



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 78-7

THE WIND CHIMES OF SUMMER

73 feet 2 min. 1 sec.

1. (TRANSPARENT BALL) Japan's hot summer days become wind concerts as the summer breezes jingle "wind chimes" or furin. Tradition says that the music of the furin beckons a cooling wind on a hot day.
2. (MOLTEN GLASS) Glass for making furin is heated to 1,200° Centigrade. The Shinohara family of Tokyo have been carrying on the art of making wind chimes for three generations.
3. (BLOWING) Yoshiharu Shinohara demonstrates the craftsmanship necessary to make the glass spheres which are to become furin. It might look easy, but to form perfect orbes takes years to master.
4. (WITH SON) Mr. Shinohara and his son work long hours each day to make 700 furin. The work is hot and demanding; but they have the satisfaction of knowing that they can make the wind sing.
5. (PAN BACK FROM WINDOW) The whole family is involved in the business... painting the furin from the inside is the traditional method for coloring.
6. (BOXES OF BALLS) Furin made by the Shinohara family are sold mainly in Japan, but some are exported. Using the same techniques, the family also makes Christmas ornaments.

7. (WOMAN CUTTING STRING) The craft of making furin is old... but the music of the wind as played by the furin is as young as today. The traditional art form, as practiced by the Shinoharas, insures that people all over the world can enjoy the wind's song for years to come.

COUNTERING OIL SPILL POLLUTION

62 feet 1 min. 43 sec.

1. (BUILDING) How can petroleum be transported across the seas and still insure the preservation of the environment? In Tsukuba, northeast of Tokyo, the Oil Spill Prevention Institute is attempting to solve the many complex problems caused by oil spills on the world's oceans.
2. (WAVES) The wave generator in this pool can simulate nearly any condition encountered at sea.
3. (SHIP MODEL) Special data processing and video equipment are used to analyze the motions of the model ships in the tank. The data generated by experiments like this should make the transportation of oil more secure.
4. (SKIMMER) To solve some of the problems caused by oil spills at sea, model simulations are often used to anticipate problems for oil skimming equipment. Careful adjustments must be made before this skimmer can operate efficiently. It is hoped that the results of these studies will prove beneficial to all nations.
5. (EQUIPMENT ROCKING) The undulations of these models provide the kind of information necessary to design equipment to meet today's oil spill challenge.

FLOWER WATCHERS

48 feet 1 min. 20 sec.

1. (GATE) With the coming of early summer, the Japanese like to reflect on the pastoral aspects of life surrounded by flowers in soft pastel shades. Temples all over Japan offer flower fanciers a superb opportunity to engage in their chosen pastime.
2. (FLOWERS) Sometimes known as the "Temple of the Hyderanea", the Meigetsu-in Temple in Kamakura presents 2,000 hyderaneas for visitors to view.
3. (PURPLE FLOWER) In Japanese "ajisai"... the word for hyderanea... means literally "purple sun flower"... and as the color of the flower petals darken with each day's passing... the approach of the hottest days of summer can be seen. People from all walks of life seem to appreciate the subtle message of the flowers.
4. (GARDEN) Another favorite for flower watchers is the Meiji-Jingu Garden in the heart of Tokyo.
Here, the early summer iris blooms, giving the viewers a chance to see a vast array of soft color represented by over 200 varieties of this flower. The thousands of plants provide a colorful panorama.
5. (STROLLERS) Strollers... picture takers... amateur artists... and those who want a break from everyday routine come to see these colorful summer blossoms. During the flower season over 10,000 people a day come for a look.
The flower watchers of Japan... like people the world over, looking to flowers and reflecting on the changes of the season.

TAKARAZUKA CITY

- MODERN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER -

147 feet 4 min. 05 sec.

1. (CITY) Situated on the banks of the Seida River in picturesque Hyogo Prefecture... Takarazuka City is today playing an important role in Japan's contemporary cultural life.
2. (RESORT BUILDINGS) Well known since the middle ages as a hot springs resort....
3. (FOUNTAIN) The modern city of 200,000 today is thought of as a suburb of the cities of Osaka and Kobe.
4. (POSTERS) But Takarazuka City is more than just a simple suburban community... stemming from its ancient resort traditions, and because of its beauty and convenient location, Takarazuka City is now a modern entertainment center.
5. (ROLLER COASTER) A great attraction for young and old alike... Family Land Amusement Park provides entertainment for over 4,000,000 people per year... rides... entertainment... family fun....
6. (MERRY-GO-ROUND) What child could resist this merry-go-round?
7. (THEATER EXTERIOR) In the center of Family Land is the world-famous Takarazuka Theater.
8. (OLD PHOTO) Founded in 1914 to promote the nearby Hankyu Railway, the Takarazuka Opera Company has created its own very special traditions in entertainment. The "all-girl" company has established itself as a leader in today's entertainment world.

9. (SHOES) To become one of the famous "Takarazuka Girls" is by no means easy. The Takarazuka Music School is the first step for these aspiring performers. Entry is very difficult. Only 40 of the hundreds of applicants are accepted for the two-year course in ballet, music and social grace.

10. (TAPE RECORDER) Only graduates of this very special school can enter the Takarazuka Opera Company. Upon entry, the new entrant is assigned permanent role status... she will play either men's or women's parts exclusively.

Every day... its practice, practice, practice for the 400 girls in the Company.

A new member will be assigned to one of the 4 production teams.

11. (TAPE RECORDER) Only one team at a time is performing at the Takarazuka Theater... the other teams are either in rehearsal or performing on the road. Doing eight different productions each year requires hard work, stamina, and discipline on the part of all the performers.

12. (CU FACE) Many of the Takarazuka performers have become popular stars.

13. (PRODUCTION) The lavish Takarazuka productions have thrilled audiences for many years... also, many of these outstanding productions have been taken overseas. Audiences all over the world have had a chance to glimpse the magic that has made this one of the most respected song and dance companies in the world.

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