



GULP!

MIRACLES

GULP!

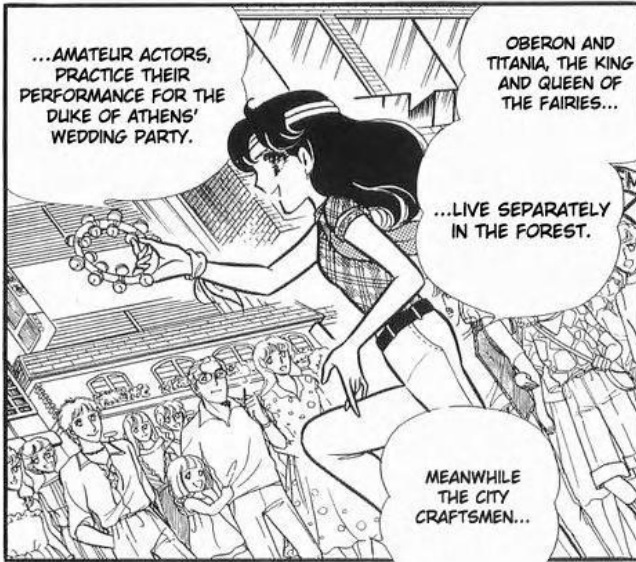
**LOOK HITHER,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!**

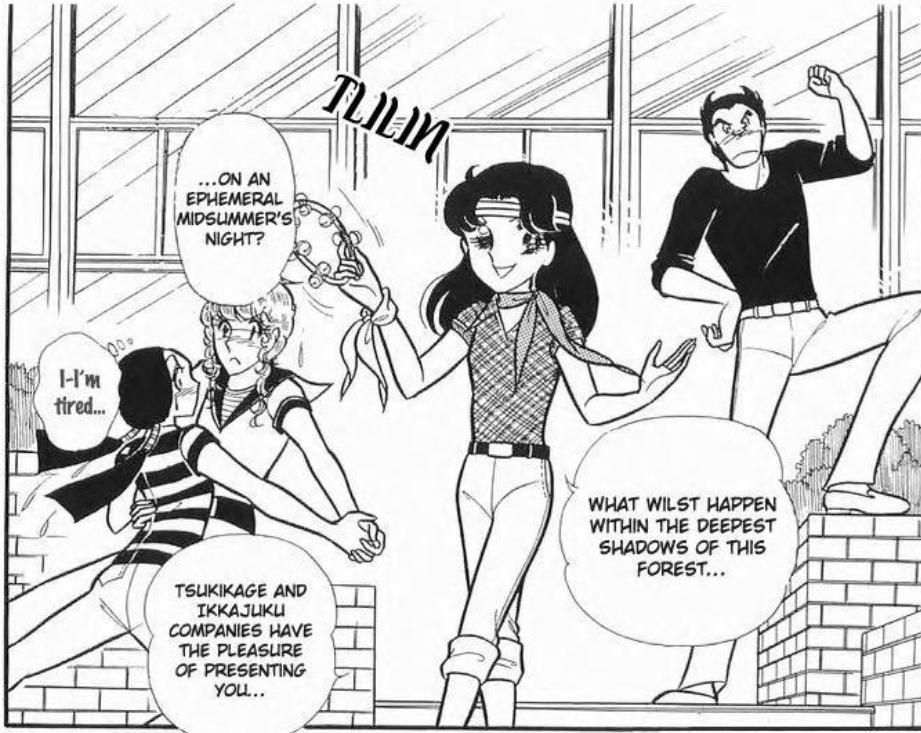
**I AM PUCK,
THE FOREST
FAIRY PUCK!**

**SOMEONE NAMED
SHAKESPEARE
CREATED ME!**









...ON AN EPHEMERAL MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT?

I-I'm tired...

TSUKIKAGE AND IKKAJUKU COMPANIES HAVE THE PLEASURE OF PRESENTING YOU...

WHAT WILST HAPPEN WITHIN THE DEEPEST SHADOWS OF THIS FOREST...

FLIM



TOGETHER WE WILL EXPERIENCE A PLEASANT DREAM ON A WARM MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT.

...AT INOGASHIRO PARK'S OUTDOOR THEATRE.

THE PERFORMANCE WILL TAKE PLACE ON 10-12 JULY...

... A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

FLIM



LET'S GO SEE!

SEEMS INTERESTING!

HEY, IT'S A CHARITABLE PLAY.

BLAH

BLAH



TSK!

BLAH

BLAH







I want to perform!

Ah! I can't wait!
I want to play Puck!



THE ACTORS USED THE COSTUMES FOR THE PLAY TO ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION.

THE FOLLOWING DAYS "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" WAS ADVERTISED LIKE A SHOW.

I'M RO-CHELLE...
...THE WEAVER.

COME AND SEE MY ADVENTURES IN "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM", AT INOGASHIRO PARK'S OUTDOOR THEATRE.

WAAA!
HE'S GOR-GEOUS!



KYAAA KYAAA

REI IS TOO EASY-GOING LATELY, DON'T YOU THINK?

DID SHE REACT AT LAST?

OR IS SHE DOING IT OUT OF DESPERATION?

NO NO NO

SHE'S SO STUPID!

BESIDES, I'M NOT ENGAGED!

MY BEAUTIFUL LADY... IT'S A PITY YOU'RE ENGAGED...

YOU COULD LIVE A SWEET MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM WITH ME...

YES! I'LL DEFINITELY COME TO SEE YOU.



PAT

WE'LL RECOMMEND THIS PLACE TO OUR FRIENDS.

WE'LL ENTERTAIN YOUR DEAR CUSTOMERS, YOU KNOW?

DON'T SAY THAT, BOSS!



THE ACTORS GO AROUND THE AREA ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO HANG UP POSTERS IN SHOPS AND PUBS.



YOU HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH US! PLEASE!

EH... DON'T TALK SO LOUD!

BESIDES... THIS IS A CHARITABLE PLAY!!



I'M SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T.



EVERY LOCAL BUSINESS ACCEPTS A POSTER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

BUT...

AH!

YOU AGREE THEN, DON'T YOU? THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

PEOPLE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD ARE GOOD PEOPLE INDEED.



MAYBE I'LL GO TOO.

WHAT ABOUT GOING TO SEE IT TO KILL SOME TIME?

OK, COUNT ME IN!



YOU'RE RIGHT.

HEY! ISN'T THAT THE PLAY THEY ARE ADVERTISING IN FRONT OF THE STATION?

I SAW THEM IN THE STREET.

IT SEEMS QUITE INTERESTING.



WE CAN HIT ON CUTE GIRLS TOO.

A PLAY IN THE OPEN AIR, AT THE PARK?



YOU ARE GOING TO ACT IN A CHARITABLE PLAY AT INOGASHIRO PARK'S OUTDOOR THEATRE, AREN'T YOU?

YES, I HEARD ABOUT YOU.

SEGAWA-SAN FROM THE MAICHO SHINBLIN?

I'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

O-OK...

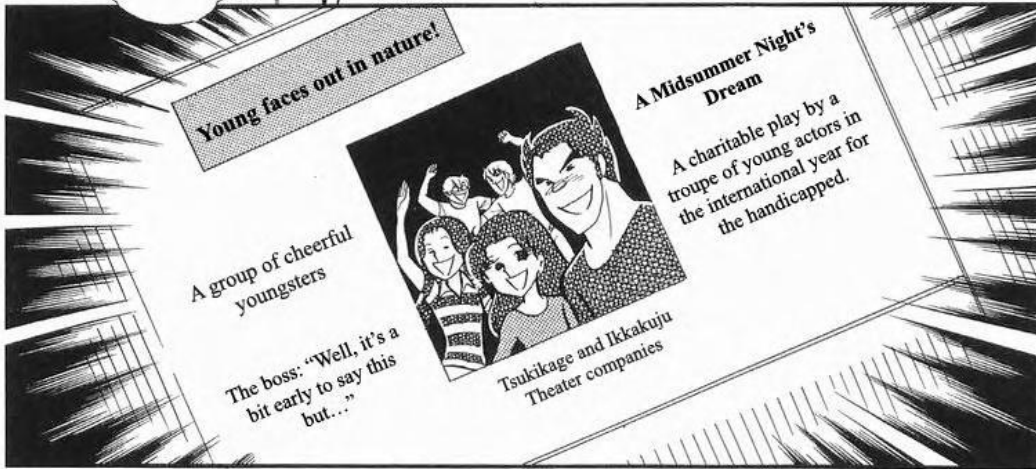


EH?
REALLY?

LOOK AT THE
HEADLINE!
'YOUNG FACES
OUT IN
NATURE!'

AH! HERE IT IS!
THERE'S AN
ARTICLE ABOUT
US IN THE
MAICHO
SHINBUN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HOW CAN SUCH AN
IMPORTANT
JOURNAL BE
INTERESTED IN
US...?



Young faces out in nature!

A group of cheerful
youngsters

The boss: "Well, it's a
bit early to say this
but..."



Tsukikage and Ikkakuju
Theater companies

A Midsummer Night's
Dream

A charitable play by a
troupe of young actors in
the international year for
the handicapped.



HAVE YOU
SEEN THE
PLAY LE-
AFLET?

IT MUST BE
ENTERTAINING IF THEY
ARE DOING THE PLAY
IN THE OPEN AIR,
DON'T YOU THINK?

YES, IT SEEMS
INTERESTING!

HEY, WHAT
ABOUT GOING TO
SEE THEM THIS
SATURDAY?

THERE IS AN
ARTICLE ABOUT
THE GUYS WHO
ADVERTISE THEIR
PLAY IN FRONT OF
THE STATION!

DID YOU
READ THE
MAICHO
SHINBUN?

IT MUST
BE WORTH
WATCHING IF
THEY WROTE AN
ARTICLE ABOUT
THEM.

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH



DIRECTOR, THE JOURNAL ADVERTISED THEIR PLAY... AND EMPHASIZED THE PLACE AND TIME!

A CHARITABLE PLAY, THEY HAD A GOOD IDEA...

THEY AREN'T NORMAL PEOPLE!

TSK!

FLAAP

アテネ座



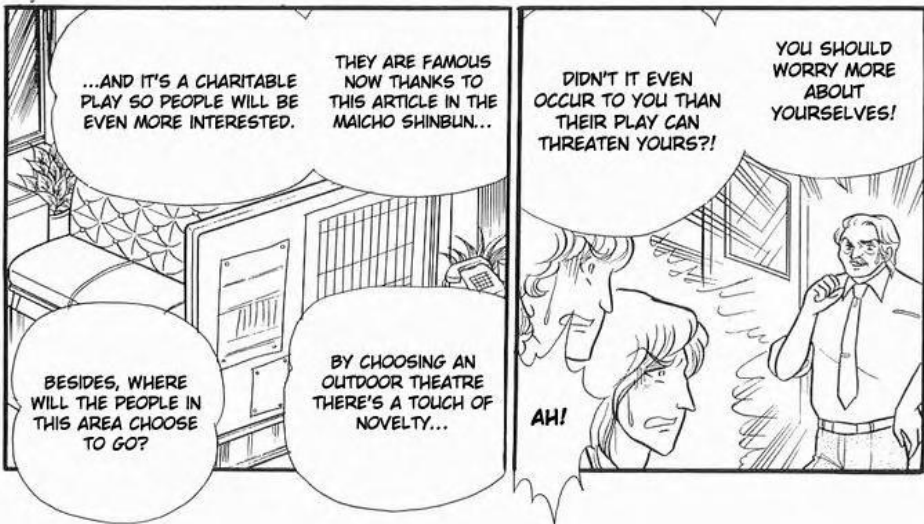
THAT UNKNOWN SCUM!

THEY'LL BE ABLE TO ACT HERE...

IF THE NUMBER OF THEIR AUDIENCE EXCEEDS THE NUMBER OF SEATS HERE WITHIN THE FIRST 3 DAYS OF THEIR PERFORMANCE...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO REGARDING THE PROMISE WE MADE THEM?

*ATHENS THEATRE



...AND IT'S A CHARITABLE PLAY SO PEOPLE WILL BE EVEN MORE INTERESTED.

THEY ARE FAMOUS NOW THANKS TO THIS ARTICLE IN THE MAICHO SHINBUN...

DIDN'T IT EVEN OCCUR TO YOU THAN THEIR PLAY CAN THREATEN YOURS?!

YOU SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT YOURSELVES!

BESIDES, WHERE WILL THE PEOPLE IN THIS AREA CHOOSE TO GO?

BY CHOOSING AN OUTDOOR THEATRE THERE'S A TOUCH OF NOVELTY...

AH!

...TO A PLACE SURROUNDED BY FOUR CONCRETE WALLS WHERE YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR AN EXPENSIVE TICKET?

TO A PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF NATURE OR...

YOU JUST SAID IT!

WE... WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF THEM!

...AND PUT YOUR PRIDE ASIDE...

MAYBE IF YOU HAD THE GUTS TO PERFORM IN THE STREETS...

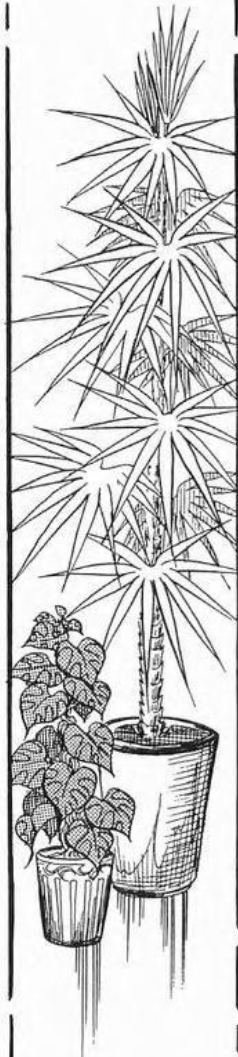
THEY ARE JUST SOME STREET PERFORMERS!

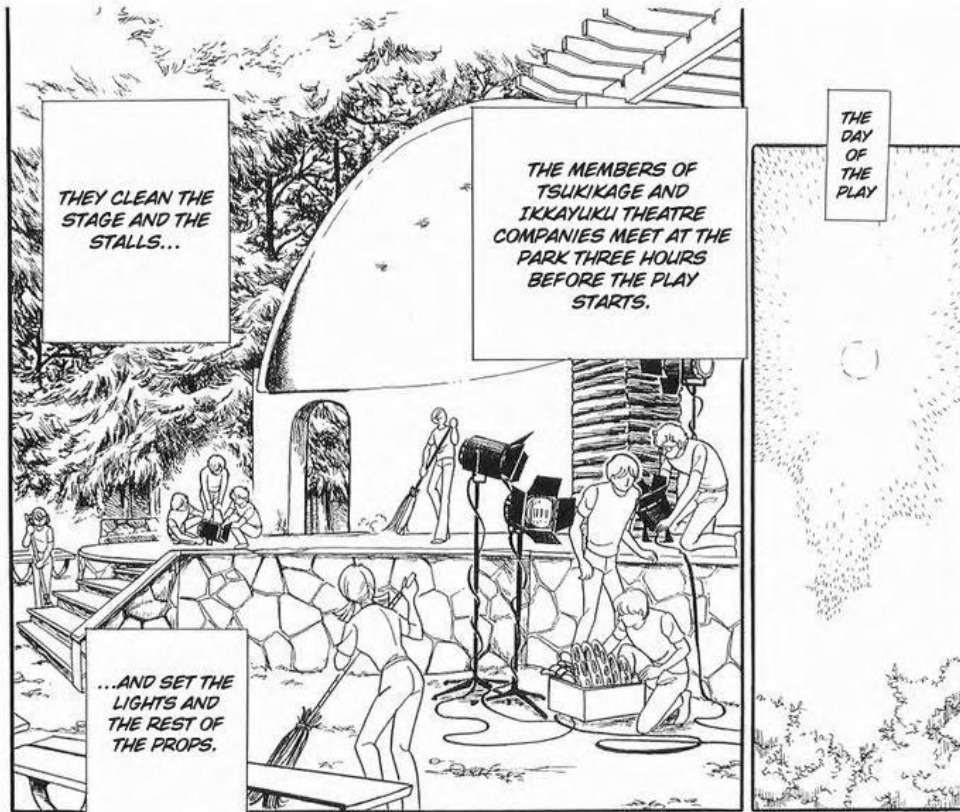
DON'T YOU REALIZE IT?

YOU BEHAVED LIKE AN IDIOT, DIRECTOR.

YOU MADE SOME STRONG ENEMIES!

WE WERE AT A DISADVANTAGE FROM THE BEGINNING!



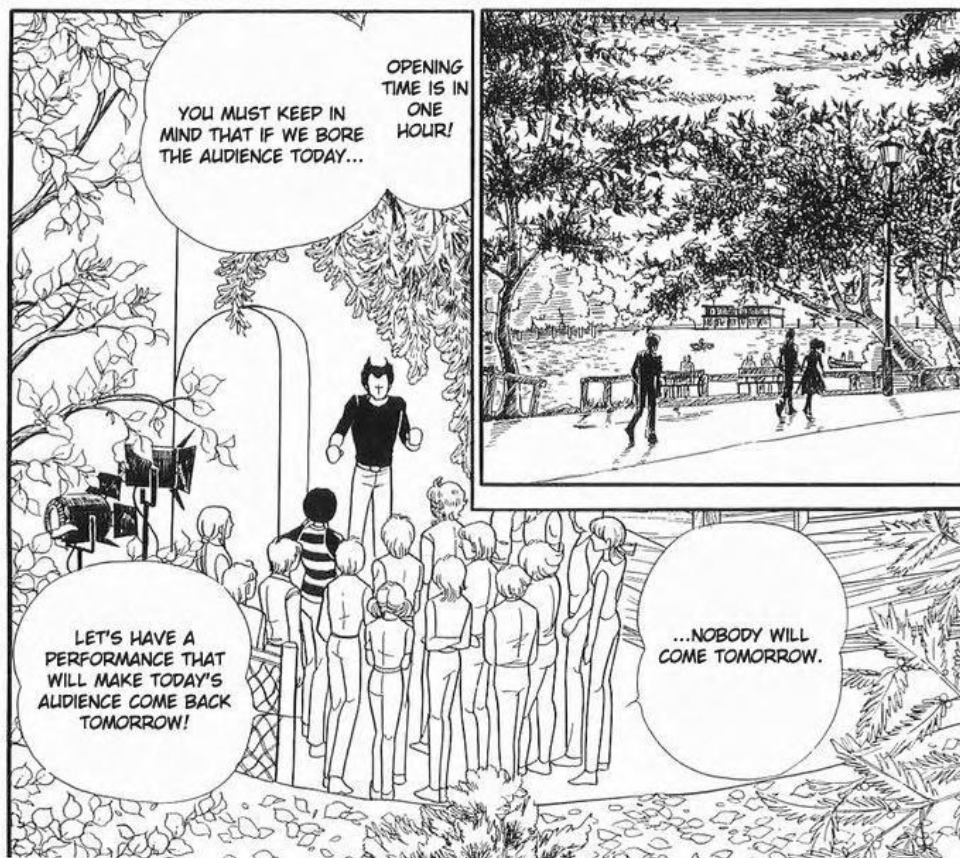


THEY CLEAN THE STAGE AND THE STALLS...

THE MEMBERS OF TSUKIKAGE AND IKKAYUKU THEATRE COMPANIES MEET AT THE PARK THREE HOURS BEFORE THE PLAY STARTS.

THE DAY OF THE PLAY

...AND SET THE LIGHTS AND THE REST OF THE PROPS.



YOU MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT IF WE BORE THE AUDIENCE TODAY...
OPENING TIME IS IN ONE HOUR!

LET'S HAVE A PERFORMANCE THAT WILL MAKE TODAY'S AUDIENCE COME BACK TOMORROW!

...NOBODY WILL COME TOMORROW.



I'M SO NERVOUS...

WE DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT ATHENS THEATRE NOW

BUT WILL WE BE ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE?

ONLY ABOUT OUR ACTING.



AH, REL...

WHAT IS IT, MAYA?



TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM IN THE MIDDLE OF NATURE...

WHAT A NICE FEELING...

LISTEN... WHEN THE WIND BLOWS, YOU CAN HEAR THE RUSTLING OF THE LEAVES.

SSSH

SSSSH

TO BE ABLE TO ACT THE PART OF THE FAIRY PUCK...

THE AIR CARRIES THE SCENT OF THE TREES AND THE GRASS.



THE MURMUR OF THE WIND AND THE LEAVES...

WE WERE SO IMMERSSED IN THE PLAY THAT WE FORGOT ITS ESSENCE!

YOU'RE RIGHT...

IT'S TRUE, YOU CAN FEEL THE WIND BLOWING!

THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE HARMONIZES WITH THE RUSTLE OF THE LEAVES...

AND LISTEN THE SOUND OF THE WIND... WHILE YOU FEEL THE EVENING AIR ON YOUR SKIN

WE ARE IN THE FOREST OF "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" NOW.

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ACT UNTIL WE CAN FEEL LIKE WE ARE ONE WITH NATURE.

AREN'T WE HAPPY TO BE HERE?

TELL ME, IS THERE ANY BETTER PLACE FOR OUR PLAY THAN THIS?

SSSSSH

AND THE RUSTLING OF THE LEAVES...



YES... I FEEL MUCH MORE RELAXED JUST BY LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF THE WIND!

ME TOO...



LET'S THINK ONLY ABOUT THE PLAY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE AUDIENCE OVERCROWDS THE SEATS OR NOT. PUTTING ALL OUR EFFORT INTO THE PLAY WILL BE ENOUGH FOR US.

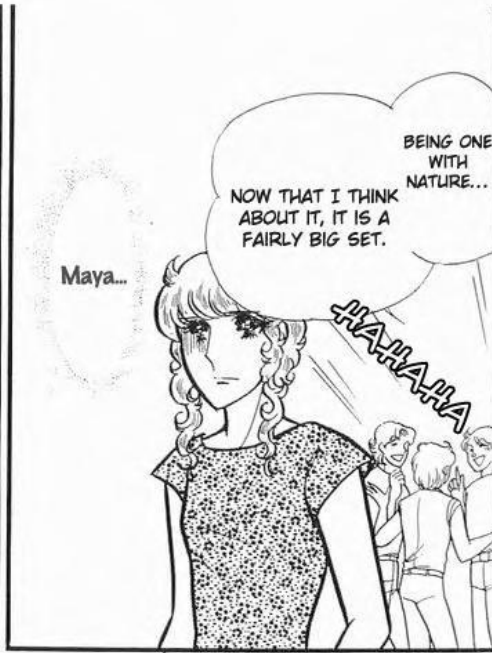


SSSSSH

SSSSSH



Sometimes you scare me!



Maya...

BEING ONE WITH NATURE...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT IS A FAIRLY BIG SET.

HAHAHA

They go to the restroom several times, drink water...

Actors are usually tense and nervous before their play starts...



What a character!!



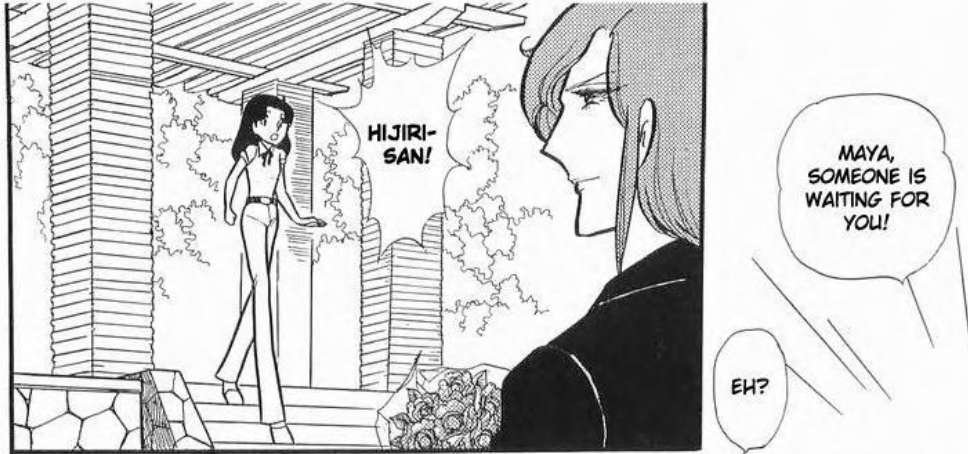
Maya, you are a special girl!

You've taken hold of the essence of the stage already!

And you instead listen to the wind blowing...

...and the rustling of the leaves...

And the air brings you the scent of the trees and the grass...



HIJIRI-SAN!

MAYA,
SOMEONE IS
WAITING FOR
YOU!

EH?



THANKS!

PURPLE
ROSES!

THOSE... ARE A
PRESENT FROM
YOUR ADMIRER,
FOR TODAY'S
PLAY...

HOW COME THE
PURPLE ROSE KNOWS
ABOUT THE PLAY?



HE'LL
COME!



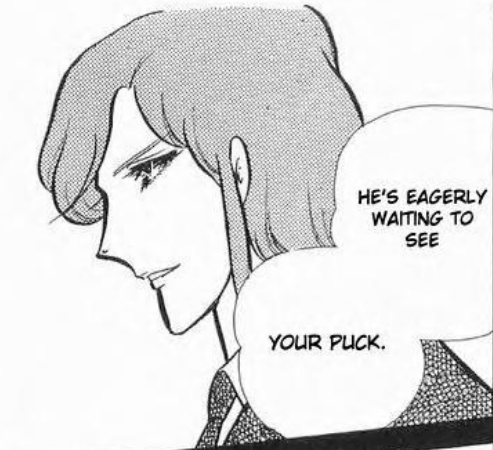
HE READ IT
IN THE NEWS-
PAPER...

HE WANTS
YOU TO DO
YOUR BEST.



ALTHOUGH IT'S A
PLAY IN THE OPEN
AIR, WITH RIGID
BENCHES INSTEAD
OF PROPER
SEATS...

WILL HE COME
TO SEE ME
TODAY?



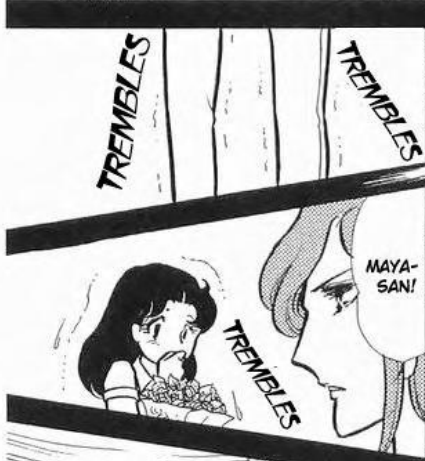
HE'S EAGERLY WAITING TO SEE

YOUR PUCK.



YES, HE'LL COME HERE TODAY

TO SEE YOU ACT.



TREMLES

TREMLES

MAYA-SAN!

TREMLES



The purple rose will come!

He'll come!

Here, today! To this play in the open air!

To see me...



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

I-IT'S NOTHING.

I'M JUST A BIT NERVOUS....



TREMbles

IT MAKES ME TREMBLE.

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I CAN'T MEET HIM...
...WHEN I THINK THAT HE'LL BE THERE, IN FRONT OF ME, AMONG THE CROWD...

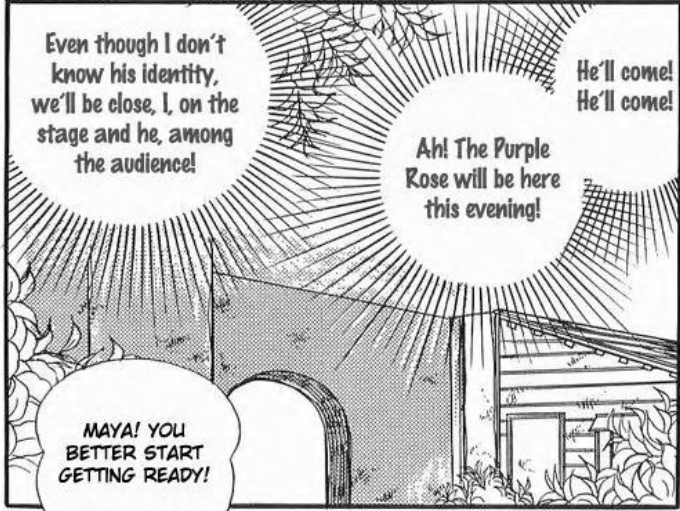


I'M SO HAPPY HE COMES TO SEE ME!

THANKS FOR THE PURPLE ROSES!

TELL HIM I'LL DO MY BEST TODAY, HIJIRI-SAN!

TELL HIM I'LL ACT ONLY FOR HIM!



Even though I don't know his identity, we'll be close, I, on the stage and he, among the audience!

Ah! The Purple Rose will be here this evening!

He'll come! He'll come!

MAYA! YOU BETTER START GETTING READY!

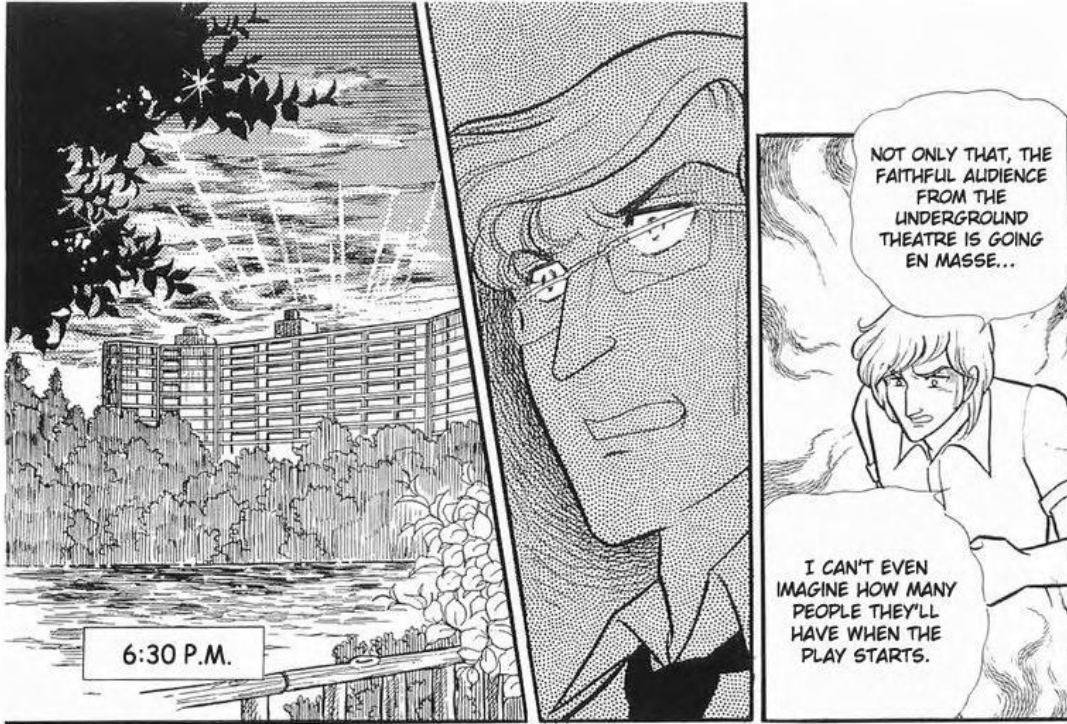


...

OK...



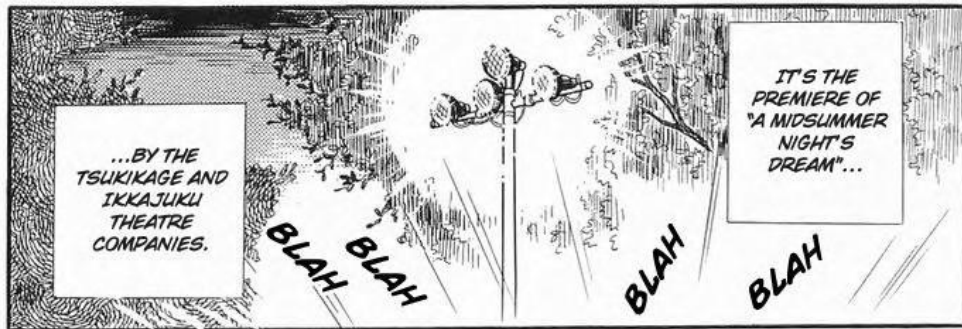




6:30 P.M.

NOT ONLY THAT, THE FAITHFUL AUDIENCE FROM THE UNDERGROUND THEATRE IS GOING EN MASSE...

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW MANY PEOPLE THEY'LL HAVE WHEN THE PLAY STARTS.

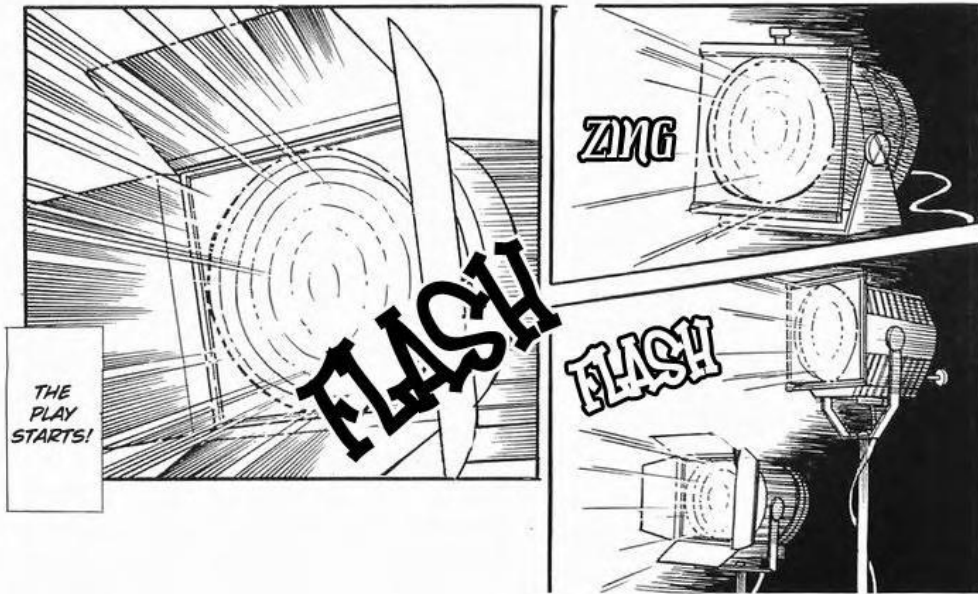


...BY THE TSUKIKAGE AND IKKAJUKU THEATRE COMPANIES.

IT'S THE PREMIERE OF "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"...

BLAH BLAH

BLAH BLAH



THE PLAY STARTS!

FLASH!

ZING

FLASH!

THERE ARE MORE
THAN 1400
PEOPLE.

