THAT SUMMER ...

"Madam White Rose"

CHEER CHEER

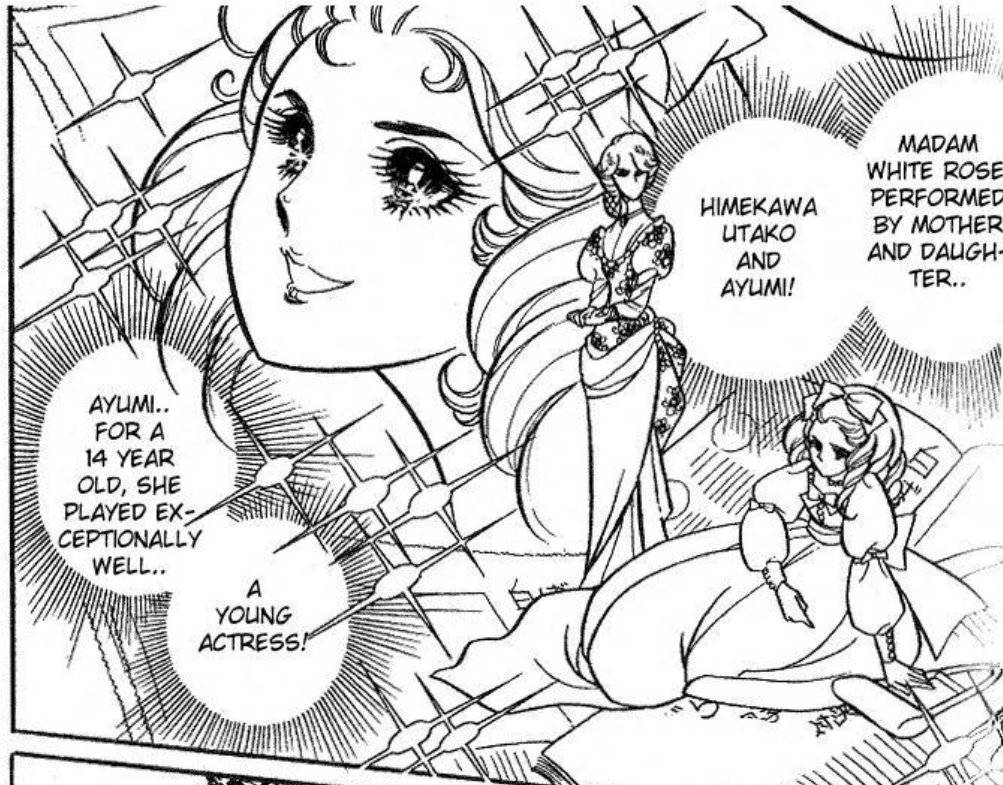AYUMI, WHO ACTED AS THE DAUGHTER OF MADAM WHITE ROSE, BECOMES EVEN MORE WELL KNOWN!

MADAM WHITE ROSE BECAME A BOX OFFICE HIT!

MADAM WHITE ROSE, PERFORMED BY MOTHER AND DAUGHTER..

HIMEKAWA UTAKO AND AYUMI!

AYUMI.. FOR A 14 YEAR OLD, SHE PLAYED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL..

A YOUNG ACTRESS!

LET ME HELP YOU!

TICKETS FOR MADAM WHITE ROSE?

I'VE GOT A FRIEND AT THE THEATER WHO CAN GET US SOME TICKETS
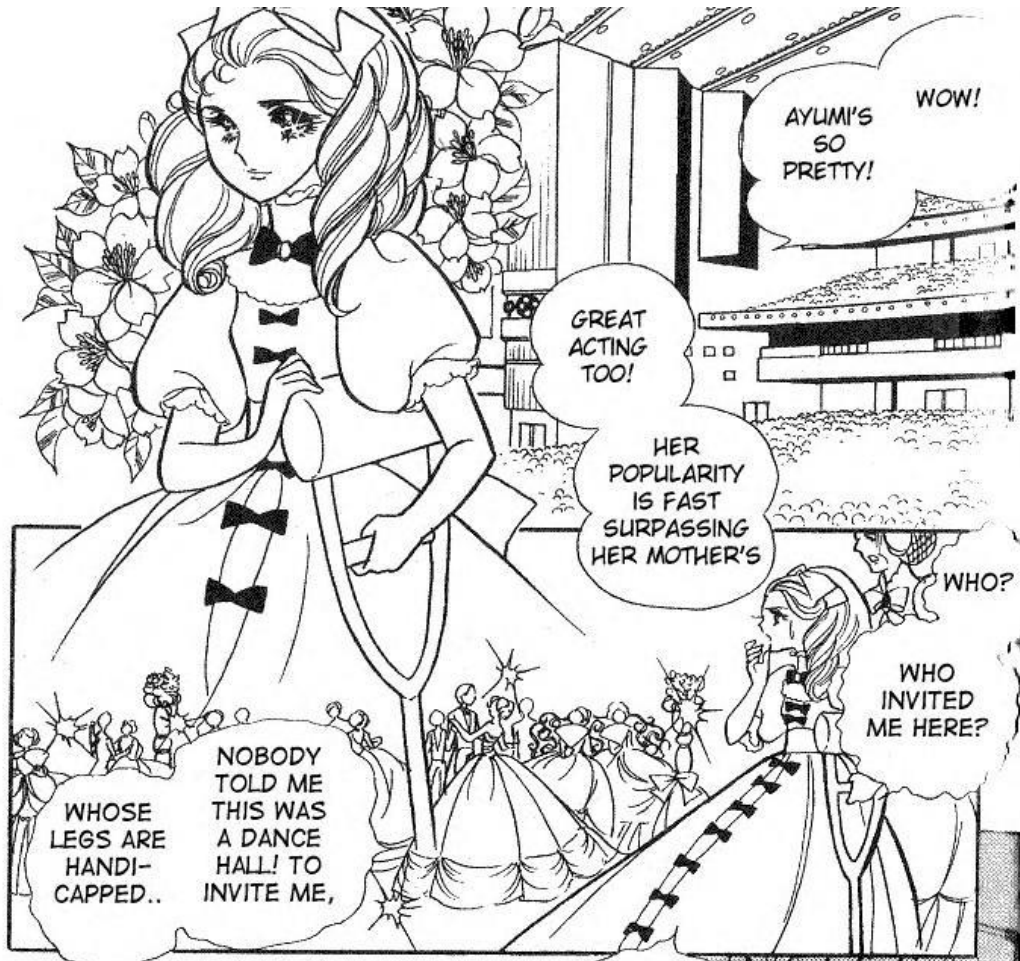
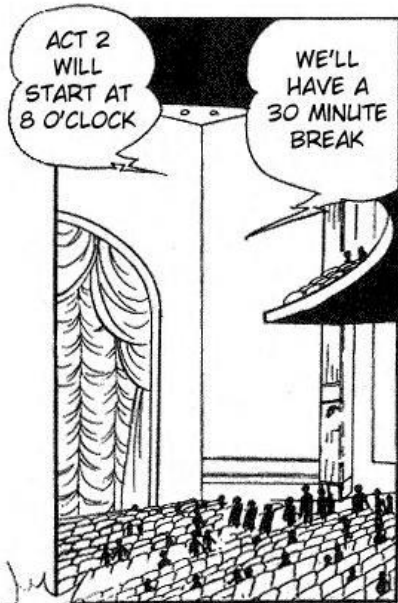NOPE! ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT!

NONE LEFT!

WELL? CAN WE GET TICKETS?

ISN'T SHE GREAT?

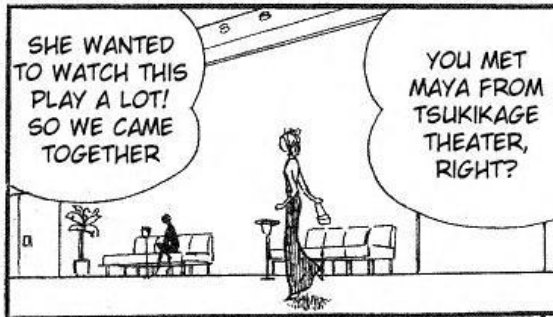SHE'S SO WELL KNOWN IN THE MASS MEDIA..

MAYA, THEY WANT TO ORDER TWO SERVINGS OF TOFU!

OKAY!

Hurray!

THANKS, YUU!

REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!

I THINK...

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN INNOCENT AND CHEERFUL GIRL..

THUD

THANK YOU FOR WAITING! HERE'S YOUR TOFU!

I'M STARTING TO FALL FOR HER..

THE TICKETS WILL BE FREE! THE PLAY TO BE SHOWN IS "LITTLE WOMEN"

SINCE WE'RE ALL STILL AMATEURS,

THIS WILL BE TSUKIKAGE THEATER'S FIRST PERFORMANCE

THEY'LL NEVER SELECT FROM CLASS C

THE CAST MUST BE FROM CLASS A!

"LITTLE WOMEN"? THAT'S GREAT!

WHO'LL PLAY JO?

WHO'LL PLAY MEG?

IS AMY THE LEADING CAST?

HEY, LOOK!

I KNOW.. BUT IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME JUST TO BE ABLE TO WATCH

THEY'VE ANNOUNCED THE CAST!

MAYA! YOU...!

Leading Cast: Kitajima Maya

THE LEADING CAST IS FROM CLASS C!

THE CASTS FOR THE AUTUMN PERFORMANCE "LITTLE WOMEN", PLEASE GATHER HERE

WHY? WHY AM I ONLY PLAYING THE SUPPORTING CAST?

CONGRA-TULATIONS, YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONES FROM CLASS A, B, AND C

IS SHE BETTER THAN ME?

THEY'RE SO LUCKY! FROM NOW ON, THEY'LL UNDERGO SPECIAL TRAINING!

THE STORY BACKGROUND TAKES PLACE DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 100 YEARS AGO

MAYBE I JUST ENVY HER..

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT FOUR SISTERS WHO LIVE IN A WARM HOME DESPITE BEING POOR

I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!!

BUT..

EACH OF THEM HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

BETH..

"Little Women"

STUDY THE SCRIPT!

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW IT FULLY WELL BY THE NEXT MEETING

BETH CAN PLAY THE PIANO REALLY WELL..

..IS A QUIET GIRL.. SHY, BUT HAS A KIND HEART..

Hm.. what's the best way to say this line..

How should I play this part?

I CAN'T PLAY THE PIANO..

STAY STILL! I'M TRYING TO PUT THIS ON!

I CAN'T BRE-ATHE!

YEAH, IT'S DIFFERENT THAN WHEN YOU'RE WEARING JEANS OR A MINI SKIRT

THE WAY WE WALK ?

CAN WE TRY A COSTUME, PLEASE?

THIS WON'T BE EASY.. WE HAVE TO WEAR THOSE HEAVY SKIRTS

THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY WE WALK ON THE STAGE

WE CAN SHOW DIFFERENT CHARAC-TERISTICS IN THE WAY WE WALK

FOR INSTANCE, THE BEAUTIFUL AND WILD JO ALWAYS WALKS CHEERFULLY WITH LIGHT STEPS

OR EVEN WHEN YOU SIT DOWN

YOU NEED TO STAY CALM WHEN YOU WALK

WELL, SINCE YOU'RE PLAYING AS HER, YOU THINK ABOUT IT, MAYA!

AMY, THE YOUNGEST, LIKES TO COPY HER

MEG, THE ELDEST, WALKS AS IF SHE'S AN ADULT

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE HER!

PUT IT IN YOUR HEART! THINK HOW SHE'D MOVE AND FEEL

READ THE SCRIPT OVER AND OVER AGAIN

AS FOR BETH..

I'VE SEEN OTHER GIRLS WITH BEAUTIFUL DRESSES
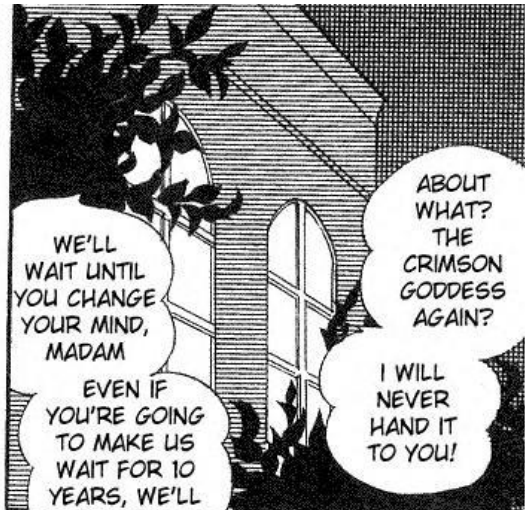
WHILE WE HAVE NOTHING..

IT'S SO DREAD-FUL TO BE POOR..

WHY, THANK YOU

HERE'S A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU

EH? I RECEIVED A SIMILAR GIFT WHEN I FIRST OPENED MY THEATER

WE'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, MADAM

EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE US WAIT FOR 10 YEARS, WE'LL NEVER GIVE UP

ABOUT WHAT? THE CRIMSON GODDESS AGAIN?

I WILL NEVER HAND IT TO YOU!

HUH, GET TO YOUR POINT

I SEE NOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MASUMI-SAN

YES, WE ALREADY KNOW THAT TSUKIKAGE THEATER IS SPONSORED BY THE AOYAGI COMPANY..

OH? THAT WASN'T ME..

IT WAS FROM THE AOYAGI COMPANY

NOW?

IN THIS ROOM?

HERE?

SINCE WE ALL GOT THE SCRIPT,

WHY DON'T WE START PRACTICING?

CLAP CLAP

LISTEN, EVERYONE!

C'MON, EVERYONE! STAND UP!

YUP!

MY TURN WON'T BE UNTIL A BIT LATER,

SINCE I'M PLAYING AS HANNAH

I'LL BE THE LIGHT OPERATOR FOR NOW!

Yes!

READY! EVERYONE TAKE YOUR POSITIONS!

LIGHTS!

RING THE BELL!

DRAW THE CURTAINS!

RIN...NG

FLASH

SENSEI!!

HEEH? WHAT'S THIS?!

AND MAYA TRIPPED ON THE BED THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE STAIRCASE

OUCH..!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WELL, WE MOVED AROUND SOME FURNITURE SO WE CAN PRACTICE "LITTLE WOMEN"

AH, I'M SORRY

HELLO, WE MEET AGAIN!

AH, A NAUGHTY BETH, I SEE

SHE WORE A MADE-UP COSTUME WITH A SASH..

SHE TRIPPED ON A MADE-UP STAGE..

HEHEHE

HEHE, YES I'M FINE

ARE YOU OKAY, SIR?

HOW CAN SHE SMILE SO HAPPILY LIKE THAT?

AND YET..

SHE SMILED HAPPILY..

EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS RUN AWAY FROM HOME

HAPPINESS.. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT FEELS

MY GIRLS, WILL YOU GIVE THEM YOUR BREAKFAST AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

FOR THEY HAVE NO FIRE

NOT FAR AWAY FROM HERE LIES A POOR WOMAN WITH A LITTLE NEWBORN BABY

GOOD THING WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT YET!

AND NOTHING TO EAT

SIX CHILDREN ARE HUDDLED..

..INTO ONE BED TO KEEP FROM FREEZING

REI! YOU SPOKE TOO SOON!

THEY WERE SPEECH-LESS FOR A MOMENT

WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT THEY WON'T BE HAVING BREAKFAST,

SO THEY WERE REALLY HUNGRY

THOSE 4 GIRLS HAVE BEEN WAITING TO EAT THEIR BREAKFAST

ONE MORE TIME!

NOW TAKE A DEEP BREATH, THEN EXHALE.. CAN YOU FEEL IT?

YES!

THEY ARE DIS-APPOINTED

ONLY ONE WORD DESCRIBES THE SITUATION.. *DISAPPOINT-MENT*