

KANYA SANJO V  
April 3, 1921 – June 27, 1989  
Provided by Sanjo Kanfuji

At the age of 4, commenced training in Japanese classical dance with Mme. Kiyomura, Kabuki acting with Tomofuku Nakamura and Nagauta (vocal and shamisen) with Yasoyo Kineya I.

At the age of 10, traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to apprentice under Mitsumi Bando and received the name of Miharu Bando at the age of 17 from Mitsugoro Bando VII. While in Tokyo, studied percussions with the Fukuhara School, continued Nagauta with Eizaemon Kineya and Itoju Toshimura and was granted the name of Itsuji Yoshimura from the iyemoto of the Yoshimura School of Nagauta, Eizo Kineya.

In 1940, returned to the United States and commenced teaching Japanese classical and Kabuki dances and Nagauta to students in America.

Returned to Japan in 1953 for further studies and while appearing on television, was recognized by the foremost Kabuki actor, the late Kanzaburo Nakamura XVII and received the name of Kanya Sanjo V (grandmaster status) in August 1955. She was the only iyemoto residing and instructing outside of Japan.

In May 1955, she was bestowed the name of Hideharu Kanzaki by the late Hide Kanzaki II, principal of the Kanzaki School of Jiuta-mai. Hideharu Kanzaki (Kanya Sanjo) was the only recognized natori of Jiuta-mai in the United States. Jiuta-mai is a difficult and delicately fine art preserved from the past in the evolution of mai.

In March 1969, she appeared with the late Shoroku Onoe II (Kabuki actor) at the National Theatre of Japan in a newly choreographed lion dance accompanied by the Bunraku Musicians of Osaka.

In early 1982, represented the Kabuki in nationally televised commercials for the appearance of the Grand Kabuki at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. She became a member of the Screen Actors Guild together with other natoris under her tutelage.

Presented "Kabuki Dance" programs for 34 consecutive years in Los Angeles every spring since 1956 (the last being in May of 1988). Produced Kabuki Dace

programs in Northern and Central California, in addition to 12 years of creating “Kayo-Buyo Series” (light, fresh modern buyo choreography to popular Japanese music) every October.

Continued to traverse to Japan every year to accomplish works and studies with the great masters and distinguished artists in the field of Kabuki dance dramas, her last trip being in November and December of 1988.