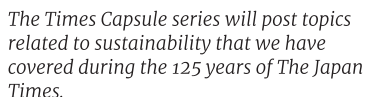


Vol. 2: Theatrical arts

The theatrical arts are perhaps one of the most enduring traditions of Japan, and from the mid-20th century, The Japan Times has showcased the stories and the stars of the stage, from kabuki and noh to rakugo and kyogen.

In the 1940s and '50s, Maj. Faubion Bowers, who wrote features explaining the context of Japanese theater on numerous occasions for *The Japan Times*, had a major effect in preserving traditional theatrical arts' place on the world stage. As Gen. Douglas MacArthur's personal Japanese translator, he was able to convince the Occupation forces not to ban kabuki performances, which were thought to be promoting feudal-era values.

Until the present day, The Japan Times has provided rare glimpses into the minds of theater masters, whose craft has been passed down through generations.



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By Major Pauline Bowers

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father murder plot; sequence (the identification of Sukeroku with Soga Goro) was introduced by an early actor whose father had actually been murdered. Kabuki being traditional is not unified; it is accumulative. This additional

Century in Europe, the art of painting stood in jeopardy. Some people today are still inclined to believe that this art of painting died with the turn of the century. But as long as artists continue to paint and actors to act,

This is a highly dramatic effect greatly excites the Kabuki fan. Anna Pavlova toured Japan and Kikugoro had seen the ending of her "Dances of the Swan" where she sinks to the ground, he subsequently altered the form. Instead of ending it by "sinking" which is the form she sinks to the surface of the Yamanote of Yashima. This is very touching to the Japanese people and all in the audience of but



THE JAPAN TIMES,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2007



THE JAPAN TIMES, MARCH 18, 1970