

Memoirs of a geisha kimono

Memoirs of a Geisha Kimono: A Silk Story of Tradition and Transformation

A geisha's kimono, more than just fabric, is a testament to Japanese artistry, cultural history, and the transformation of a woman's life. The whispers of silk against silk, the rustle of a thousand threads, the weight of tradition and artistry - these are the whispers of a geisha kimono, a silent storyteller of a life lived in the delicate balance of beauty, grace, and cultural expectations. It is more than just an intricate garment; it is a living, breathing tapestry that reflects the journey of a woman navigating the world of geisha, a world that is at once enchanting and demanding. From its origins in the Edo period to its contemporary presence in the 21st century, the geisha kimono has borne witness to social evolution, artistic refinement, and the enduring power of tradition in a constantly changing world.

Origins and Evolution: A Glimpse into the

Past

The geisha kimono, as we know it today, is the culmination of centuries of artistic evolution and cultural influences. Its roots lie in the Edo period (1603-1868), a time of great social and cultural change in Japan. During this era, the geisha emerged as skilled entertainers, mastering the art of dance, music, and conversation. Their attire, reflecting their unique role in society, evolved into a symbol of elegance and refinement. Early geisha kimonos were simpler in design, often featuring geometric patterns and vibrant colors. These early kimonos reflected the influence of traditional Japanese clothing styles, such as the *kosode* and *uchikake*. Over time, the geisha kimono became increasingly intricate, incorporating silk fabrics of the highest quality, intricate embroidery, and elaborate patterns that showcased the skill of artisan weavers. The evolution of the geisha kimono can be traced through the changing patterns and motifs. Early kimonos often featured floral motifs, reflecting the beauty of nature. As the Edo period progressed, more abstract patterns, such as geometric shapes and *kiku* (chrysanthemum) motifs, became popular. The *kiku* flower, with its strong association with the Imperial family, symbolized power and longevity, reflecting the geisha's position as skilled entertainers and cultural figures.

Table 1: Evolution of Geisha Kimono Motifs

Motifs	Period	Dominant Motifs	Significance	
Edo Period (Early)	Floral motifs	Beauty of nature, innocence		Edo Period (Later)
Geometric patterns, *kiku* motifs	Abstract beauty, power, longevity		Meiji Era (1868-1912)	Western influences, floral patterns
Modernity, adaption		20th Century		Simplified

designs, modern fabrics | Practicality, accessibility | The geisha kimono's evolution reflects a dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation. While the basic structure of the kimono remained consistent, the patterns, fabrics, and embellishments changed to reflect the evolving social and cultural landscape of Japan.

The Art of the Geisha Kimono: A Symphony of Skill and Tradition

The geisha kimono is more than just a garment; it is a work of art that showcases the intricate skill and artistry of Japan's textile tradition. From the selection of fabrics to the meticulous hand-stitching, each stage of the kimono's creation is a testament to the dedication and expertise of skilled artisans. *The selection of silk fabric is paramount, with geisha kimonos traditionally made from the finest silk available.* Silk from the *Tussah* silkworm, known for its natural beauty and durability, is highly prized for geisha kimonos. The silk is carefully woven into intricate patterns, often using traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations of artisans. **The embroidery on a geisha kimono is an art form in itself, with skilled artisans using delicate needles and fine silk threads to create intricate designs.** The motifs chosen for the embroidery can range from traditional floral patterns to abstract geometric shapes, often reflecting the geisha's individual personality and style. *Figure 1: Example of Embroidered Geisha Kimono* [Image of a geisha kimono with intricate embroidery showcasing floral motifs] **The *obi* (sash)**

is another essential component of the geisha kimono, often showcasing the most elaborate designs and embellishments. The *obi* can be tied in a variety of styles, each conveying a different message or reflecting a specific occasion. A skilled geisha can tie her *obi* in over a dozen different ways, showcasing her artistry and knowledge of tradition. The geisha kimono is a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship that lie at the heart of Japanese culture. The garment embodies the values of tradition, precision, and beauty, showcasing the dedication of generations of artisans who have honed their skills to create these masterpieces of textile art.

The Transformation of a Woman: From Everyday Life to Geisha

The geisha kimono is not simply an of clothing; it is a transformative element that symbolizes the transition of a woman into the role of a geisha. The act of dressing in the kimono signifies a shift from everyday life to the world of geisha, a world defined by artistry, elegance, and a unique social code.

When a young woman begins her training to become a geisha, she is given her first kimono. This garment is a symbol of her commitment to the rigorous training and dedication required to master the arts of geisha. As the woman progresses through her training, the kimonos she wears become increasingly elaborate, reflecting her growing skill and experience. *The geisha kimono is also a symbol of the geisha's social status.* The type of kimono, the fabric used, and the

embellishments worn all reflect the geisha's rank within the geisha community. More experienced geisha often wear kimonos with more elaborate embroidery and intricate patterns, while newly trained geisha may wear simpler, more understated designs. The transformation of a woman into a geisha is a complex process that is deeply intertwined with the act of dressing in the kimono. The kimono is more than just an of clothing; it is a tangible representation of the woman's identity as a geisha, a symbol of her dedication, skill, and artistry.

The Geisha Kimono Today: Tradition in a Modern World

While the geisha kimono remains a symbol of tradition, it has also adapted to the changing world of the 21st century. While the core principles of craftsmanship and artistry remain consistent, there has been a shift towards more practical and accessible designs. *Contemporary geisha kimonos are often made from more modern fabrics, such as silk blends and synthetic materials.* This shift reflects a desire for increased durability and practicality in a world where geisha may perform at a variety of events, from traditional tea ceremonies to modern social gatherings. The patterns and motifs on contemporary geisha kimonos also reflect a wider range of influences. While traditional designs remain popular, there is an increasing appreciation for contemporary patterns and motifs, reflecting the evolving tastes of modern geisha. The geisha kimono continues to be a symbol of tradition and artistry in the 21st century.

However, its evolution reflects a dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation, ensuring that this iconic garment remains relevant in a constantly changing world.

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FAQs

1. Are geisha kimonos only worn by geisha? While geisha kimonos are traditionally associated with geisha, other women in Japan, such as *maiko* (apprentice geisha) and *shamisen* players, may wear them on special occasions.

2. How much does a geisha kimono cost? The cost of a geisha kimono can vary significantly depending on the quality of the fabric, the intricacy of the embroidery, and the age and rarity of the garment. A traditional geisha kimono can cost tens of thousands of dollars.

3. What is the symbolism behind the colors and patterns on a geisha kimono? The colors and patterns on a geisha kimono have rich symbolism, often conveying messages about the geisha's personality, status, and the occasion for which she is dressing. For example, red often symbolizes good fortune and joy, while blue represents peace and tranquility.

4. How long does it take to make a geisha kimono? Creating a geisha kimono is a time-consuming process that can take several months to

complete. The meticulous hand-stitching and intricate embroidery require specialized skills and expertise, making each garment a true work of art. 5. What is the significance of the *obi* in the geisha kimono? The *obi* is more than just a sash; it is an essential element of the geisha kimono, often showcasing the most elaborate designs and embellishments. The *obi* can be tied in a variety of styles, each conveying a different message or reflecting a specific occasion. A skilled geisha can tie her *obi* in over a dozen different ways, showcasing her artistry and knowledge of tradition.

Conclusion

The geisha kimono, a silent storyteller of tradition and transformation, is more than just fabric and thread; it is a symbol of cultural heritage, artistic craftsmanship, and the enduring power of tradition in a constantly changing world. From its origins in the Edo period to its presence in the 21st century, the geisha kimono has borne witness to social evolution, artistic refinement, and the enduring legacy of Japanese artistry. It continues to be a source of fascination, admiration, and inspiration, captivating the hearts and minds of those who appreciate the beauty and significance of this iconic garment.

The Exquisite World of Memoirs of a

Geisha Kimono

When Arthur Golden's novel, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, burst onto the literary scene, it transported readers to a Japan steeped in tradition, beauty, and a profound sense of mystery. Central to this captivating world, and a powerful visual anchor for the story, is the kimono. More than just clothing, the kimono in *Memoirs of a Geisha* represents artistry, social standing, spiritual significance, and the very essence of a geisha's identity. This article will delve into the fascinating world of the kimono as depicted in the novel, exploring its intricate details, its symbolism, and its enduring allure.

Unveiling the Kimono: A Tapestry of Tradition and Elegance

The kimono, a garment with a history stretching back centuries, is the quintessential symbol of Japanese culture. In the context of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, these garments are not mere fabric; they are elaborate works of art meticulously crafted to adorn the geisha and reflect her status, maturity, and artistic repertoire. The novel paints vivid pictures of kimonos that are breathtaking in their detail and richness.

Imagine a young geisha, perhaps Sayuri in her early days, wearing a vibrant, intricately patterned silk kimono. These early kimonos would likely be chosen to reflect her youth and burgeoning talent. As she matures and gains experience, her kimonos would evolve, becoming more subdued in color but

even more sophisticated in their design and embroidery. The fabric itself is a crucial element. We read about the luxurious feel of silk, the way it drapes and flows, creating a silhouette that is both elegant and demure. The weight and texture of the silk would have been a testament to the geisha's importance and the wealth of her geisha house, known as an *okiya*.

Beyond the primary fabric, the details are what truly elevate a geisha's kimono. Think of the delicate embroidery, often depicting motifs from nature – blossoming cherry trees, elegant cranes, swaying bamboo, or cascading water. These designs aren't chosen at random; they carry symbolic meaning. A crane, for instance, often symbolizes longevity and good fortune, while cherry blossoms (*sakura*) represent the ephemeral beauty of life. The use of gold and silver threads would add a touch of opulence, catching the light and enhancing the wearer's presence.

The Language of Color and Pattern

In the world of geisha, the kimono is a silent storyteller. The colors and patterns chosen for a geisha's attire communicate a wealth of information to those who understand the subtle nuances of Japanese sartorial tradition. This is beautifully illustrated in *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

Colors as Statements

Younger geisha, or *maiko* (apprentice geisha), often wore brighter, bolder colors, signifying their youth and energetic spirit.

Think of fiery reds, vibrant blues, and sunny yellows. These striking hues would draw attention and highlight their freshness. As a geisha progresses in her career, her kimono colors would typically become more refined and sophisticated. Deeper shades like indigo, plum, emerald green, and rich burgundy would signify maturity, elegance, and a deeper understanding of her art. The subtle interplay of colors, often in graduated tones or contrasting combinations, further adds to the visual narrative of the kimono. The choice of color could also be dictated by the season, with lighter, pastel shades for spring and summer, and richer, darker hues for autumn and winter.

Symbolic Motifs and Their Meanings

The patterns on a geisha's kimono are far from purely decorative. Each motif is imbued with cultural and spiritual significance, acting as a visual vocabulary. Golden's descriptions often hint at these deeper meanings. For example, a kimono adorned with pine trees might symbolize steadfastness and enduring strength, while motifs of waves could represent resilience and the flow of life. Butterflies often symbolize transformation and joy, and a kimono featuring blooming peonies might speak of prosperity and beauty. The placement and density of these patterns also played a role. A busy, all-over pattern might be suitable for a younger geisha, while a more sparse, artfully placed motif could indicate a higher level of refinement and taste.

The Layers of a Geisha's Attire: More Than Just a Kimono

While the outer kimono is the most striking element, a geisha's ensemble is a complex layering of garments, each with its own purpose and aesthetic. *Memoirs of a Geisha* offers glimpses into this intricate dressing ritual, highlighting how each piece contributes to the overall image of grace and artistry.

The Undergarments and Their Role

Beneath the ornate outer kimono lie several layers of undergarments, including the *juban*. The *juban* is a crucial part of the ensemble, often featuring a visible collar that is meticulously arranged. The color of the *juban* collar can also carry symbolic meaning, with white traditionally worn by unmarried women and often indicating purity or a certain formality. The way the *juban* peeks out at the neckline and sleeves is an art in itself, carefully orchestrated to add subtle visual interest without detracting from the main kimono. The very act of dressing in these layers was a ritual, a process that prepared the geisha for her public performance, both physically and mentally.

The Obi: A Work of Art in Itself

The obi, the wide sash that cinches the kimono at the waist, is another incredibly important and often elaborate component. In *Memoirs of a Geisha*, the obi is described as being just as significant as the kimono itself. These sashes are often made of

contrasting silk, sometimes richly embroidered or woven with intricate patterns. The knot of the obi, known as the *musubi*, is also a form of art, with different styles of knots signifying different things or simply being chosen for their aesthetic appeal. The obi adds structure and emphasis to the geisha's silhouette, and its luxurious material and design would further enhance her overall presentation.

The Kimono as a Symbol of Status and Identity

Within the hierarchical world of the geisha, the kimono served as a clear indicator of status, experience, and even artistic specialization. The novel masterfully illustrates how the geisha's attire was a carefully curated projection of her public persona.

From Maiko to Geiko: Evolving Attire

The journey from a young *maiko* to a fully-fledged *geiko* (the Kyoto term for geisha) is marked by significant changes in their kimono. *Maiko* typically wear brightly colored, elaborately decorated kimonos with long, swinging sleeves called *furisode*. Their hair is often adorned with numerous hair ornaments, known as *kanzashi*, which are also seasonally themed. As a geisha matures and becomes a *geiko*, her kimono becomes more understated in color and pattern, reflecting a more mature and sophisticated elegance. The *furisode* is replaced by shorter-sleeved kimonos, and the *kanzashi* become more refined. This transition in attire signifies her transition from an apprentice to a

respected artist, her mastery of the geisha arts, and her established place in society.

The Kimono and the Art of Performance

The kimono is intrinsically linked to the geisha's performance. The rustle of silk, the graceful sway of the sleeves, the vibrant colors – all contribute to the mesmerizing spectacle that a geisha presents to her guests. The specific kimono worn for an occasion would be chosen to complement the mood, the type of entertainment, and the desires of the patrons. A kimono with bold, dynamic patterns might be chosen for a lively gathering, while a more serene design could be selected for an intimate tea ceremony. The geisha's ability to move gracefully in her voluminous kimono is a testament to years of training and practice, further enhancing her aura of mystique and allure.

The Enduring Legacy of the Memoirs of a Geisha Kimono

The impact of *Memoirs of a Geisha* extends beyond its literary merits. The novel, and the subsequent film adaptation, brought the world of geisha and their exquisite kimonos to a global audience, sparking a renewed interest in Japanese culture and traditional crafts. The imagery of Sayuri in her beautiful kimonos remains etched in the minds of many readers and viewers.

While the traditional practice of geisha life is deeply rooted in history, the kimono itself continues to be a revered garment. It is a symbol of Japan's rich cultural heritage, a testament to the

enduring beauty of traditional craftsmanship, and a reminder of the artistry and dedication that goes into creating such magnificent attire. The kimonos depicted in *Memoirs of a Geisha* serve as a powerful reminder of a bygone era, a world of delicate courtesies, profound artistic expression, and unparalleled sartorial elegance. They invite us to appreciate the intricate details, the symbolic meanings, and the sheer artistry that makes the geisha kimono a timeless icon of Japanese beauty.

The Enchanting Kimono in Memoirs of a Geisha: A Deeper Dive into Symbolism, Craftsmanship, and Cultural Significance

Arthur Golden's seminal novel, ["Memoirs of a Geisha,"](#) and its subsequent acclaimed film adaptation, transported audiences into the captivating world of Kyoto's geiko and maiko. While the narrative itself is a masterclass in storytelling, delving into themes of love, duty, and resilience, the visual and symbolic weight of the **kimono** cannot be overstated. More than mere garments, these exquisite pieces of art are integral to the characters' identities, their social standing, and the very essence of the geisha tradition. This article will explore the multifaceted significance of the kimono as depicted in "Memoirs of a Geisha," examining its symbolism, the intricate craftsmanship involved,

and its vital role in preserving and presenting a rich cultural heritage.

Kimono as Identity: More Than Just Clothing

In "Memoirs of a Geisha," the kimono is a powerful indicator of a character's stage of life, social status, and even their emotional state. For Sayuri, the protagonist, her journey from a poverty-stricken fishing village to the prestigious Gion district is visually marked by her evolving attire. Early in the novel, her simple, worn kimonos reflect her humble origins. As she blossoms into a maiko (an apprentice geisha), her kimonos become increasingly elaborate, signaling her growing skill and acceptance within the okiya (geisha house). The vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and luxurious fabrics all contribute to the alluring persona she cultivates.

The distinct differences between the kimonos worn by geiko (fully fledged geisha) and maiko are meticulously detailed. Maiko, for instance, wear furisode kimonos, characterized by their long, flowing sleeves, symbolizing their unmarried status and youth. These sleeves can reach the ground and are often adorned with bold, playful designs. In contrast, geiko wear tomesode kimonos, which have shorter sleeves, signifying their maturity and established position. The shift from furisode to tomesode is a pivotal moment in a maiko's career, a visual transition that mirrors their personal and professional development. This sartorial evolution is not just about fashion;

it's about embodying the grace, elegance, and refined artistry expected of a geisha.

Furthermore, the choice of kimono can subtly convey a geisha's personality and artistic inclinations. A maiko might choose a kimono with motifs of cherry blossoms to signify fleeting beauty and springtime, while another might opt for designs featuring cranes, symbolizing longevity and good fortune. These choices are not arbitrary; they are carefully considered to project a specific image and to engage with the aesthetic sensibilities of their patrons. The kimono, in essence, becomes a canvas for self-expression and a silent language of communication within the geisha community and to the outside world.

The Artistry of the Kimono: A Testament to Japanese Craftsmanship

The portrayal of kimonos in "Memoirs of a Geisha" is a celebration of unparalleled Japanese craftsmanship. The novel, and by extension the film, vividly depicts the meticulous attention to detail that goes into the creation of each garment. From the selection of the finest silks to the intricate dyeing and weaving techniques, every step is a testament to centuries of tradition and artistry.

Silk Weaving and Dyeing: Threads of Tradition

The foundation of a geisha's kimono is often the highest quality silk. The novel mentions the luxurious feel and lustrous sheen of these fabrics, which are essential for creating the flowing drape

and vibrant colors characteristic of geisha attire. Techniques such as yuzen dyeing, where intricate patterns are hand-painted onto the fabric using rice paste to create resist lines, are implied. This method allows for incredibly detailed and nuanced designs, from delicate floral motifs to sweeping landscapes. Another significant technique is embroidery, where silk threads of various colors are meticulously stitched to add texture and depth to the patterns. The sheer labor and skill involved in these processes are staggering, making each kimono a unique work of art.

Obi and Accessories: The Finishing Touches

Beyond the kimono itself, the obi, or sash, plays a crucial role in completing the ensemble. The obi is typically made of heavier silk than the kimono and can be intricately woven or embroidered. The way it is tied – often in a complex knot at the back – is also an art form, and different knots can signify different occasions or status. The colors and patterns of the obi often complement or contrast with the kimono, creating a harmonious or striking visual effect. The novel also alludes to other accessories, such as the obijime (cord worn over the obi), obidome (decorative clasp), and tabi (split-toe socks), all of which contribute to the overall polished and refined appearance.

The sheer complexity and cost of these garments are also highlighted, underscoring the financial investment and dedication required to maintain the geisha lifestyle. Each kimono represents a significant expense, a fact that emphasizes the geisha's role as a purveyor of beauty and refinement, a living embodiment of Japanese aesthetic traditions.

The Kimono's Role in the Geisha's Performance and Social Rituals

The kimono is not merely for visual appeal; it is inextricably linked to the geisha's performance and the social rituals of their world. The way a geisha moves in her kimono, the rustle of the silk, the gentle sway of her sleeves – all contribute to the mystique and allure she projects.

Graceful Movement and Presentation

The voluminous nature of a geisha's kimono, particularly the furisode of a maiko, dictates a specific style of movement. Geisha are trained to walk with a gliding motion, their steps small and deliberate, to avoid tripping in their geta (wooden sandals) and to accentuate the graceful flow of their sleeves. This controlled elegance is an essential part of their performance, creating a mesmerizing visual spectacle for their guests. The rustle of the silk is a subtle soundtrack to their presence, a soft whisper of luxury and artistry.

Symbolism in Performance and Patronage

The choice of kimono for a particular engagement can also be symbolic. A geisha might select a kimono with motifs relevant to the season or the specific theme of the evening's entertainment. For instance, a kimono adorned with plum blossoms might be chosen for a winter gathering, signifying resilience and hope. The intricate patterns and rich colors are designed to captivate and

engage the senses of the patrons, enhancing the overall experience of an evening at a geisha house. The kimono, therefore, becomes an active participant in the art of entertainment, a silent partner in the conversations, music, and dances that define a geisha's work.

The patrons themselves, often wealthy and influential men, appreciate the artistry and symbolism of the kimonos, recognizing them as markers of refinement and cultural sophistication. The kimono serves as a bridge between the geisha's art and the patron's appreciation for Japanese aesthetics, fostering a deeper connection and mutual respect.

The Kimono in "Memoirs of a Geisha": A Window into a Vanishing World

In many ways, "Memoirs of a Geisha" serves as a poignant elegy to a traditional way of life that has faced significant challenges and transformations. The kimonos, as depicted in the novel and film, are a vital part of this legacy. They represent a dedication to preserving traditional crafts and aesthetic values in an increasingly modernizing world.

The detailed descriptions of the kimonos offer readers and viewers a tangible connection to this often misunderstood profession. They highlight the immense skill, dedication, and artistry that go into being a geisha, dispelling common misconceptions and fostering a greater appreciation for the cultural significance of this tradition. The vibrant silks, the

meticulous stitching, the symbolic motifs – all contribute to a rich tapestry of cultural heritage that "Memoirs of a Geisha" so beautifully captures.

In conclusion, the kimono in "Memoirs of a Geisha" is far more than a costume. It is a potent symbol of identity, a testament to exquisite craftsmanship, and an integral element of the geisha's performance and social role. Through its vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and flowing lines, the kimono not only adorns the characters but also tells their stories, embodying the beauty, grace, and enduring spirit of a unique and fascinating cultural tradition. The enduring appeal of "Memoirs of a Geisha" is, in no small part, due to its masterful depiction of these magnificent garments, which continue to enchant and inspire.

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Questions & Answers About memoirs of a geisha kimono

No	Question	Answer
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1	What are the most iconic kimono styles seen in 'Memoirs of a Geisha' and what do they signify?	The film prominently features the 'furisode' (long-sleeved kimono) for unmarried geisha, symbolizing youth and beauty. 'Tomesode' (shorter-sleeved kimono) are worn by married women and those of higher status. The intricate patterns and colors often reflect the wearer's age, social standing, and the specific occasion.
2	How historically accurate are the kimono depictions in 'Memoirs of a Geisha'?	While visually stunning, the kimono in the film are more stylized for dramatic effect than strictly historically accurate. The colors and patterns are often bolder and more vibrant than what might have been common in the everyday wear of geisha during the era depicted. However, the general styles and the art of kimono dressing are well-represented.
3	What is the significance of the obi (sash) worn with a geisha's kimono in the movie?	The obi is a crucial element of the geisha's attire. In 'Memoirs of a Geisha,' the obi's placement and knotting (often a 'taiko musubi' or drum knot) are meticulously shown, signifying formality and elegance. The width and material of the obi also contribute to the overall impression of the geisha's status and refinement.

4	Did the actresses in 'Memoirs of a Geisha' wear authentic kimonos, or were they replicas?	The film utilized a combination of authentic vintage kimonos and meticulously crafted replicas. The costume designers worked extensively to ensure the garments were as close to historical accuracy as possible while also meeting the demands of film production and visual storytelling.
5	What are the key visual elements of a geisha's kimono that make it distinct from other traditional Japanese garments?	Geisha kimonos are distinguished by their exquisite craftsmanship, often featuring hand-painted or embroidered designs. They are worn with elaborate obi, specific hairstyles, and traditional footwear like 'okobo' (wooden sandals). The overall presentation aims for an idealized and graceful aesthetic, emphasizing artistry and tradition.
6	How does the progression of Sayuri's kimono style reflect her journey in 'Memoirs of a Geisha'?	Sayuri's kimono evolves throughout the film, mirroring her transformation from a young maid to a seasoned geisha. Initially, she wears simpler, less ornate attire. As she gains experience and confidence, her kimonos become more elaborate and sophisticated, showcasing her growing artistry and mastery of the geisha's world.

7	Beyond aesthetics, what practical considerations were likely involved in dressing an actress in a geisha kimono for filming?	Dressing in a geisha kimono is a complex process requiring assistance. The multiple layers, tight obi, and specific undergarments (like a 'hadajuban') restrict movement and can be quite warm. For filming, ease of movement, durability, and maintaining the precise appearance despite repeated takes would have been significant practical concerns for the costume department.
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