

Program
HAGOROMO (The Robe of Feathers)

Shite (Heroine of this program)
The Heavenly Angel

| **Story** |

One fisherman enjoying the wonderful scenery at MIHO bay notices a sweet fragrance in the air. Looking around, he finds a beautiful robe hanging from a branch of a pine tree. He begins to take it home with him, when a heavenly angel appears and asks him to leave it where it is. The heavenly angel explains that it is a feather robe from heaven and it is used by the heavenly angel. Hearing this, he becomes determined to keep it as a national treasure. She responds "I will never be able to ascend to Heaven without the robe" and insists he returns the robe to her.

He is so moved by her distress, that he agrees to return the robe on the condition that she dances for him. With great excitement she puts on the robe and begins to dance. Blessings the land, she ascends to heaven among a mists of clouds.

| **Note** |

This story is known all over the world as the "swan legend". In most of the representations, the man does not return the feather robe to the heavenly angel, but marries her instead. The heavenly angel then seeks the earliest opportunity to ascend to heaven. In this play, the fisherman feels sympathy for the heavenly angel and returns the robe to her.

Today's play begins from the scene when the fisherman returns the robe and the heavenly angel dances for him.

