

# A Guide to Kyogen

by Don Kenny

HIGE YAGURA 髭櫓  
(The Fortified Beard)

和 大

Shite      MAN WITH A BEARD  
Ado      WIFE  
Koado      MESSENGER  
Tachishū      NEIGHBORHOOD WOMEN

A Man who has a long thick beard has been chosen to carry the ceremonial halberd in the harvest festival because of his beard of which he is very proud. He calls his Wife to tell her the news, but she is not the least bit happy, especially when she hears that they will have to buy a special costume for the occasion. He orders her to comb and clean his beard and she not only refuses, but begins to insist that he shave it off. This leads to a full-fledged argument. She goes off in tears.

A Messenger comes to warn the Man that his Wife has gathered all the Women in the neighborhood and they are coming, with various weapons including a huge pair of tweezers, to pull his beard out by the roots. The Man fortifies his beard with a turret-like scaffold, thus preparing himself for battle. The Women arrive led by the Wife, and a noisy fight ensues. The Wife breaks through the fortification and pulls the beard out by its roots. The Man is left beardless and sad.

Hinoki Shoten

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