

Seeing the Noh Adaptation of *ROMEO and JULIET*

LINK Luther

I was captivated by Prof. Kuniyoshi Ueda's Noh adaption of *ROMEO and JULIET*. Any such adaption faces many problems, specifically, which parts of the play to select. And how to conceive and interpret the characters in their Noh format. Not only were these problems skillfully and creatively solved, so much so, that it provides a fresh perspective on the play itself. The costumes selected and the choreography were more than suitable and the latter, in particular, seemed inventive to me. There is still another aspect which though not intrinsic to the performance greatly interested me, and I refer to the audience. When I visit a museum I also pay attention to the viewers and when I see a play on the stage, I also watch the audience. So I was surprised and delighted to note that the venue was packed and that the age range was from teenagers to older folk like myself. That Prof. Kuniyoshi Ueda's adaption had such a wide appeal is surely testimony to his taste, skills and judgement.

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