

History of Naritasan

Naritasan Shinshoji Temple's Connection to Ichikawa School of Kabuki

The stage name of the Ichikawa school of Kabuki is “Naritaya,” reflecting the long and close relationship with Naritasan Shinshoji Temple. This relationship dates back to the seventeenth century.

Ichikawa Danjuro (1660–1704) was born in old Edo (Tokyo) and became one of its most famous Kabuki actors after he first took to the stage in 1673. However, since he was without an heir, he went to Naritasan Shinshoji Temple to pray for a child. His wish was granted in 1688 when he was blessed with a son. Danjuro expressed his thanks to the temple by playing the Buddhist deity Fudo Myoo in a Kabuki play. This became a great hit, and the fame of Naritasan Shinshoji Temple spread. The Fudo Myoo role became a speciality for Danjuro, and Naritaya became his hereditary stage name. His descendants, who have also taken the name Ichikawa Danjuro, have maintained the strong connection with Naritasan Shinshoji Temple.