

「蟹山伏」 *The Mountain Wizard and the Crab*, (F. 211, 1997)

Traveling east of Kyoto, a boastful mountain wizard and his disciple encounter a grotesque creature while crossing Crab Marsh. It is a crab monster, and it will test the wizard's magic powers to the limit.

Wizard	L	K I
Porter	L	D
Crab Spirit	K	L I I
Koken (stage assistant)	H	B

「海士」 *Ama / The Fisher*

(Nihon buy , Gidayu Music. Choreography by Fujima Y ko)

Based on the noh play of the same title, *Ama* is about a diver who retrieved a special jewel from the underwater palace of the Dragon King. She had a son with a Minister of State from the capital, who requested that she dive to rescue the precious object. She agreed on condition that he make their son his sole heir, and rescued the jewel by sacrificing her own life. Her son, now himself a Minister of State, knows nothing about who his mother was, but has heard she died at Shid Bay. He travels there and meets a mysterious woman, who recounts the story, ultimately revealing that she is the ghost of his mother. The section danced here is the woman's final story, and is part of a twenty-five minute classical dance-play.

Ghost of the Mother (a fisherwoman) C (F. 211, 1997)



Sweet faces I would never see again
Our final parting left my soul in tatters

“Holding back my tears, I stood with grim resolve
And joined my hands together in humble supplication:
‘Hear me, Bodhisattva Kannon of Shidoji!
Grant me your holy strength to do the task that I must do.’
Reverently, I touched the sacred sword of mercy to my brow
And burst into the Dragon Palace in swift attack
The guardians scattered in alarm, giving me my chance
Rushing in, I stole the jewel and quickly fled
The dragon kings raged after me in furious pursuit
But I had devised a desperate plan
I reversed my grip and turned the blade upon myself
Gashed the flesh beneath my breast and pushed the jewel in
I cast the sword aside and lay as still as death
I knew no palace denizen could tolerate a corpse
No glaring sea beast dared approach my stricken body
Darkness seeped into my eyes as I shook the rope
Sending a furtive signal to those awaiting me above
With hope and joy they kept their word and drew me up
In a crimson flash of foam...

“With jewel in hand the minister brought peace to all the land. The child was named Fusazaki, a namesake of this bay. I indeed am the mother you seek.”

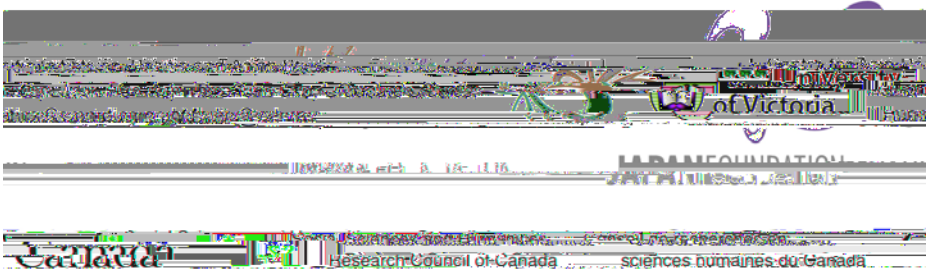
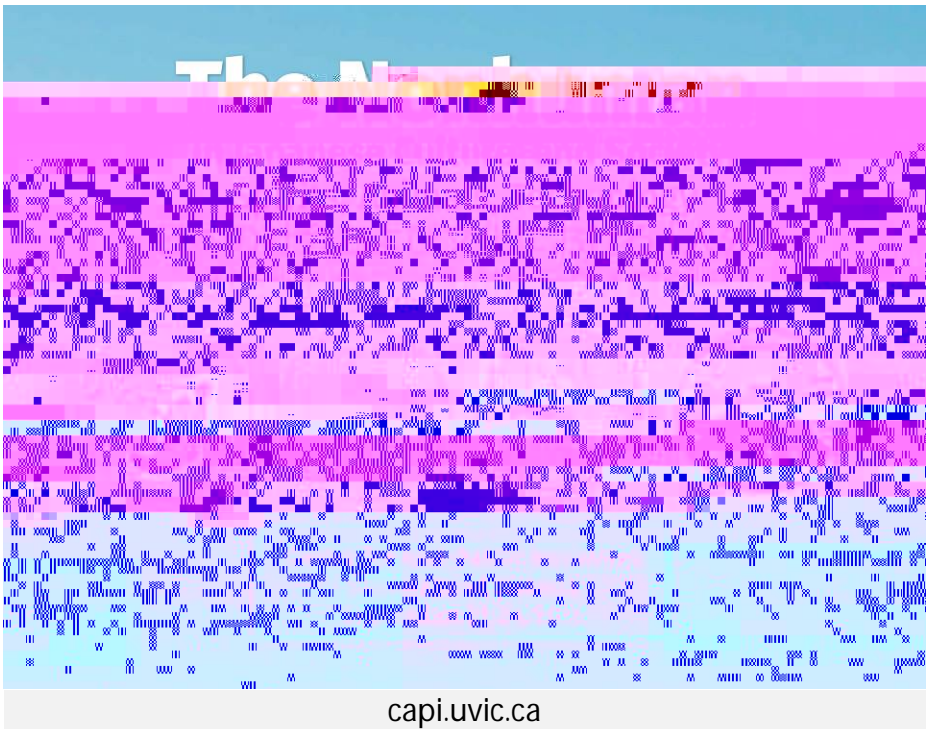
Voice trailing, the diver fades from view, her face a ghostly wavering as she sinks beneath the sea.

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An Evening of Japanese Animals, Angels, Gods and Puppets





Cover image: Wind God (detail), by Minagawa Kien (1734-1807), a student of Maruyama Kōyū