

## Naritasan Shinshoji Temple's Deep Ties with the Ichikawa Kabuki Family

Naritasan Shinshoji Temple has maintained a strong connection to Kabuki for centuries through the famous Ichikawa family line of actors. The first Ichikawa Danjuro (1660–1704), who gained the line the hereditary stage name “Naritaya,” was a highly successful Kabuki actor in the Edo period (1603–1867). He prayed at Naritasan Shinshoji Temple for a child and was soon blessed with a son. To celebrate, Danjuro performed as the temple's revered Buddhist deity, Fudo Myoo, in a Kabuki play that was very well received. His performance brought attention to Shinshoji's Fudo Myoo and increased the temple's following. His descendants, who also took the name Ichikawa, have maintained their relationship with Shinshoji ever since. The current heir to the Ichikawa line, Ichikawa Ebizo, is a Narita City Tour Guide and participates at important events such as the temple's 1080-year commemoration and wedding ceremonies.