

SHOCHIKU

"OKUNI JIMAN" (FOLK SONGS)

Variety in one act.

Written by Shochiku Opera Troupe.

To be presented by the Travelling troupe

(Kyushu and Shikoku)

June 1st -- 30th.

(The curtain rises with a cheerful music. Four girls come in, singing.)

Girl A (reciting a famous poem): "Nothing have I to say, Standing face to face

To my home mountains."

Girl B: Home, home, and the songs of our homes.

Girl C: Now we shall take you to your homes, from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

(The sound of waves.)

Girl D: What's that?

A: The sound of waves; waves of the North Sea.

(( Soran-bushim folksong of Hokkaido.))

B: The sea is so beautiful, the moon reflecting upon the waves.

C: The river Ishikari is large, of course, but the sea is larger by far.

D: (In north-eastern dialect.) It's so large that it rather irritates me.

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E. C. D. - 1990



1589  
24/ May 46

- A: Ah, you speak badly. Use standard Japanese.
- B: It seems that we've come to the North-Eastern districts.  
We'll let you hear Obako-bushi.  
(( Obako-bushi song.))
- C: Ladies and gentlemen, the lake you see over there is the famous Inawashiro. The mountain that reflects upon it is Mt. Bandai of Aizu.  
((Bandaisan-bushi.))
- D: Now, girls, Sendai dialect is so funny, you know. When you hear them speak about falling (ochiru) out of a car, you must know that they mean getting off (oriru) a car.
- E: It sounds as if it were a matter of life or death to ride a street-car. The conductor will say: "Ladies and gentlemen, the new stop is the Prefectural Office. These who want to get on will please wait until those people falling down have died (shinu) means sumu -- finish (getting off)  
((Matsushima Ondo.))
- A: Soon after we pass the Nakoso Bar, we come in sight of Mt. Tsukuba. There's a song saying, "The iris opening among the reeds of Itako looks so lovely and beautiful." Floating down the Tone River, we come to the beach of Choshi.  
(("Tairyo-bushi" ---- fishing song.))
- A: (poses to pour out wine.)
- B: Oh, thank you.
- C: Ah, this wine is not of sankyu (the third class). It's of the first class, you know.
- D: Ueno Ueno the end of the train.

- A: Tokyo, Tokyo, our home Tokyo.
- B: What song shall we present you as the folk song of Tokyo.
- C: Well, now that I come to mention one, I'm quite at a loss.
- D: It's a shame for Tokyo ites.
- A: It won't do.
- B: That's it. Now I remember one suitable.
- C: Really?
- D: Of course.
- A: What's that? You're so clear-brained.
- B: (Sings "Tokyo Koshin-kyoku", an old popular song.)
- C: That won't do.
- B: Won't it?
- C: Of course not. That's too old-fashioned.
- D: What shall we chose?
- A: Ah, now I remember a very good one.
- B: Really? You're so brilliant.
- C: Of course I am. I was always on the top when I was at school.
- D: She was, in one sense. She was always the most steel-heated in her class.
- C: Oh, no; I was always the most clear-headed of my class.
- D: Oh, I'm sorry. Don't worry too much. Well, go on, go on.
- A: (singing)Ha.
- B: What are you going to sing?
- C: You will see soon.
- D: I'm afraid she has become a little insane because of the weather.
- ((Sings Oshima-bushi.))

- A: Just a moment. It's Oshima-bushi, isn't it?
- C: Yes, it is.
- B: We're now to sing a song of Tokyo.
- D: Oshima is in the sea, you know.
- A: Oh, it isn't. It's floating on the sea.
- C: Oshima belongs to Tokyo Metropole so that one born in Oshima is a Tokyoite, you see.
- A: Ah, that won't do.
- B: Let's go on.
- C: We'll start from Tokyo singing the song "O-Edo Nihombashi.  
(O-Edo Nihombashi.)
- D: I feel as if I were Yaji or Kita (comical personage in tradition) setting out of Edo.
- A: I should like to go straight along the Tokaido Highway.
- B: I'd rather go the Nakasendo way.
- D: I prefer the Shin'etsu-Hokuriku way.
- B: And what do you say yourself?
- C: I? I'd like to go to Oshima.
- A: Oshima again!
- C: Well, I was born in Oshima, you know.  
(Oshima-bushi.)
- B: You've song the whole song at last.
- D: I'll go northward straight through the Kanto plain and there I see the Kunisada village where the gambler Kunisada-Chuji sang the lullaby well-known by his name.
- A: There you see the smoke rising from Mountain Asama, and there runs the River Chikuma shining white in the sun.

- B: (Recites the poem "Beside the Decayed Castle of Komoro  
----- by Shimazaki-Toson.)  
((Yashinomi, or Coconut by the same poet.))
- C: When we go down the River Chikuma, it joins the great  
river Shinano. Then the Shinano River flows into Niigata  
Bay. And there we see over the waves the famous island  
Sado.  
((Sado Okesa))
- B: I take the Nakasendo riding the railway "Chuo-sen". The  
Kai district is famous for its production of grapes.  
Through the bunches of grapes we see Mt. Fuji looking  
very delicious.
- A: Here we are in the upper reaches of the Tenryu. Let's  
listen to the song Ryukyo Kouta.  
((Ryuko Kouta.))
- D: Now we've come to the Kiso district.  
((Kiso-bushi))
- A: Oh, I meant to go along the Tokaido street.
- B: All right. We'll start from the beginning again.
- C: You see on your right Mt. Fuji unparalleled in all Japan.
- D: On the other hand is the sea. Shimizu port is famous for  
the gambler Jirocho-Shimizu  
(The next several lines refer to the Shimizu pedigree.)
- A: Come, O-Masa.
- B: Yes, Boss?
- A: Come, Ko-Masa.
- C: Yes, Boss?
- A: Come, Ishimatsu. Where's Ishimatsu?
- D: What's the matter, Boss? An assault?

- A: Of course not. You fool. We're going on search of food.
- B: Why, now we've come to Nagoya. We see there the famous golden dolphins of the Nagoya Castle.
- C: Stop nonsense. They've been burnt.
- B: But there glitters something -----.
- D: That's the false tooth of one of the audience.)
- A: (In Nagoya dialect) Stop nonsense.
- B: What's that?
- A: We've come to Nagoya, you know. We should speak like this
- C: Oh, was it so?
- D: (In Kyoto dialect) Ah, we've come to Kyoto already.
- A: Mr. Tsuki.
- B: Mr. Tsuki? What do you mean?
- A: Mr. Tsuki. Mr. Tsukigata-Hampeita. (Famous gallant of Kyoto)
- B: What's at, Hinagiku (Tsukigata's sweetheart.)?
- A: Mr. Tsuki, a rain drop.
- B: A squall? Let's go through it.
- C: Well, there sounds a melody rather familiar to us.
- D: Well, well, we're now in Osaka.
- A: Where are you going, young man?
- B: To Dotombori.
- C: To a café?
- B: I'm going to see somebody I love.
- D: Tell me who it is.
- B: Entatsu and Achako (Famous artistes)
- A: Well, I never.
- B: When we pass Osaka and cross the sea, we come to the island Awajishima.
- ((Tosabushi and other folk-songs of Shikoku.))

And now we've come to the Kompira temple in Zozusan.

((Kompira-bushi.))

D: When we go up to the north, we come to Izumo where the famous song Yasuki-bushi is sung.

((Yasuki-bushi))

A: Kyushu, Kyushu. Well, do you know that there is a tea-booth in the Kammon tunnel?

B: Oh, that's not true. (In Kyushu dialect.)

C: Let's sing.

(( Song of the moon ))

D: You sing, too.

C: But, I haven't learnt it yet.

B: I'm a Satsuma-born man.

A: I am, too.

C: I'm fond of Satsuma potatoes.

(( Ohara -bushi ))

D: Well, ladies and gentlemen, our express train has run from Hokkaido to Kyushu.

A: We've listened to many dear folk songs of our homes.

B: Let's unite our efforts in the reconstruction of our Japan.

C: Well, from tomorrow on, let us be-----

(There appears a signboard on which is written "Cheerful and Gay.")

D: From tomorrow on, let us do our best cheerful and gay for the reconstruction of Japan.

(The curtain falls with the song sung at the opening.)