

Hitoyama Rural Kabuki

It is said that Hitoyama Kabuki got its start in 1686, when a small shack was first built here for theatrical performances to celebrate the completion of Kaeruga ike, a pond that was constructed to overcome a water shortage. Since that time, many kabuki performances have been offered up to the Hachiman Shrine, where the theater is located. The building is a representative example of a Shikoku stage.

The current stage was built in 1900, as a slightly larger version of a previous building that was destroyed by a typhoon four years earlier. The theater has all the characteristic features of a kabuki house: *hanamichi*, revolving stage, lift, the abyss (*naraku*), grapevine trellis (*budodana*), ceiling, dressing room, green room, head actor's and dressing room.