the thought. It might have brought about breeding and unity of sense of community to people of village to stage puppet play.



Touch dolls close to you

On the other hand, not only we taught people historical novel, but also, as for the puppet play, there might have been role of news to convey the event talked about including the double suicide case of the time. The people who watched a play would send a heart to the feeling of the main character who reached the double suicide.

Life is inspired puppet with by movement of puppet master, and puppet comes to have feelings. We may tell the human feelings to a person watching it for a director third simply because it is puppet. We convey human feeling without changing even if the puppet play is over the times in now. Even if it is the present age, heart and the feeling of people will not change so with the Edo period. We felt that Sagami-Ningyo-Shibai might sublimate to direction to express "feeling" of modern people if so.

(Akira Fukano)