



Japanese Noh Theater at Odawara Castle

“Aoi no Ue” –The Tale of Genji –

The Noh program is titled as 'Aoi no Ue', which is based on the book "Aoi no Maki" in the "Tale of Genji". There is a scene where the living spirit of Lady Rokujō (Rokujō no Miyasundokoro) blames the wife of Hikaru-Genji, Aoi. The pride and sorrow of a noble lady is a common theme of performing arts in any ages. The soul of Miyasudokoro turns into the figure of Hannya, which is a representation of a woman's rage and jealousy, later purified by the power of prayer. This Noh is performed by Kanze Yoshimasa as the Kanze-ryu Shite-kata (Noh's main actor) taking the stage at the Odawara Castle Tower which is a site selected as one of the best 100 castles in Japan. The leading figure of Noh along with Ohayashi (Noh orchestra) and Utai (chanting of Noh drama) adds a glitz to the performance.