

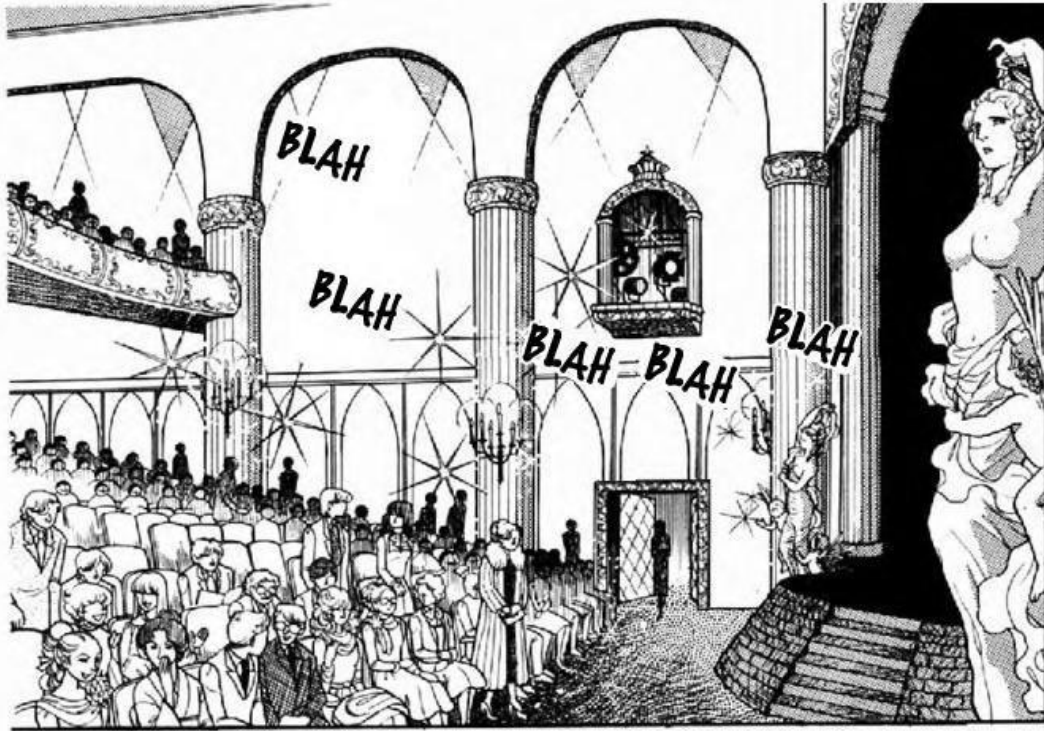
Romeo, Romeo!
Wherefore art
thou Romeo?

I'll express
happiness and
sadness, courage
and affliction,
the pain of love!
The flames of
Juliet's love...

A Juliet
without Romeo,
alone on
the stage.

My
acting
will be
passionate!

I'll act
my own
Juliet!



THE ENGLISH AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE, SCHOLARS, WRITERS, ACADEMICS...

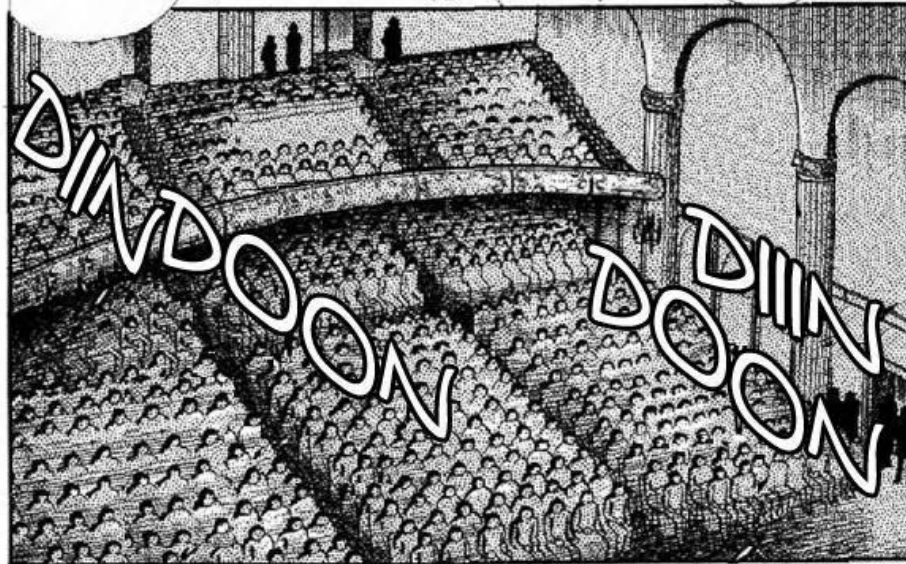
...YOU CAN WRITE AN ENTIRE ARTICLE JUST ABOUT THE AUDIENCE!

FROM KABUKI ACTORS TO BIG STARS FROM T.V., CINEMA, AND THEATRE.

WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE CROWD.

IT SEEMS LIKE AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB FOR FAMOUS PEOPLE.









AYUMI HIMEKAWA'S

JULIET

WAS A HIT!



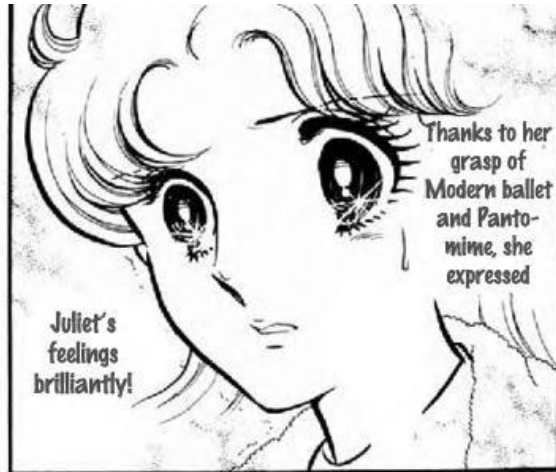
12#

The applause never stopped!



This challenge to Shakespeare was surmounted!

The English ambassador defined her as the best Juliet ever. Kyuzo Igarashi, an academic, declared her as a candidate for the Academic Arts Festival award. If she wins, she'll be the youngest actress to receive such important recognition.



Juliet's feelings brilliantly!

Thanks to her grasp of Modern ballet and Pantomime, she expressed

SPRUSH



There's such a gap between us....

I wonder what kind of Romeo and Juliet Ayumi played by herself...

Ayumi... The Academic Arts award...

The most prestigious recognition in the acting world!



I heard it's really difficult to win that award, even for veterans...

...and it's been unclaimed for some years!





IT'S CAUSED A SENSATION!

THANK YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL SOLO PERFORMANCE, AYUMI-SAN!

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS JULIET.



I CAN'T THINK OF ANOTHER JULIET ASIDE FROM AYUMI HIMEKAWA'S.

...BUT THIS IS THE PERFECT JULIET.

MANY ACTRESSES HAVE PLAYED THE ROLE OF JULIET...

LET'S LISTEN TO PROFESSOR TAKEHIKO MURASE, WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS RESEARCH INTO SHAKESPEARE...



MY DAUGHTER BEAT ME AS AN ACTRESS!

IT WAS SUCH A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

AFTER SEEING HER ON STAGE, I CAN SAY SHE HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY.

THE ACTRESS LITAKO HIMEKAWA, AYUMI'S MOTHER.

C'est tres bien! Ayumi produit sa propre Juliette. Elle joue parfaitement.

IT WAS A GREAT JOB! AYUMI PLAYED HER OWN JULIET. HER ACTING WAS PERFECT.

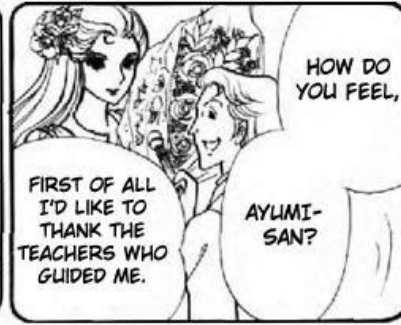
Elle est nee actrice. Je suis heureux de vous voir, Ayumi.

SHE IS A NATURAL BORN ACTRESS.

MAURIA-SAN, THE PANTOMIME EXPERT WHO DIRECTED AYUMI IN THE PLAY, SHOWED HIS UNCONDITIONAL ADMIRATION FOR HER.

I'M LUCKY TO HAVE MET YOU, AYUMI.

AYUMI-SAN...



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THIS PLAY WAS SEEN AS A CHALLENGE TO SHAKESPEARE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL,

FIRST OF ALL I'D LIKE TO THANK THE TEACHERS WHO GUIDED ME.

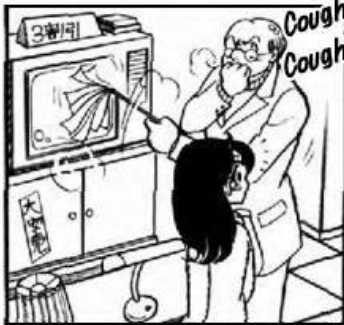
AYUMI-SAN?



Ayumi-san...

IT WAS A CHALLENGE TO ME UNTIL YESTERDAY.

I'M VERY HAPPY THAT I DID IT.



Cough Cough



What should I do to be a better actress than her?

What should I do? How can I get closer to Ayumi?

Ayumi-san...



A challenge to herself!



It was a challenge to me...

...until yesterday...



If you do it you can move forward!



Of course! You must challenge yourself first!



I won't hesitate anymore!

I won't look back!

I won't fall behind!

I'll keep walking, facing any adversity!

Drama Club

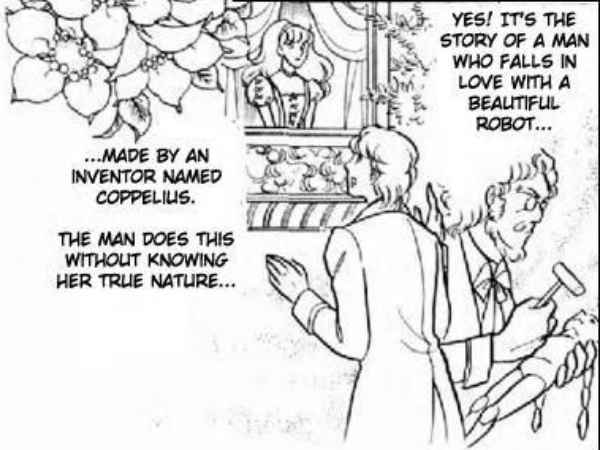


THE STORY IS
INSPIRED BY
THE FAMOUS
BALLET
COPPELIA.

NOW I'LL TELL
YOU ABOUT THE
EXPERIMENTAL PLAY
ORGANIZED BY THE
CULTURAL CLUB.

IT'S TITLE
IS MY
DARLING
OLAMPIA,
PRODUCT
NO. 707.

COPPELIA?



...MADE BY AN
INVENTOR NAMED
COPPELIUS.

THE MAN DOES THIS
WITHOUT KNOWING
HER TRUE NATURE...

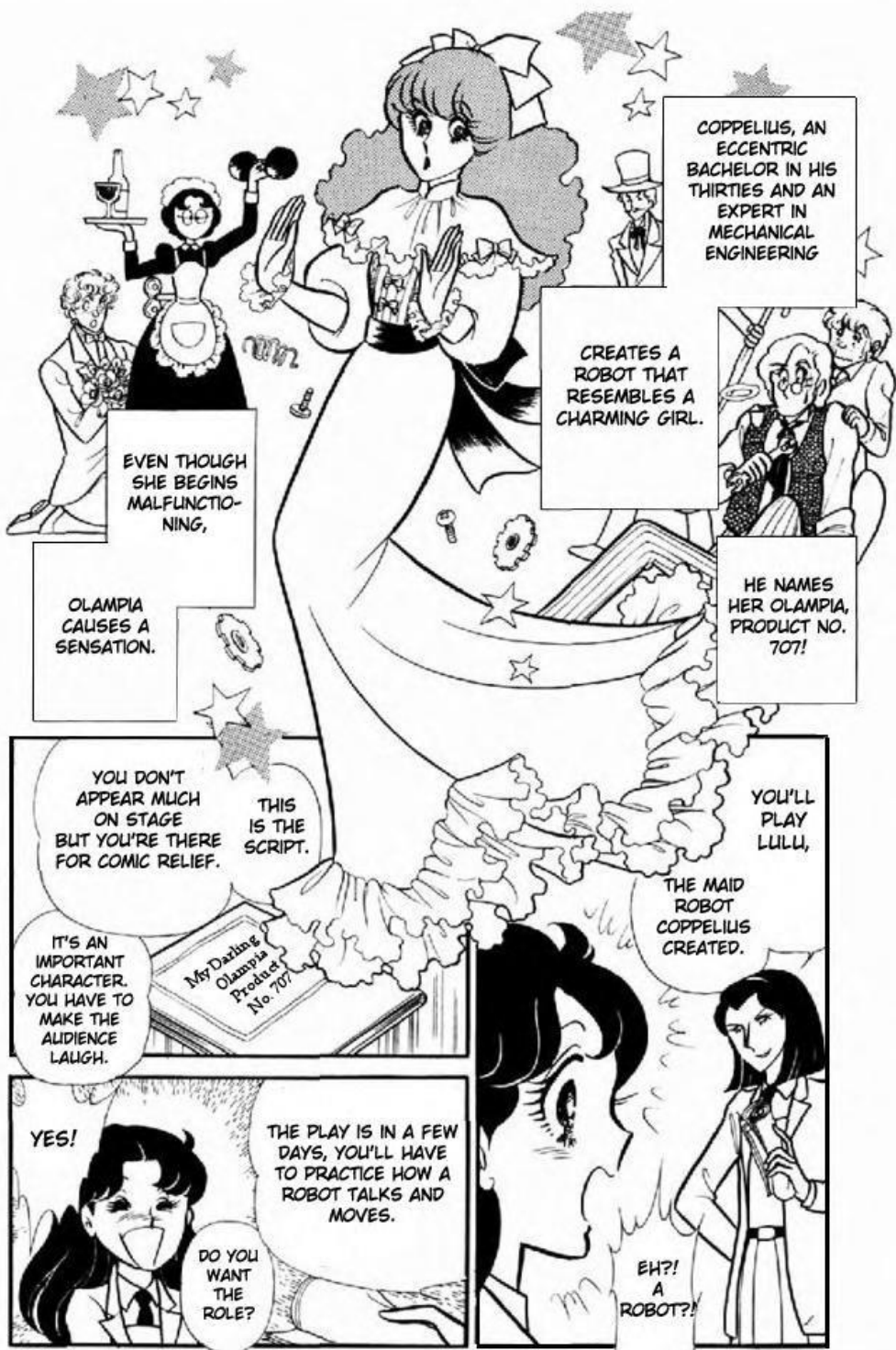
YES! IT'S THE
STORY OF A MAN
WHO FALLS IN
LOVE WITH A
BEAUTIFUL
ROBOT...



Ayumi is
a great
rival!

She's
wonderful!

Ayumi-san!



COPPELIUS, AN ECCENTRIC BACHELOR IN HIS THIRTIES AND AN EXPERT IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

CREATES A ROBOT THAT RESEMBLES A CHARMING GIRL.

HE NAMES HER OLAMPIA, PRODUCT NO. 707!

EVEN THOUGH SHE BEGINS MALFUNCTIONING,

OLAMPIA CAUSES A SENSATION.

YOU DON'T APPEAR MUCH ON STAGE BUT YOU'RE THERE FOR COMIC RELIEF.

THIS IS THE SCRIPT.

YOU'LL PLAY LULU,

THE MAID ROBOT COPPELIUS CREATED.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT CHARACTER. YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE AUDIENCE LAUGH.

My Darling Olampia Product No. 707

YES!

THE PLAY IS IN A FEW DAYS, YOU'LL HAVE TO PRACTICE HOW A ROBOT TALKS AND MOVES.

DO YOU WANT THE ROLE?

EH?! A ROBOT?!



I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE AS A ROBOT.

AND

I... SOME TIME AGO I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A DOLL IN A PLAY TITLED A STONE'S SMILE.



YES. I COULDN'T MOVE AS A DOLL.



I HAD TO SIT MOTIONLESS.

NO-THING?

WHAT DID YOU DO AS A DOLL?

NO-THING.



AH?



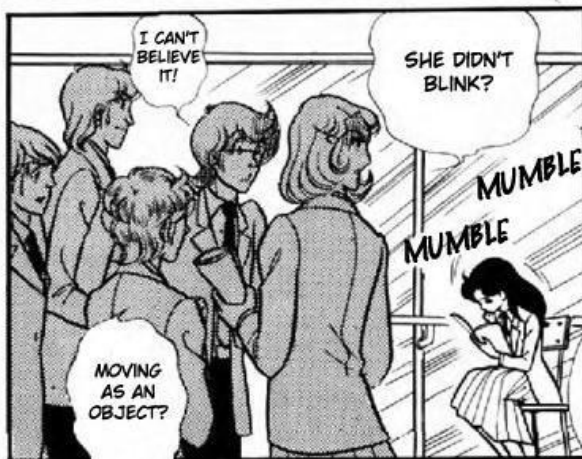
I HAD TO LEARN HOW SUCH AN OBJECT MOVED AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

HA HA HA HA HA HA

THEY LIFTED ME, DRESSED ME AND TOOK ME IN THEIR ARMS...

IF SOMEONE PUSHED ME I HAD TO FALL PROPERLY.







D-DON'T LET HER INTIMIDATE US! WE'LL SHOW HER HITOTSUBOSHI HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB IS AT A PROFESSIONAL LEVEL!

THAT GIRL PLAYED HELEN KELLER, THE DEAF AND DUMB GIRL...



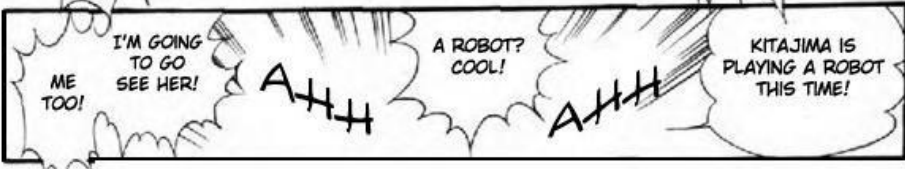
IT'LL TAKE PLACE IN THE AUDITORIUM, IN TWO WEEKS, ON SUNDAY.

THE ONE WHERE EVEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS AREN'T ALLOWED?

EVERYBODY'S GOING FOR SURE!

MAYA KITAJIMA WILL TAKE PART IN ONE OF THE DRAMA CLUB'S PLAYS?!

THE EXPERIMENTAL PLAY ORGANIZED BY THE CULTURAL CLUB?!



I'M GOING TO GO SEE HER! ME TOO!

A ROBOT? COOL!

KITAJIMA IS PLAYING A ROBOT THIS TIME!



WE TEACHERS, AREN'T ALLOWED...

I SEE...

A ROBOT? REALLY?

INTERESTING...

TEACHER'S ROOM



I'll cut the distance between us!



Practice after practice, play after play...

I work thinking of you...

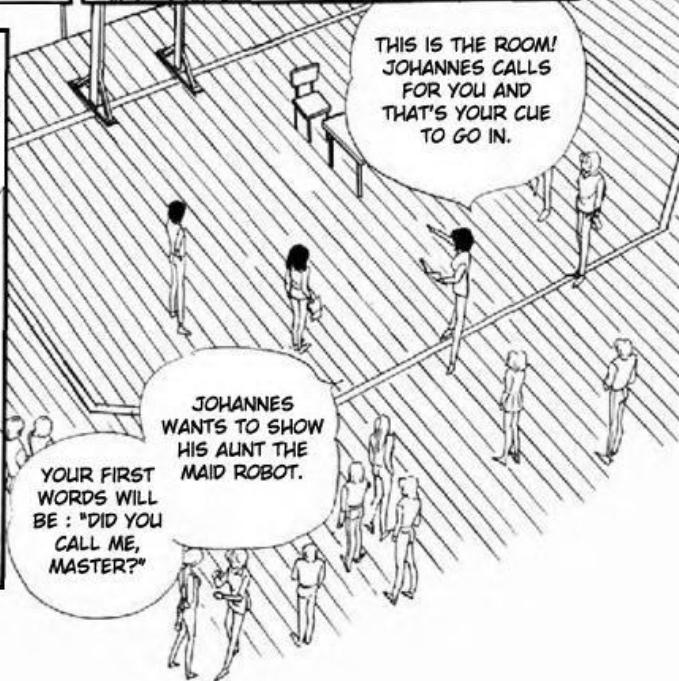
Ayumi-san...



...CLEAN AND COOK.

THEN HE'LL ORDER YOU TO PREPARE SOME TEA FOR HIS AUNT...

BUT IT WILL BE A DISASTER.



THIS IS THE ROOM! JOHANNES CALLS FOR YOU AND THAT'S YOUR CUE TO GO IN.

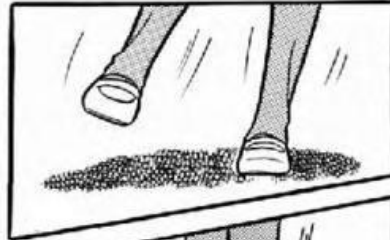
JOHANNES WANTS TO SHOW HIS AUNT THE MAID ROBOT.

YOUR FIRST WORDS WILL BE : "DID YOU CALL ME, MASTER?"

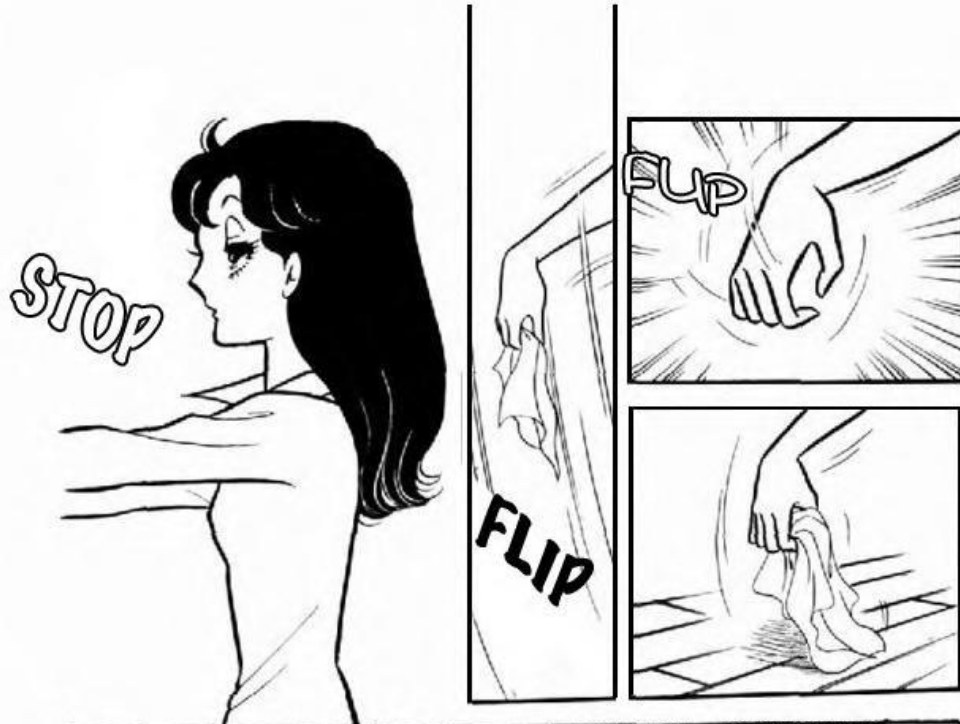
















1:50 p.m.

