

Episode 4

...or that's what it was supposed to be...

Tadatsugu's starting salary as an employee was 30,000 yen...

Huh??

Is it an installment payment...?

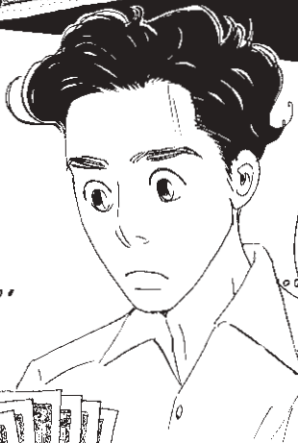
This is only 6,000 yen...

The production company was in fact facing extreme financial difficulties...

... and went bankrupt less than a year after Tadatsugu was hired.

This month's salary is even less...?

* The following month



Episode 4

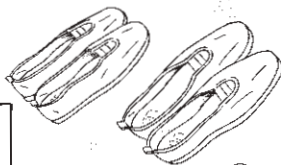


Alright!
I'll start over as
a freelance
stage manager!!

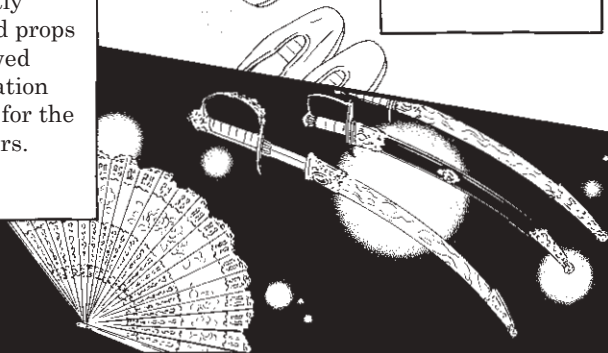


...he neatly organized props and showed consideration and care for the performers.

Starting with the preparation of rubber-soled shoes for the chorus on an opera stage...

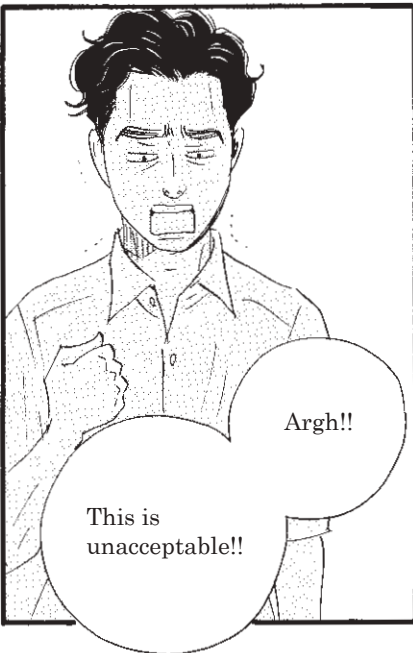
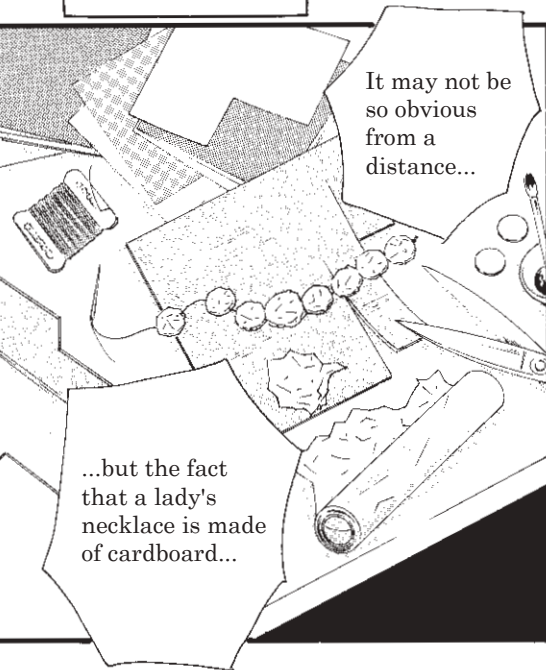


He was extremely conscientious about creating a superb stage.



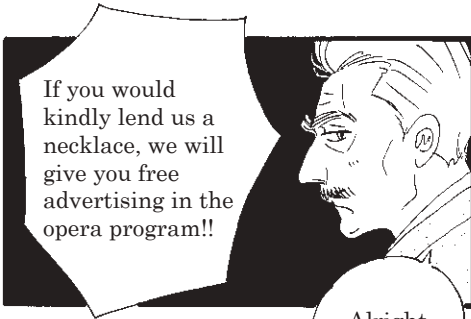
It may not be so obvious from a distance...

...but the fact that a lady's necklace is made of cardboard...

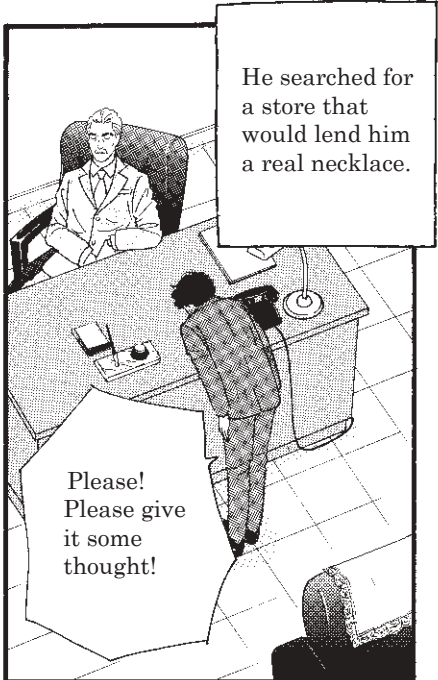


Argh!!

This is unacceptable!!



If you would kindly lend us a necklace, we will give you free advertising in the opera program!!



He searched for a store that would lend him a real necklace.



Thank you so much!!

...Alright...

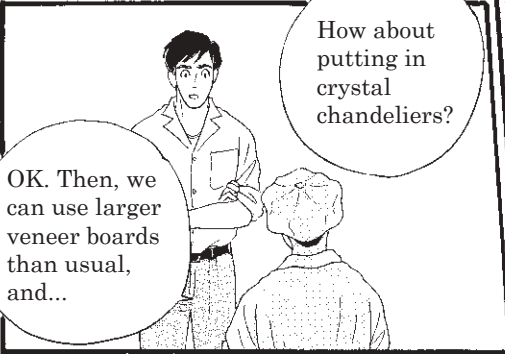
Even if I refused, you would keep coming to me everyday...I give up.

Please! Please give it some thought!




Sparkling so brightly against the lighting....

Just look at the brilliance of the real thing!!

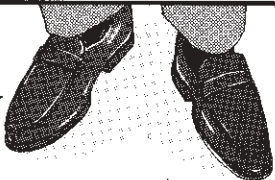


How about putting in crystal chandeliers?

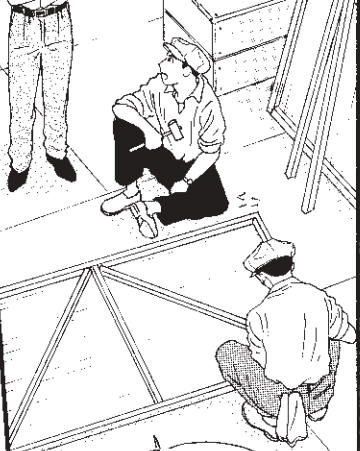
OK. Then, we can use larger veneer boards than usual, and...




One day when preparing for the staging of *La traviata*



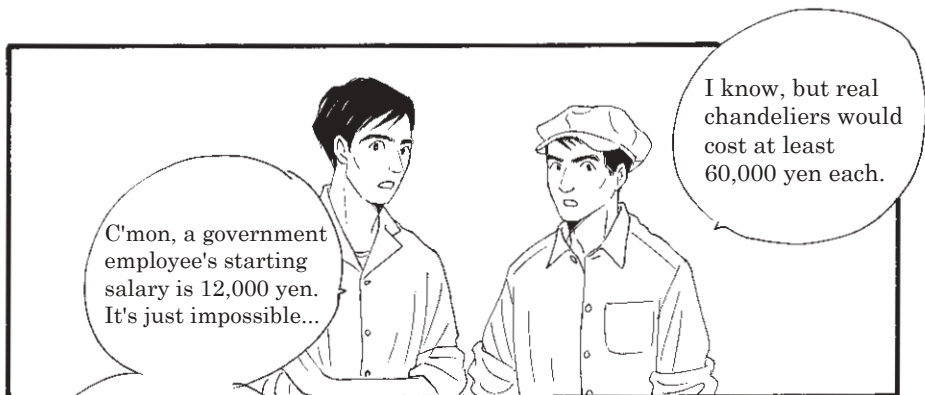
Imitations again!?



A courtesan's room should be luxurious, right?



Violetta's necklace is real, but the chandeliers are veneer!!



C'mon, a government employee's starting salary is 12,000 yen. It's just impossible...

I know, but real chandeliers would cost at least 60,000 yen each.



We have to forget about it.

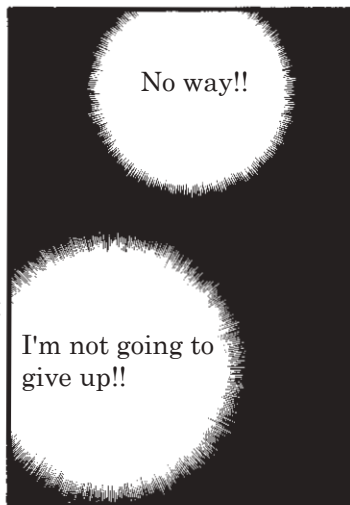
60,000 yen each...



Real ones...

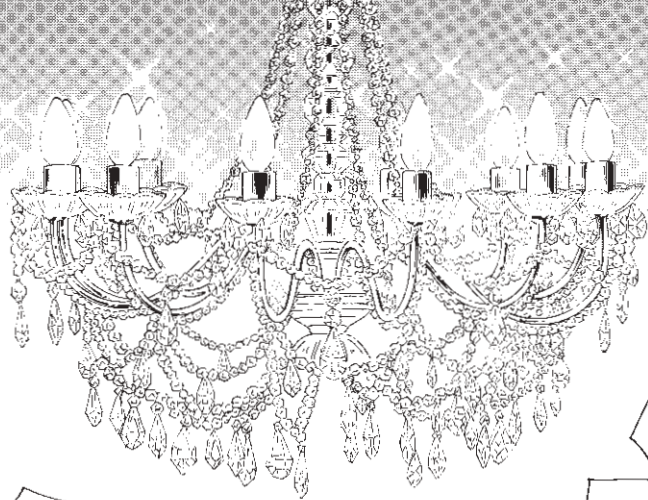


Chandeliers



No way!!

I'm not going to give up!!



...Yes

This is it!!

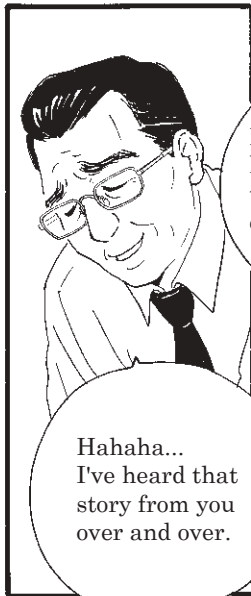
This is perfect for
the chandeliers in
Violetta's salon!!



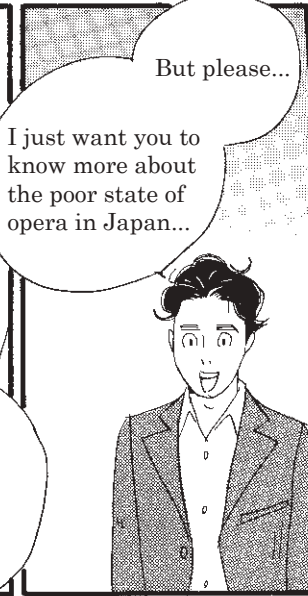
Excuse me!!

Please tell me who
manufactured this
chandelier!!



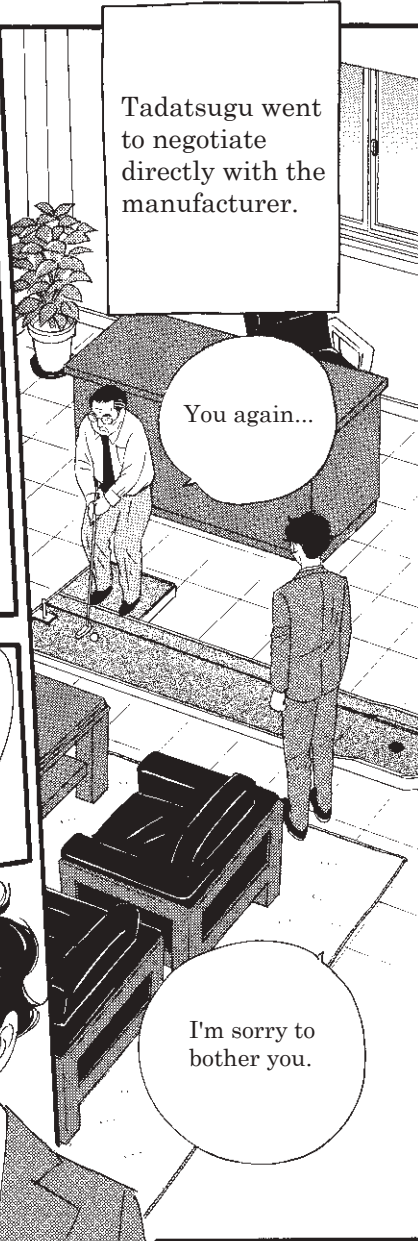


Hahaha...
I've heard that
story from you
over and over.



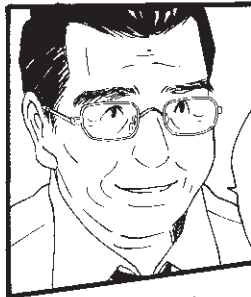
But please...

I just want you to
know more about
the poor state of
opera in Japan...



Tadatsugu went
to negotiate
directly with the
manufacturer.

You again...

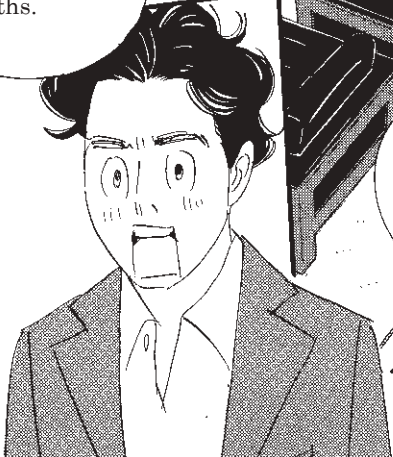


I yield to
your passion.

I'll lend you two
chandeliers for
free for three
months.



Really!?
Thank you
very much!!



I'm sorry to
bother you.



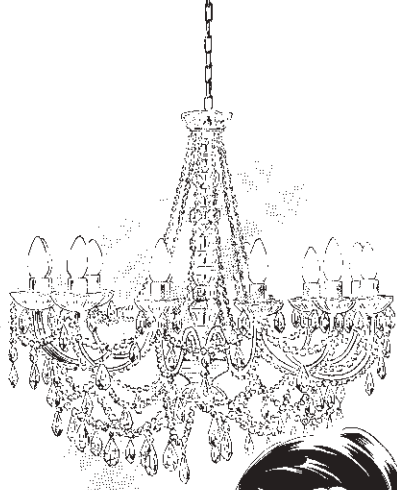
They're so bright!!

Woow!!

Look at this great response from the audience just to the curtain going up...

Mmmm... they're gorgeous...

There's no room for the singers...



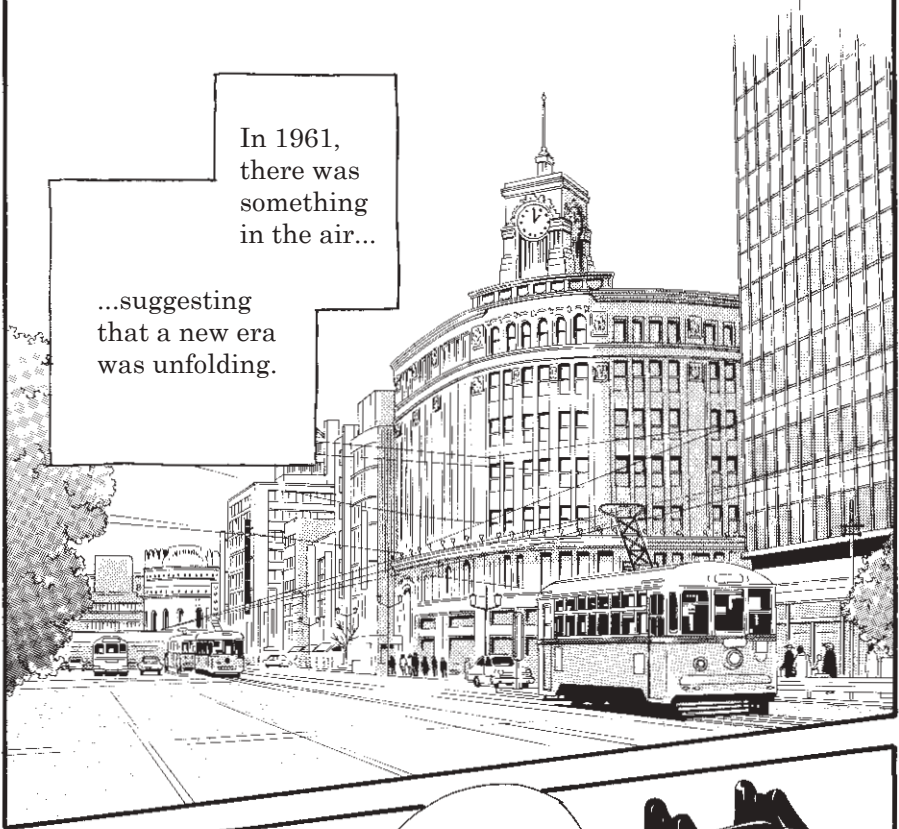
This experience prompted Tadatsugu to become even more exacting in his stage work...

...and caused him to develop greater affection for props.



In 1961,
there was
something
in the air...

...suggesting
that a new era
was unfolding.

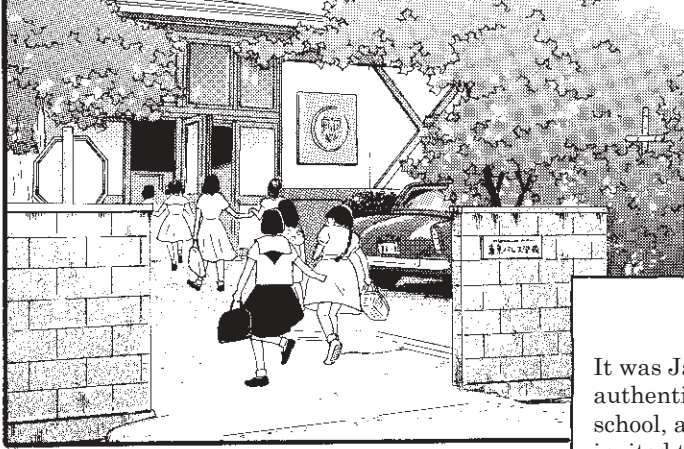


Yes? The stage
manager of a
ballet school
performance?



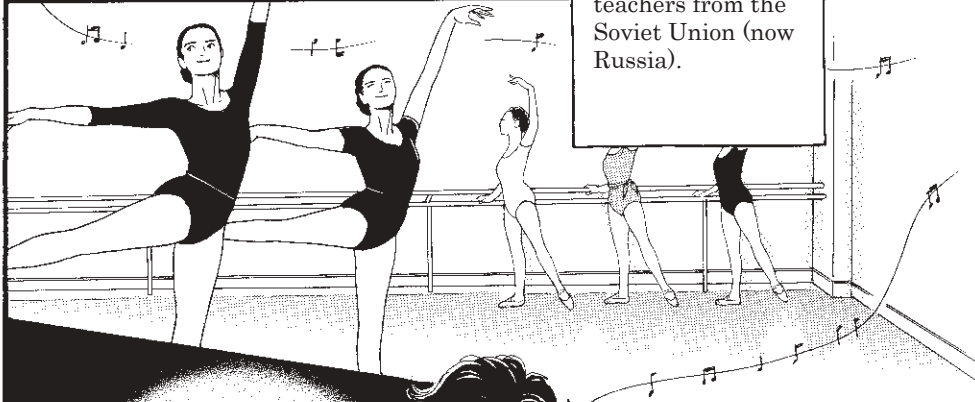
OK. I'll come and
watch a stage
rehearsal.





This offer came from the Tchaikovsky Memorial Tokyo Ballet School, which had just opened the previous year.

It was Japan's first authentic ballet school, and had invited two teachers from the Soviet Union (now Russia).



This school seems totally different from ordinary Japanese ballet schools!

They always practice to live piano accompaniment...



The teachers invited from the Bolshoi Ballet were top notch. Ms. Sulamith Messerer was a Principal People's Artist of the Soviet Union.

The other teacher was Mr. Alexei Varlamov, a ballet master with the Bolshoi Theater.

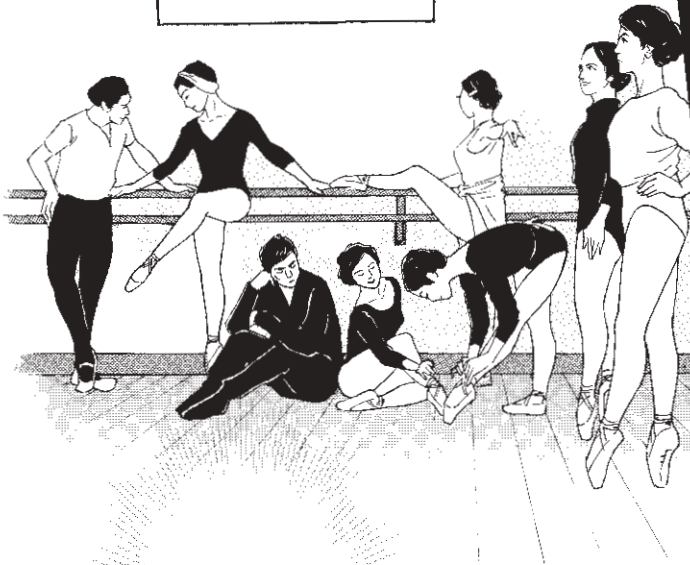


As many as 400 people, including professional dancers, applied from all over Japan to take the entrance exam.

The monthly tuition of 7,000 yen was high, but all point shoes and costumes were provided for free.

In addition to ballet lessons, the students could also take piano lessons and Russian and English language lessons.

The enthusiasm of both the teachers and the students is tremendous!!

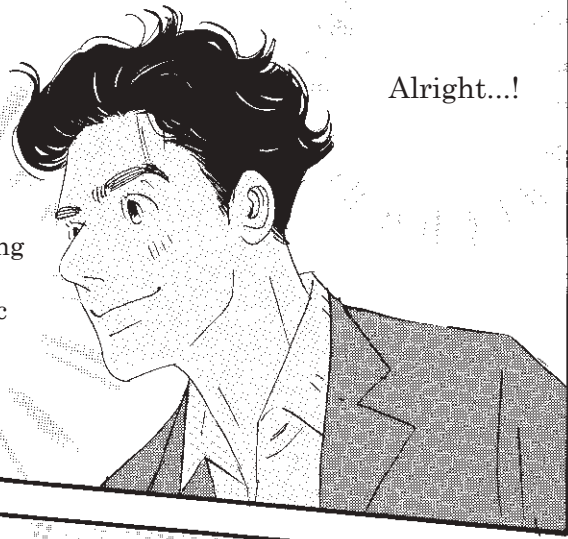


This is the real deal!!



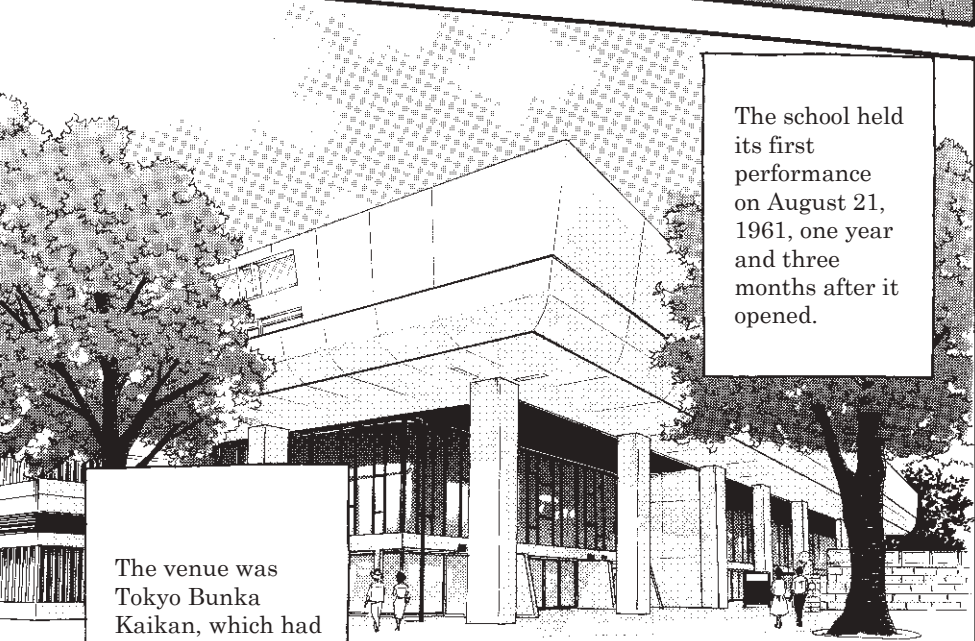
Alright...!


I'm going to
create a dazzling
stage equal to
these authentic
standards!



The school held
its first
performance
on August 21,
1961, one year
and three
months after it
opened.

The venue was
Tokyo Bunka
Kaikan, which had
just been
completed in April
of that year.





The program was The Nutcracker with a live orchestra.

It was an unprecedented performance, with 12 guest dancers invited from the Bolshoi Ballet.

