

Hayashi Razan (1583-1657; Neo-Confucian scholar, officially employed by Tokugawa bakufu):

The men wear women's clothing; the women wear men's clothing, cut their hair and wear it in a man's topknot, have swords at their sides and carry purses. They sing base songs and dance vulgar dances; their lewd voices are clamorous, like the buzzing of flies and the crying of cicadas. The men and women sing and dance together.

Excerpts from *Edo meishoki* (Record of Edo's Famous Places, 1662):

1. When theaters were built for the prostitutes to give kabuki performances, the impetuous eccentrics among the high and low became infatuated with them and thronged and jostled one another in the boxes of the theaters. Still unsatisfied, they constantly engaged them, consummated their trysts, squandered their inheritance, and ruined their names. Some, engaging in brawls and arguments, were taken to court. Women's kabuki was banned because it disturbed the country, caused deterioration in various ways, and was the cause of calamities
2. Youth's kabuki began, with beautiful youths being made to sing and dance, whereupon droll fools again had their hearts captivated and their souls stolen. As they rapturously gave themselves up to visiting the youths in high spirits, the early depletion of even substantial fortunes was like light snow exposed to the spring sun.
3. When these fellows, their hair beautifully done up, with light make-up, and wearing splendid padded robes, moved slowly along the runway, singing songs in delicate voices, the spectators in front bounced up and down on their buttocks, those in back reared up, while those in the boxes opened their mouths up to their ears and drooled; unable to contain themselves, they shouted: "Look, look. Their figures are like emanations of the deities, they are heavenly stallions!" And from the sides others called: "Oh that smile! It overflows with sweetness. Good! good!" and the like, and there was shouting and commotion.