

[Taishokukan Summary](#) (performed by Higashi Futakuchi Bunya Ningyo Traditional Puppet Theater Preservation Association)

A warrior is entrusted with a jewel to be taken across the sea. Along the way they defeat an evil god of the skies, who covets the jewel. Then they meet with a maiden adrift in a boat, and they take her in, she asks to see the jewel and when she gets it in her hand she turns into a dragon, an evil god of the sea, and takes it away. (This is an excerpt from a longer play, which continues to tell of how the warrior tries to get the jewel back)

[Genji Eboshiori Summary](#) (performed by Fukaze Dekumawashi Preservation Association)

Two scenes from the play Genji Eboshiori (The Lacquered Hat of the Genji), set in the 12th century. The first concerns the widow of the defeated Genji clan and their three sons, who are still in hiding from the enemy Heike force, in this scene, the boys are playing, and two of them go off to temple school. The widow and her youngest son are captured by Heike henchmen. In the subsequent scene, two supporters of the Genji meet at the grave of their leader. They differ in opinion on some matters, so battle each other, but they are equally strong and finally agree to combine their strength and wit to defeat the Heike and revenge their deceased master.

[Tokubeiza](#)

There are hundreds of different versions of the "Shishimai" or "Lion Dance" in Japan, and many involve both a male and a female lion, and some include the traditional human characters of Okame and Hyottoko.

1. Tokubeiza's "Meoto (Mr. & Mrs.) Lion Dance" differs from the standard form in that the dancers who operate the lion characters are themselves actually traditional Japanese puppets who are, in turn, manipulated by human puppeteers. The lion couple suffers some misunderstandings, but in the end, love wins and the lion family flourishes. The lion dance celebrates the blessings of this life, and the lions bring good fortune by biting audience members on the head.

2. There are many styles of "Ebisumai" or "The Dance of Ebisu," across Japan. In the Tokubeiza version, the jolly deity Ebisu enters carrying a fishing rod. The village headman offers him omiki sacred rice wine. Once he drinks all the sake he is offered, he may even look for more. Slightly tipsy, he boards his boat to go to sea in search of a great sea bream, the most fortuitous fish in the ocean. On his excursion Ebisu may meet with both a range of difficulties and fortunate events, but he always embodies the fundamental human desire for good and optimism, maintaining an open heart and a smile regardless of the circumstances.