



# INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

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## Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 78-8

### - TAKAYAMA CITY - A TRADITION IN WOOD

151 feet 4 min. 12 sec.

1. (TRAIN) Only 3 1/2 hours from Nagoya by train... Takayama City stands as a reflection of Japan's past in today's contemporary world. About 400 years ago, this was a castle town... like a small Kyoto... on the banks of the Hida River.

The castle no longer stands, but Takayama remains as a prime example of traditional Japan. This city of 62,000 attracts over 2,000,000 tourists each year with its scenic splendor.

2. (BEAMS) Natural wood beams... carefully cut and aged... add majesty to the interiors of the old buildings. This art has long been a specialty of Takayama's carpenters.

3. (OLD HOUSES) Even the homes of the city bring to mind times of long ago.... A sense of history and beauty that no visitor can ever forget... a feeling of solitude and serenity in a modern nation.

4. (MARKET) Products brought each morning to the marketplace draw housewives from the surrounding area. The lure is not just the low prices but the opportunity to buy fresh, natural food from the nearby farms.

5. (WHITE/GRAY BUILDING) Visitors often wander into the Yatai Kaikan to see the famous yatai or ceremonial carts which are pulled in Takayama's noted spring and fall festivals.
6. (FESTIVAL) During a festival it is difficult to get a close look at the colorfully decorated yatai.
7. (CU OF YATAI) On close inspection... the artwork and carving prove to be intricate and of a delicate nature.
8. (WOOD CARVER) Wood carvers, of the enkubori style, provide much of the traditional craftwork for which Takayama is noted. The rough-hewn style that is still popular today is a specialty of Toshiro Miura who has been carving these objects for almost half a century.
9. (TOOLS) No machine could ever match his human touch.
10. (SNOW) Only an hour and a half by car from Takayama one finds snow... enough for skiing year round. Like the snow protected from the heat of summer... Takayama stands protected by the mountains from the encroachment of time.

BALLET UNDERWATER

PRINT

68 feet 1 min. 53 sec.

1. (TANK) A play with mermaids and fish!!  
An amusement park near Tokyo, provides all types of family entertainment.

2. (BLUE MERMAID) One of the most singularly interesting presentations to be seen is the Aquatic Ballet Theater. This is a truly unique form of theater... the basis is actually classical ballet.... The underwater choreography is produced by Reiko Kondo, a former professional ballerina.

Performing 10 meters underwater is hard work. It is difficult for even the most skilled swimmers to master the technique... it takes 6 months of intensive rehearsal for a performer to learn the art.

3. (MACHINERY) Keeping the water clear and at a stable temperature of 28° C. requires much complicated machinery. When the Aquatic Theater was built in 1964... all this equipment cost about 3,000,000 dollars.

4. (ENTERING WATER) Two different dramas are presented during each performance... one complete show lasts about two hours. The hard work and strict training pay off... what audience could resist a colorful show with dancing sea animals?

5. (JELLYFISH) There is no doubt that this theater will be thrilling and delighting audiences for many years to come.

#### KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH NATURE

53 feet 1 min. 28 sec.

1. (FLAMINGO) In Japan, only a generation ago... most children grew up on farms. Nature was something that could be touched. Today, with the advent of modern urban life, children seldom have a chance to learn about animals on a first hand basis.



The "Children's Zoo" in Itabashi, only a short distance from the center of Tokyo, was founded in 1974.... Its purpose... to give children a chance to really get to know animals. For some... it's like pictures from books coming to life.

2. (GIRL INSTRUCTOR) The thirteen types of animals on display are not just for viewing... an instructor is always present to teach proper care, feeding, and handling. A child who learns to love and respect animals should grow into a healthier and happier adult.

3. (PONY RIDE) A final treat... an opportunity to ride a pony. What better way is there for children to learn about the world in which they live?

#### FIREWORKS FOR A MID-SUMMER NIGHT

59 feet 1 min. 38 sec.

1. (TEMPLE) Historic Japan in the center of a modern, urban metropolis... the Senso Temple stands as a gateway to Asakusa, one of the oldest sections of Tokyo known as the Shita Machi area... The people of Asakusa have managed to preserve their past into the present day.

2. (RIVER) The Sumida River... a landmark of days gone by, sets the stage for today's outdoor entertainment.... Crowds come from all over to view a spectacular display of fireworks arranged by the Tokyo Municipal Government.

3. (FIREWORKS) On a mid-summer night... what better pastime could there be? The spectators... thrill to the explosive majesty. Popular years ago... this annual event has been revived and will be a welcome happening for many years to come.

4. (PROFILE GIRL'S FACE) The one hour show attracts 800,000 people. The color and excitement will be pleasant memories... no doubt nearly everyone will come again next year.

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