

***Naraku* (Abyss or Hell)**

The *naraku* is a generic term used to refer to the area under the stage and the *hanamichi*. It takes its name from the Buddhist word for hell, *naraku*. This name relates to the fact that this dark and gloomy underground space is reminiscent of a Buddhist hell.

It is also the place from which the various technical operations that are part of the kabuki are performed, such as opening the lift on the circular stage, the dry well, and the *suppon*, and rotating the circular stage. Unlike other contemporary kabuki theaters, everything at Kanamaruza is human-powered.

The surrounding walls are made of stone with a depth of 2.5 meters, and the ground is an earthen floor. The *naraku* is located underground, so actors can move from the green room to the *toya* without being seen by audience.