

# RASHOMON

A DRAMA IN TWO ACTS

BY FAY AND MICHAEL KANIN

*Based on stories by  
Ryunosuke Akutagawa*

DIRECTED AND DESIGNED BY  
BROOKS MCNAMARA

COSTUMES DESIGNED BY  
MOLLIE EHLE

The action takes place in Kyoto, Japan, about a thousand years ago — at a corner of the Rashomon Gate, at a police court, and in a nearby forest.

## C A S T

(AN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Priest..... James Stenhouse  
Woodcutter..... Douglas Wigton  
Wigmaker..... Jerry Schrader  
Deputy..... John Wong  
Bandit..... Stewart Congdon  
Husband..... Joseph Millas  
Wife..... Nancy Huff  
Mother..... Linda Theel  
Medium..... Janet Link

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There will be a ten minute intermission between acts. Refreshments will be sold outside the theatre by Tomahawk, during the intermission period.

## SOME NOTES ON RASHOMON

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Before the time of our play, Rashomon was the largest gate in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. It was 106 feet wide and 26 feet deep, its stone wall rising 75 feet and topped by a ridge-pole. With the decline of West Kyoto, the gate fell into bad repair and became a decayed relic with an unsavory reputation, a hideout for thieves and a dump for unclaimed corpses.

The famous stories about the gate by Akutagawa, first made into a prize motion picture, were adapted by the Kanins for Broadway to suit the talents of Claire Bloom, Rod Steiger, Akim Tamiroff, and Oscar Homulaka. Miss Bloom played the wife of a Samurai officer. She was assaulted and her husband killed by a roving bandit. Three different, contradictory versions of what happened are given at the trial, the bandit's, the wife's, and the husband's (through the mouth of a sorceress). Each version is true in its fashion, and it is apparent at the outset that the play is repeating Pilate's ageless question, What is truth? Despite the seriousness with which each version is re-enacted, there is some surprising high comedy woven into the fabric of the play.

*Rashomon* was extraordinarily well received by the New York drama critics, the New York *Times* pointing out that, "*Rashomon* is pure art of the theatre. Out of a legend it conjures a mood. No one need despair of a commercial theatre that can deal in elusive materials with so much delicacy, expertness and charm."

CREWS FOR  
**RASHOMON**

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SETTING: Robert Farrell, G. A. Maxwell, Fred Mayer, Nancy Huff,  
Gerry Morgan.

COSTUMES: Mollie Ehle, Jerry Schrader, Mary Rast.

LIGHTING AND SOUND: Richard Hessel, Joseph Simpson, Barbara  
Hinkle, Judy McCulloch.

MAKE-UP: Nancy Huff, Rick Smith, Lynn Pooley, Barbara Hinkle.

STAGE MANAGERS: Fred Mayer, Gerry Morgan.

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Don't forget the productions to be held in the Little Theatre  
this term. Next week, students will present a variety show and,  
later in the term, a one-act opera, *Gianni Schicchi*, will be presented  
through the combined work of the Department of Music and the  
Monmouth College Theatre.

