

Fukkyoku Noh Kanemaki

This is a noh whose performance had not taken place for many years until its revival (*fukkyoku*) in 1992. It is based on the same legend as another well-known noh play, Dojoji.

The Dojoji temple in Kishu (the present Wakayama) is about to commemorate a new temple bell after not having one for many years. On the day of its commemoration, the head priest of the temple tells the temple servants to announce that women will not be allowed to attend the commemoration services. However, a *shirabyoshi* dancer (a woman who dances wearing a man's costume) appears with the intent of making an offering for the new bell. Though first refused entry, she is allowed to enter if she agrees to dance in celebration. She begins to sing of the origins of the Dojoji temple and of a woman diver's daughter who was adopted by Fujiwara no Fuhito and later became the wife of Emperor Monmu.

Kanemaki is a play thought to have been written in the Moromachi period but its performance was discontinued in the early Edo period. Compared to the popular and highly refined Dojoji, Kanemaki has a much older feel to its story and presentational style. Since Hosei University's Noh Research Center revived it (*fukkyoku*) in 1992 in celebration of its own 40th anniversary, it has been performed several times in several different ways. For this performance, Osaka University's noh research scholar Professor Amano Fumio and Otsuki Noh Theatre's Otsuki Bunzo have arranged this version.