

100th Anniversary of Noh Stage in Fukuyama
 Special Performance by the Kita School Oshima Family
 (*Chugoku Shinbun*, 23 December 2013)

translated by Nancy H. Ross

A special performance marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Kita School Oshima Nohgaku Theater was held in Fukuyama on Dec. 22. Masanobu Oshima, 71, the fourth generation of the family's Noh performers, performed the lead role in *Tokusa* before an audience of approximately 400. *Tokusa*, a play on the theme of a father's love for his son, is rarely staged. Mr. Oshima, a Holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property, was the recipient of this year's Chugoku Cultural Award, which is presented by the Chugoku Shimbun.

The program began with a *shimai* dance by Mr. Oshima's daughter, Kinue, 39.

For *Tokusa*, Mr. Oshima wore the mask of an old man and, in a performance marked by economy of movement, depicted the man's feelings for his son as the two are parted. The role of the son was played by Mr. Oshima's grandson, Iori, 5.

In a separate play, Mr. Oshima's son, Terushisa, 37, appeared as a *shishi* lion to generous applause.

The original Noh stage was built in 1914 by Mr. Oshima's grandfather, Hisatarō. After being destroyed in the 1945 air raid on Fukuyama, it was rebuilt by Mr. Oshima's father, Hisami, shortly after the end of the war. The current three-story Noh theater was built on the same site in 1971. Regular performances have been held four times a year since 1958.

福山
 舞台創建100年の能
 喜多流大島家が記念公演



喜多流大島家の能舞
 台創建100周年を
 記念した公演が22日、
 福山市光南町の喜多
 流大島能楽堂であつ
 た。(1)の中国文化

賞を受賞した同家4
 代目、大島政允さん
 (71)が父子愛を主題と
 し、めつたに演じられ
 ない「木賊」を披露
 し、約400人を魅了
 した。

大島さんの長女衣恵
 さん(39)の仕舞で開
 幕。木賊では国重要無
 形文化財総合指定保持
 者の大島さんが祖父の
 面を着け、動きを抑え
 た演技で生き別れの思
 子への思いを表現し
 た。孫の伊織ちゃん
 (5)が息子役で出演し
 た。

長男の輝久さん(37)
 も別演目で獅子を舞
 い、拍手を浴びた。

能舞台は大島さんの
 祖父の故寿太郎さんが
 1914年に創建。45
 年に福山空襲で焼失し
 たが、父の故父見さん
 が戦後間もなく再建
 し、71年に現在の3階
 建て能楽堂に改築し
 た。58年から年4回の
 定期公演を続けてい
 る。(杉本喜信)

祖父の面を着けて舞う大島さん (中央)