

Karaido and Suppon

The *karaido* (lit. “dry well”) is a square opening (closed over when not in use), located at the intersection where the main stage joins the *hanamichi*. It disappeared from the modern theater, but it is said that it was used in the Kamigata (Kyoto Osaka) area of Japan in the Edo period. It is connected to the underground area (*naraku*) and has many uses. In addition to the actors’ entrances and exits and quick costume changes, it can also function as a well or a pond. The Kanamaruza is the only theater that has retained this function to the present day.

The *suppon* hole is a “trap door” on the *hanamichi*, close to the stage. It is 0.8 meters long and 0.6 meters wide. In the Kanamaruza, the trap door is moved up and down by men underneath. The name *suppon* (“turtle”) comes from the fact that when the kabuki actor sticks out his head from underneath the stage, it looks like a turtle’s head craning. This door is mainly used to introduce phantoms, ghosts, and goblins.