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The Sound of Waves: A Modern Japanese Adaptation of Daphnis and Chloe

Longus' *Daphnis and Chloe* has been the inspiration for a number of works in a wide range of fields including literature, theater and the visual arts. The novel's prolific nachleben extends to the Far East – in 1954 the Japanese author Yukio Mishima (1924-1970) transferred the story to his native country and wrote *Shiosai* or *The Sound of Waves*, a work that has proved immensely popular and has spawned its own set of translations (including one in English and another in Greek(!)) and at least six film adaptations. In my presentation, which will be accompanied by PowerPoint slides, I will address the following issues relating to Mishima's novel and the classics:

1. An overview of the Japanese author's exposure to the Greek and Roman classics together with a brief discussion of his other classics-inspired works, which include a travelogue describing his impressions of Greece and Rome, a short story based on Euripides' *Medea*, and a Kabuki play inspired by the Hippolytus-Phaedra legend.
2. An analysis of *The Sound of Waves* and its comparison with *Daphnis and Chloe* from the viewpoint of gender and group identity.
3. A brief description of the film adaptations of Mishima's novel, especially the animated version which is commercially available in the U.S. with English subtitles.

It is hoped that the presentation will contribute to the audience's understanding of the global influence of the classics in the modern world as well as provide hints for possible classroom use of Mishima's novel together with *Daphnis and Chloe*.