



# Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 83-5

## TOKYO'S DISNEYLAND

122 feet 3 min. 23 sec.

1. (AERIAL SHOW OF DISNEYLAND) First, it was Anaheim, California., then it was Orlando, Florida.

Now, the magic of Disneyland has come to Japan.

Tokyo's edition of Disneyland opened its gates on April 15th.

It is the biggest Disneyland of them all.

2. (DIXIELAND BAND) Most of the attractions are straight out of Americana, but the cast members are almost all Japanese.

3. (MICKEY MOUSE) Three times a day...there's a Song-and-dance Show put on at Disneyland. And Mickey Mouse gets into the act.

Over 80 Disney characters -- from Snow White to Pinocchio -- make the rounds shaking hands with visitors.

4. (ADVENTURELAND) There are 5 main theme areas at the park: Adventureland, World Bazaar, Frontierland, Fantasyland and Tomorrowland.

A ride through the jungle past waterfalls and true-to-life animal robots, just like a leisurely cruise down the Amazon....

A train ride on the Western River Railroad.

Visitors get to paddle canoes past Indian villages and Tom Sawyer's Island

There is even a paddle-wheel steamboat right out of Mark Twain.

5. (MAIN STREET, CINDERELLA'S CASTLE) Once a day, there's a parade down Disneyland's Main street, with floats representing the 5 main theme areas of the park.

There are few distinctly Japanese things about the park, outside of Japanese translations of everything. Tokyo's Disneyland is a generous slice of America.

Seen from a distance, the most striking sight is undoubtedly Cinderella's Castle. Rising up into the sky, it's a symbol of the wonderful world of fantasy that is Disneyland.

#### TAKARAZUKA ALL-GIRL REVUE

74 feet 2 min. 4 sec.

1. (PERFORMANCE) One of the perennial favorites of Japan's entertainment world -- the Takarazuka Opera Company.

The longest-running all-girl variety show in Japan. And still one of the most popular.

2. (THEATRE, SCHOOL EXTERIOR) Back in 1914, railroad promoter Ichizo Kobayashi came up with the idea of an all-girl theater company -- to bring business to the city of Takarazuka.

Since that time, over 800 stagestruck young girls compete every year to enter the special Takarazuka School.

3. (DANCE CLASS) Only one in ten is accepted into this exclusive school. And only graduates of the 2-year program may enter the Takarazuka troupe.

4. (ACTING CLASS) The Takarazuka company emphasizes the clean-cut image of its performers.

Discipline and old-fashioned hard work -- combined with the joy of performing make the Takarazuka company a winner, season after season.

5. (ONSTAGE, ACTRESSES) The All-Girl Takarazuka Revue has one of the most blindly devoted audiences on earth.

This is Mao Daichi, the hottest star in the company right now. Famous for her slicked-back hair and dashing tuxedo look.

The Takarazuka Company has 4 production troupes, providing an almost endless round of entertainment.

### BABY LOCOMOTIVE

72 feet 2 mon. 1 sec.

1. (TRAIN UP, ENGINEER) Ever since he was a boy, Kazue Sunagawa was crazy about trains.

Those mighty steam locomotives that would wail through the night and appear in his dreams.

2. (WORKSHOP, SUNAGAWA) This is one man who made his dream happen: he built every single nut and bolt of his very own miniature railroad!

Sunagawa started work on his train 10 years ago. He ran into all kinds of problems. Lack of parts and technical knowhow led him to rely on himself.

So he studied a vast array of steam locomotive models and proceeded to reproduce them -- piece by piece -- in his workshop in Tokyo.

3. (TRAIN, TRACKS, CHILDREN) The engine burns tiny chunks of coal that Sunagawa, acting as both fireman and engineer, has to keep feeding.

The engine alone took nearly a year to construct.

The first time he ran his steam locomotive in his backyard, the neighbors thought his house was on fire for all the smoke!

After he completed his first engine he already had plans for another. So far he's built 3 of them!

He's a very popular man in the neighborhood because he lets all of the children ride on his train for free.

CHERRY TREE SPLENDOR

75 feet 2 min. 6 sec.

1. (PARK, CHILDREN) April, a time of new beginnings. And the harbinger of spring makes its appearance -- the cherry trees in bloom.

For 51 weeks out of the year, the cherry tree is almost homely, of average height, plain bark and leaves.

But for one glorious week, the cherry trees in flower are second to none.

2. (PAINTER, TREES) For centuries, the brief existence of the cherry blossoms has been a symbol of the beauty and transience of life for the Japanese..

One writer called the faintly-pink petals of a single cherry blossom -- "a study in solitude". But row after row of blooming cherry trees is a spectacle.

3. (PRIME MINISTER, DIPLOMATS) The Prime Minister every year invites the diplomatic corps, the press, and political and entertainment figures to an informal gathering under the cherry trees.

Millions of people hold blossom-viewing parties as the "cherry blossom front" makes its way north through the Japanese islands.

4. (TREES, PETALS FALLING) No matter where you are in Japan, you don't have to go too far to enjoy cherry-blossom viewing. Cherry trees surround most public schools and government offices. In shrine and temple compounds, along rivers and streams.