

Girls, Elegant Costumes Featured In Tokyo Show

By PHYLIS B. BARR
Girls, Girls, Girls and still more girls!
Tokyo has its own version of Radio City Music Hall (in New York). It is Kokusai's Tokyo Odori. While I was in Japan this past summer I was able to attend one of the shows. The show is presented by an entertainment company known as Seichiku.

This extravaganza is presented in the same manner as Radio City's. There is a two hour musical show and then a full length movie. The floor show is as fascinating as it is beautiful. And the girls are as beautiful as they are talented. I understand that there are nearly 500 girls in certain parts of the show.

There is not a man in the entire show although there are masculine parts. The girls who take these parts have their hair bobbed and have extremely masculine characteristics. Even when these girls are off stage they dress in men's clothing. These girls are so convincing that I didn't know that they were girls until the show was over.

The scenery and costumes were elegant. I am sure, when the fabric is suitable, that they use Japan's very exquisite brocade silks.

This particular show was staged to commemorate the recent marriage of His Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince of Japan. Most of the scenes dealt with old and new tales of love.

The most impressive act in the entire show pertained to a love story which took place in the 12th century. After a fierce battle, the huge house on the set supposedly caught fire and it literally looked as if it burned to the ground. It was so realistic that I found myself looking around for the nearest fire escape. The whole scene was a masterpiece in design and lighting.

Each year during January and February, about 2,000 girls between 16 and 17 take examinations for entry into Shochiku Ongaku Bujo Gakko, the Shochiku Dance and Music School in Tokyo. About 40 or 50 girls are chosen to enter the school. They are judged on beauty, education and family background.

As the girls are of high school age, they must continue their book learning. They are given three more years of formal education and then must serve as apprentices for one year. In their theatrical training they learn tap, ballet, line chorus, old style and modern Japanese dancing and all modern Western dances. They also take sing-

ing, make-up, costume, hair styling and drama. At the conclusion of their course they are given a graduation certificate. Study is continuous and examinations must be taken for each advancement to a higher class.

During their apprentice year they receive minor parts, participate in group tap dancing and understudy the senior girls.

The equivalent to the "Rockettes" of Radio City are the "Atomic Girls." They are 19 to 20 years of age and are chosen for their precision uniform size and dance ability.

Initially students are under contract for three years. At the end of this period she enters the Seichiku Troupe and becomes part of the "Big Family." She may resign at any time for the purpose of getting married or taking a job in the entertainment world.

Many of Japan's most popular movie and television actresses received their first theatrical training with Seichiku Troupe.

The floor show changes four times each year, usually with the seasons. The girls are watched very closely during their free time and our bachelor friends tell us that it is next to impossible to get a date with one of them. They ought to know. They've tried.

District Forest Ranger Receives Safety Citation

B. A. Nugent, district forest ranger, received a citation for outstanding safety performance Nov. 20, 1959, from W. E. Howell, assistant forest supervisor from Asheville.

The citation cited this district for working 28,900 man hours without the need of medical treatment for injuries sustained on the job and for driving motor vehicles for approximately 57,300 miles without a vehicle accident.

This district was one of nine districts in North Carolina to receive citations.

This district has received two similar awards in the past. Mr. Nugent said that the district has monthly safety meetings and the employees are kept aware of the importance of a good safety program. There are 17 employees under this safety program.



Alan Kowalski of Warren, Mich., has been chosen National Poster Child of Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc., for the second year in succession. Alan is touring the country to win support for the MARCH FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, nationwide house-to-house appeal for funds to expand research into the crippling disease.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Newspapers
- Packs down
- Experience
- Body organ
- Printer's measure
- Female
- Mistake
- Bird's beak
- Number
- Single
- Part of a toe
- Number
- Babies
- Place of worship
- Masquerade costumes
- Thee
- Ocean
- Bugs
- Rubbish
- Moroccan native
- Total
- Opera solo
- Seed vessel
- Belonging to them
- Shade tree
- Muddle
- Lamb's pen name
- Be
- Wedge
- Alleyway
- Taut
- King's wand
- Seth's son
- Stratum
- Coronet
- Mythical bird
- Intersected
- State
- Collision
- Dough strip
- Soggy
- Naps
- Exist
- Fodder
- Banging tool
- At that time
- Flower "head"
- French
- Prefix: gas
- Color
- Quickly: slang
- Emphasis
- Small piece

DOWN

- Chaperon
- Toughen by heat
- Ego
- Limb
- Flower
- Heron
- Found the answer
- At that time
- Prefix: gas
- Color
- Quickly: slang
- Emphasis
- Small piece

Answer to Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120

How to Make Your Home Say "Merry Christmas"

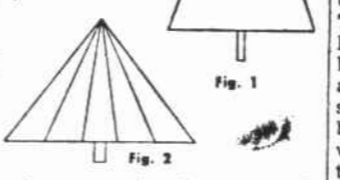
Christmas, with its magic of colored lights, is one time when the individual really comes into his own. With the same basic materials, and the same general ideas to express, it is a source of continual wonder to see the vastly different effects which can be created. And, it is not necessary to go to a great deal of expense to create something which is lovely to look at and which says "Merry Christmas" to all who see it.

Keeping a few simple rules in mind and giving your imagination free rein, you can make your Christmas decorating a project in which the whole family can share, giving everyone a feeling of satisfaction in his own individual contribution.

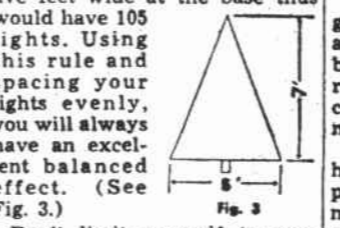
Selecting and Caring for Tree
For many of us, the tree itself will always be the central figure in any decorating scheme. Selecting it, bringing it home, visualizing it in its dressed and lighted glory—all add to the sense of anticipation.

Select a tree that is full and beautifully shaped. As soon as you bring the tree home, stand it in a pail or tub filled with water until you are ready to set it up and trim it. This will prolong the life and appearance of the tree, keep the needles from falling and minimize the danger of fire.

Trimming Your Tree
Lights can do a great deal to improve the shape of a tree. If your tree is long and slender, string the lights around it; if it is short



and squat, string them in vertical rows, from top to bottom. (See Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.) Don't guess at the number of lights you need for your tree. Professional decorators use this formula: Multiply the height of the tree by the width of the branches at the base, then multiply by three. A tree seven feet tall, and five feet wide at the base thus would have 105 lights. Using this rule and spacing your lights evenly, you will always have an excellent balanced effect. (See Fig. 3.)



Don't limit yourself to conventional Christmas lights. Lamps which simulate ice crystals or snow balls are now available and produce a very interesting appearance. Consider also the flashing, twinkling or bubbling lights which give the effect of motion and are particularly appealing to children.

Start at the Top
Trees should always be trimmed from the top down. First the Angel, Star, Spear or other tree-top piece should be

put in place. Then, the lights should be strung, top to bottom. Reflectors and halos add much to the brilliance of lights.

Now you are ready for the "string type" decorations. With this much done, you can begin to place your most interesting ornaments, selecting spots where they will show to best advantage. When all the ornaments have been placed the final can be arranged, each piece hung individually on the branches. Angel hair or a spray of artificial snow may be added at the very end.

The top-to-bottom procedure should be followed throughout. It is the easiest, the fastest and, above all, the safest way. That word "safest" is one which you should be conscious of throughout the Christmas season. All light strings should be inspected carefully and all sets with worn or exposed wires replaced with new U.L. approved sets. Protect against short circuits or blown-out fuses by making sure you have at least one set of lights with a safety fuse plug (such as those manufactured by NOMA, LITES). This set should be connected to the wall socket, or other source of current; other light strings can be attached to it. Should a fuse blow, it can easily be replaced at the socket, with a twist of the fingers.

Christmas All-Over the House
Even the loveliest tree has its effect heightened if the rest of the house is decorated attractively and in good taste. Practically every home offers a wealth of simple materials which can be used for novel, imaginative decorative pieces. An ordinary vase can be filled with greens and white branches with ornaments and placed anywhere. Three graduated embroidery hoops decorated with tinsel can be suspended by ribbons around a half-inch wooden dowel inserted in a plastic styrofoam base. A set of vari-colored lights wound around the dowel glow through angel hair; a few small ornaments strung front colored ribbon complete this lovely miniature "tree." Another effective idea is to form a cone of heavy Christmas gift wrapping paper and place it over a dowel. The paper should be heavy enough to keep its cone shape, and translucent enough for the light to shine through.

The traditional Christmas greens provide many beautiful arrangements. Laurel and Pine branches wound around a stair-rail can be decorated with lights, canes and a few simple ornaments for a glowing effect. Greens banded on a mantel have their beauty heightened by proper placement of lights. A madonna figure combined with spruce branches and creche lighted from behind makes a foyer table truly lovely. An attractive dining room decoration can be fashioned from greens arranged on a tiered plate or lazy susan with lights and ornaments. A set of lights intertwined with Pine or other greens on top of a bookcase makes a beautiful display. Window swags across other greens some much more interestingly used.

One of the most attractive and least expensive means of outdoor lighting is to run strings of lights along the eaves or roof edge. Ordinary drive rings, available at any hardware store, can simply be hung, or, more ingeniously, U-shaped drive rings can be affixed to the under-edge of the roof, and the lights threaded through them. The same technique can be used in outlining doors and windows with lights. The drive rings will keep them in position, prevent sagging or uneven effects. (See Fig. 4.)

Many people prefer a single color for their outside lighting, but try using the white light at the top of the tree or other prominent place. And don't forget spotlights which can be placed conveniently on your lawn to illuminate and focus attention on a creche, elfin figures, or other interesting features.

More Tips for You
More hints and help are available to you, free of charge, in a booklet called "The Art of Decorating." This booklet contains not only decorating ideas for the Christmas season, but for many other holidays and occasions throughout the year as well. Your FREE copy will be mailed to you promptly upon request. Simply address: Noma, Lites, Inc., 55 West 12th Street, New York 11, N. Y., and ask for "The Art of Decorating." We believe it will help you enjoy the brightest, gayest, safest Christmas you have ever known.



Important to any outdoor decorative scheme is the front door. Beautiful wreaths or sprays can be purchased but, with a little ingenuity and dexterity, you can "Do It Yourself." Pine, Fir, Spruce or other branches and a string of lights can be wound around either a wire clothes hanger forced into a room shape or into chicken wire cut to form a foundation for a spray. Large outdoor candles, snow globes or carollers complete a pretty, welcoming Christmas doorway.

Your permanent evergreens and shrubbery also lend themselves beautifully to Christmas decorating. To protect an expensive Fir tree or Blue Spruce build a simple "teepee" to carry the light strings. Drive stakes into the ground around the tree, inside the spread of branches, at regular intervals. Lead rigid wire up from the stakes to a padded wire collar placed around the tree stem; several inches below the top. The lights can be strung around the wires and need not touch the branches at all. (See Fig. 5.)

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By H. T. ELMO

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