



INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

Harroti Bldg., 2-11-4 Kyobashi Chuo-ku, Tokyo Japan

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563-1341~4

# Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 82-12

## THE ART OF MIZUHIKI

87 feet 2 min 25 sec

1. (ORNAMENT, TEACHER) MIZUHIKI, the brightly-colored paper cords on a package, are the first thing that catches the eye on a Japanese gift.

Yusai Fukuyama is a famous master of the art of tying Mizuhiki ornaments. For centuries, Mizuhiki were used as ties for elaborately braided hair...until shorter hair styles became popular.

Depending on the occasion, the color of the strings used on a gift package will differ.

For example, the prescribed colors for an ordinary present are red and white. For a wedding gift, the Mizuhiki cords are gold and silver.

2. (FIVE SILVER CORDS) Mizuhiki usually consist of 5 strings in a bunch. In tying Mizuhiki, the tension used is also important. For a regular package, the decorative knot is tied loosely...to signify the hope that the happy occasion will be repeated.

But for a wedding or funeral offering, the knot is tight. The implied message is that there will be no recurrence of the event.

3. (SCHOOL, ELDERLY STUDENTS) Today, Mizuhiki are used for wrapping and decorating packages and Mr. Fukuyama's classes are always crowded with eager students of the art.

To make a Mizuhiki cord, a narrow strip of paper is rolled up diagonally from one corner. This is plunged into water, rolled up some more, and then stretched tightly.

The string is next covered with a thin layer of very bright colored paper.

4. (ORNAMENTS, FIGURINES) Mr. Fukuyama teaches applications for the Mizuhiki art.

A boat....a picture of a young warrior.....a golden peacock. All created from a simple material : paper.

#### ROBOTS MADE BY KIDS

62 feet 1 min 44 sec

1. (CONTEST, CHILDREN) For three years running, the Japan Science Museum has played host to a unique event...a robot contest. The contestants : young inventors of school and college age from all over Japan.

2. (STEPS, ROBOTS) One of the contest categories this year was called the "Step Walkman" test. Seventeen robots competed to see how fast they could climb the steps. They were also judged on originality of design. The winner was this Daddy Long-Legs robot.

3. (CAMERA ROBOT) In the general category, robots of every shape and description were shown. There was no limit put on what the robots could do.

This robot contains a microcomputer that can determine its direction...depending on which way the arrow in front of the camera is pointed.

4. (GRAFFITI ROBOT) This little fellow may remind some people of a three year-old kid with a crayon. His name is "Graffiti Boy" and he is programmed to write Japanese as well as a kindergarten student.

5. (TWO LEGGED ROBOT) Here's a replacement for man's best friend. This robot can take a walk with his master.

This machine was invented by a young man from Waseda High School.

The Annual Robot Contest is a great way to encourage budding inventors, while at the same time ensuring everyone has a good time of it.

#### JAPAN'S EXPRESS-WAYS

110 feet 3 min 3 sec

1. (CARS) Japan's expressways act as a vital internal lifeline for the nation, linking city with city, and city with countryside.

(CITY AERIAL SHOT) And within the major cities, they form a chain that ties one end of town to the other.

2. (MAP) Today, Japan has 24 major arteries, with a total length of nearly 3300 kilometers.

(RAMP, TOLLBOOTH) To support and maintain these vital highway links, tolls are collected throughout the expressway system.

3. (METROPOLITAN EXPRESSWAY) The purpose of these expressways is to help get drivers from here to there as easily and as quickly as possible. But with the limited space in Japan, this is no mean feat. In Tokyo alone, practically 7 million cars travel the roads daily.



4. (SENSORS, CAMERAS, PHONE) Supersonic sensors at strategic points along the road count the number of cars.

Emergency phones are posted every 500 meters to help drivers in distress.

And television cameras lining the expressway relay road information to the Traffic Control Center.

5. (CONTROL CENTER, PANEL MAP) Data from the supersonic sensors and TV cameras are analysed by computer at the Center.

The lights on the map show the traffic situation. Green indicates slight congestion, and red means a big traffic jam.

6. (SIGNBOARDS, RADIO) From the computer readouts, information is sent to electronic signboards to tell drivers how to avoid badly-congested roads, and even to suggest alternate routes.

7. (OVERHEAD SIGN) Signs light up to warn drivers of dangerous conditions ahead.

(RADIO STUDIO) Radio stations broadcast traffic reports at regular intervals.

(ROADSIDE WALL) Anti-noise pollution walls have been built where the expressway passes through or near residential areas. Speed sensors monitor the flow of traffic.

Japan's highways are meeting the challenge of today...and getting more people to more places, safely and speedily.

## MEIJI SHRINE FESTIVAL

89 feet 2 min 29 sec

1. (PEOPLE, SHRINE) The Autumn Festival at Tokyo's Meiji Shrine... a chance for many visitors to enjoy Japan's traditional performing arts.

2. (AIKIDO, YABUSAME, KENDO) One of the most colorful events is the Yabusame pageant, or archery of horseback.

A demonstration of Kendo swordsmanship... A show of Aikido, a kind of unarmed self-defense.

3. (DANCER) The Festival is a form of annual tribute to the Shinto gods. One way in which the gods are entertained is by traditional Japanese dance.

4. (BUGAKU, MUSICIANS) This year, Shrine visitors were treated to a rare spectacle. The Imperial Household Music Department performed a series of dances called Bugaku...an art form that dates back over 1400 years.

Legend has it that the 6th century regent Prince Shotoku offered a tax exemption to anyone who took up Bugaku dancing. Descendants of the original 6th century performers are in the dance company to this day !

Bugaku is really like a musical museum, containing a precious collection of old masterpieces from the art of dance.

There are very few public opportunities to see Bugaku, and other traditional arts that are performed on this occasion. The Meiji Shrine Festival offers a rare chance to sample a few of Japan's cultural treasures.