Asian Theatre History
Noh Play: classical Japanese drama, performed for the upper class
Crash Course Theatre History: Just Say Noh:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1IyUPMXwS0
Characteristics of a Noh Play

- only males on stage
- includes a chorus and an orchestra
- multiple performances during a day
- costumes: elaborate, medieval style
- Setting: nearly bare stage
Noh Performers

*Shite*: leading actors, main performers
Noh Performers

Tsure: Companion to the Shite
Noh Performers

Waki: supporting performers, antagonist of the Shite
Noh Performers

Hayashi: Four instrumentalists (orchestra)
Noh Performers

Jiutai: Chorus
Kanami Kiyotsugu: A founder of the Noh play
Kyogen: short comedy performed between Noh plays
Noh Play:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ModfyW8wDvo
Kabuki: classical Japanese dance-drama
Crash Course Theatre History: Kabuki and Bunraku.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc3dWwbctw4
Okuni: young female dancer, creator of Kabuki
Onna Kabuki: early form of Kabuki, mainly women on stage
Wakashu Kabuki: form of kabuki that replaced Onna, performed mainly by young men.
Yara Kabuki: modern form of Kabuki, performed mainly by older men, focuses more on training and discipline
Kabuki Character Types

Onnagata: male actors who played female roles
Kabuki Character Types

Tachiyaku: Brave Heroes
Kabuki Character Types

Katakiyaku: Villains
Kabuki Character Types

Koyaku: Children’s Roles
Kabuki Performance:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oZu80KZAM4
Bunraku: Traditional Japanese puppet theatre
Bunraku Theatre:
https://unctv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/jacult.arts.drama.bunraku/japanese-culture-bunraku/#.X4XienhKhfU
Bunraku Performers

Puppeteers:
traditionally three people control one puppet

(Ningyotsukai)
Bunraku Performers
Chanter: traditionally one person does voices for all puppets (Tayu)
Bunraku Performers

Musician: plays 3 stringed instrument, similar to guitar

(Shamisen Player)
3 Bunraku Puppeteers:

First (Main) puppeteer: controls head and right hand of puppet \((omozukai)\)

Second (left) Puppeteer: controls left hand of puppet \((hidarizukai)\)

Third Puppeteer: controls feet and legs of puppet \((ashizukai)\)
• Japan’s Bunraku Puppet
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qcBSAwQVpw
Sanskrit Drama: Ancient Indian Performances of Poetry, mixed dance, instrumental and vocal music, spoken poetry and prose
• Crash Course Theatre History Sanskrit Drama
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3mj4QQH8TM
Natyashastra: ‘The Art of Theatre’
Handbook on Dramatic Art detailing early Sanskrit Theatre
Mahabharata and Ramayana: early Indian epic poems, source for Sanskrit Dramas and Kathakali
Kathakali: Indian dance/drama, evolved from classic performance styles around 300 years ago
• Crash Course Theatre History: Kathakali
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lp-HBv-3bA
• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tl3UKV1z9lM
• http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uIan6u3UrQ