

Episode 5

When the totally unprecedented performance by The Tokyo Ballet School was over and things settled down...

1961 was a year of important encounters for Tadatsugu.

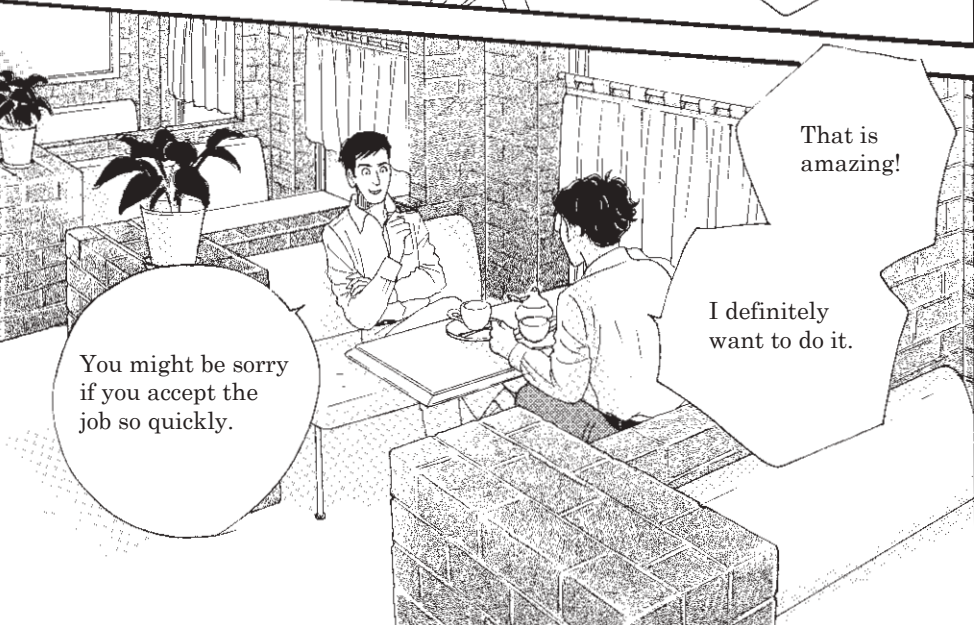
What!!

The Opéra National de Paris is performing Carmen on its first visit to Japan!?

You might be sorry if you accept the job so quickly.

That is amazing!

I definitely want to do it.

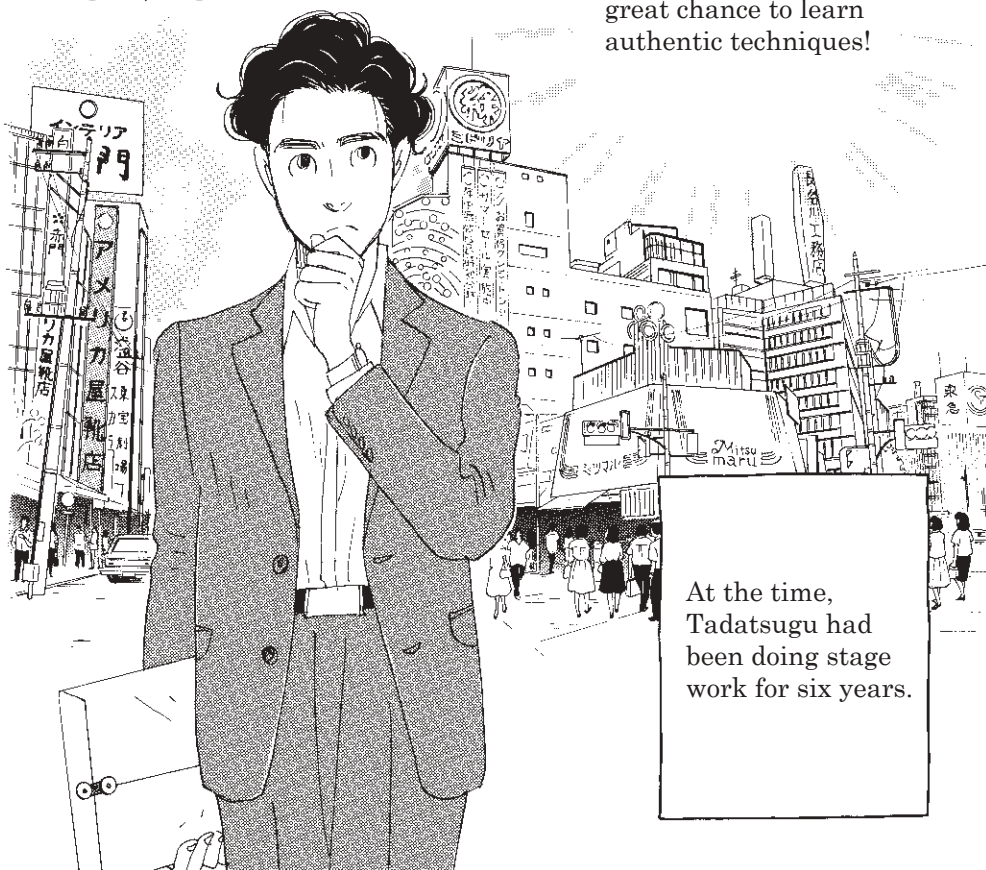


We have to
make all of the
costumes and
stage sets in
Japan based on
their designs.

It's just the
performers that
are coming.

Episode 5

But that could be a
great chance to learn
authentic techniques!



At the time,
Tadatsugu had
been doing stage
work for six years.

I brought three members of the costume staff.

Bonjour,
Mr. Sasaki!

The first people
who came from
the Opéra
National de
Paris were...

Maurice
Brunet,
art director

Robert Gilles,
stage
manager

Thank you
for coming!

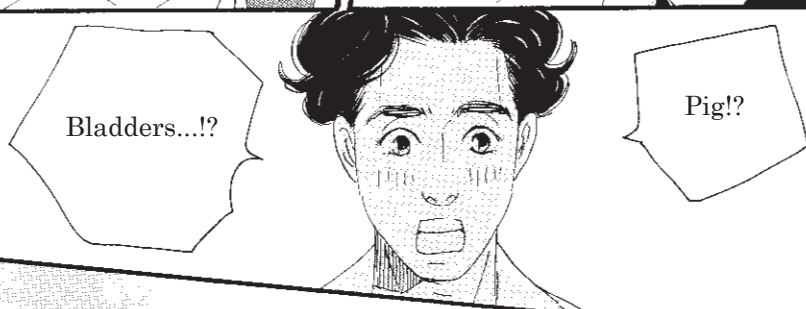
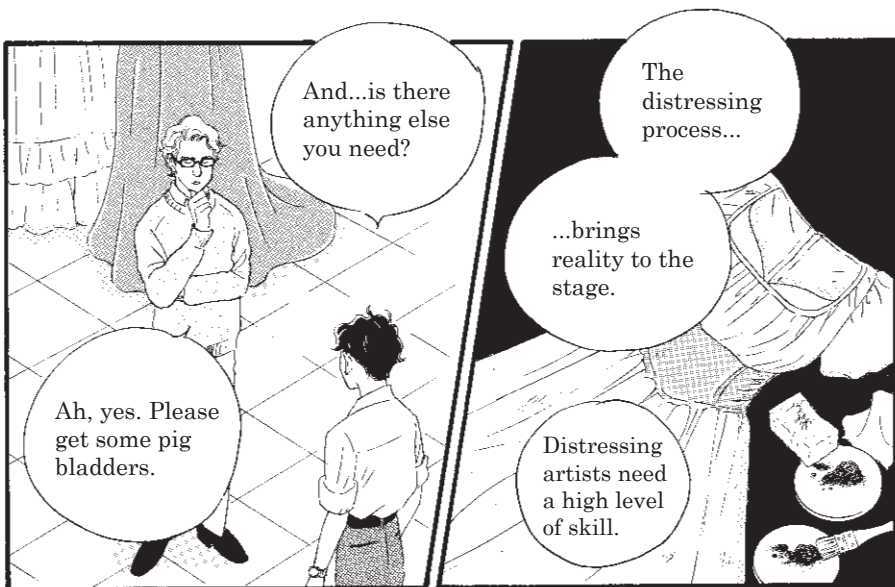
Buh...
buh...


Bonjour.

First, we
produce
costumes based
on the design.

Their approach
to their work
was extremely
stimulating for
Tadatsugu.

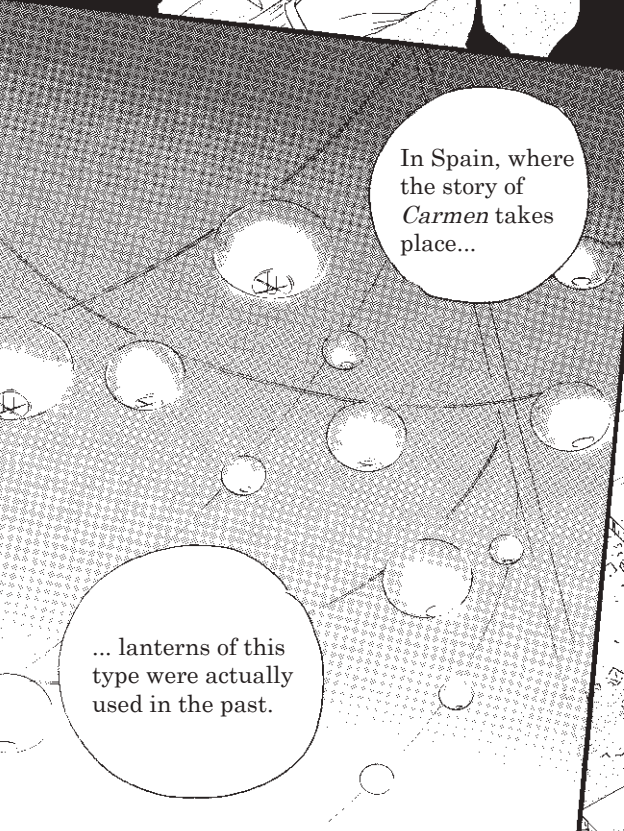
Then, we
distress them,
or soil them.





We will wash these well and dry them.

Then, we will inflate them and put candles in them.



In Spain, where the story of *Carmen* takes place...

... lanterns of this type were actually used in the past.



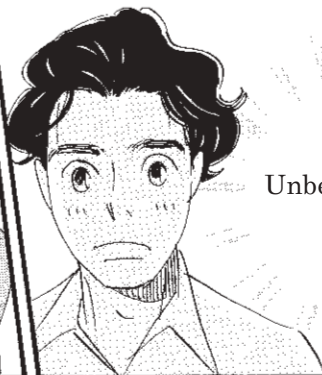
Sure. Any time.

But what are you using them for!?

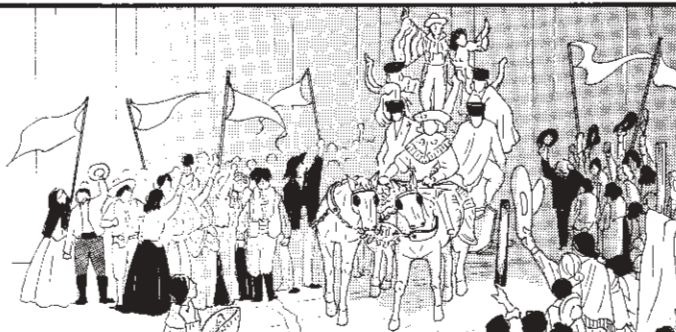
Uh... well...

We have no idea...

These people
pursue
realism to an
extraordinary
extent!!



Unbelievable!!



September 1961
—*Carmen* by
the Opéra
National de
Paris opens.

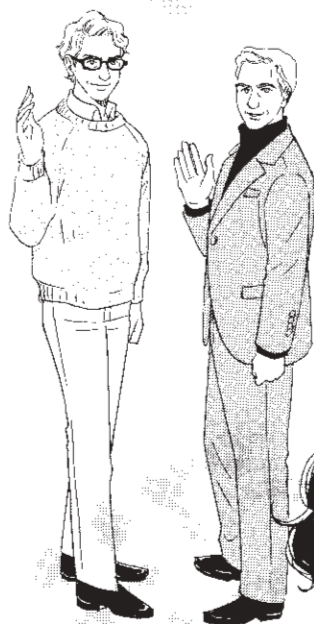
300 performers
and real horses
appeared on
stage—the
audience was
astonished at the
overwhelming
scale of the
production.



Thank you,
Mr. Suzuki.

We were able to
make the
performance a
success because
of your support.





Come and
visit us in
Paris some
time.

We'll be waiting
for you!

Yes, I will!

Tadatsugu's
friendship
with these two
talented men...

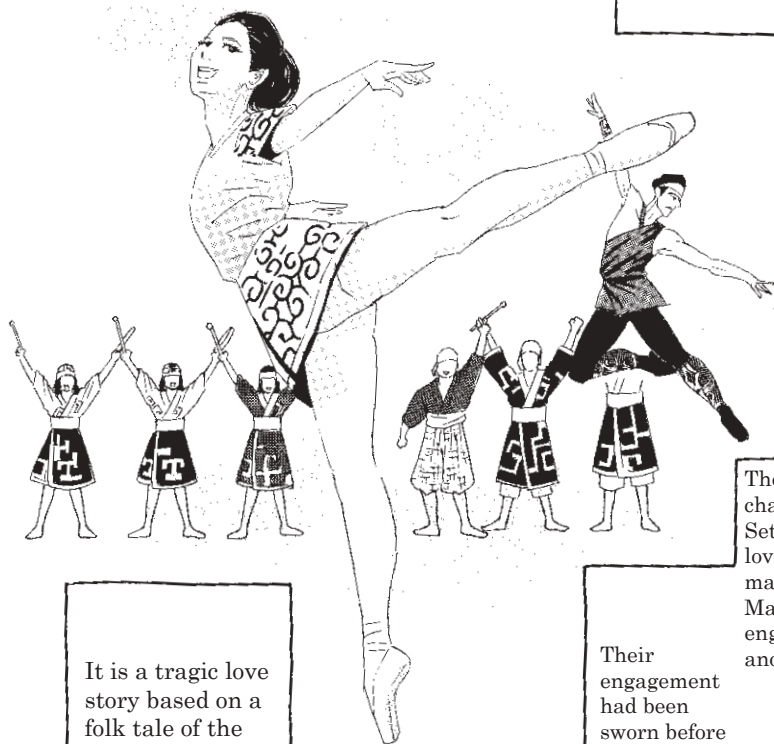
...continued
for a long time
thereafter.





June 1962

The Tokyo Ballet School's second performance, *Marimo*, was highly acclaimed.



It is a tragic love story based on a folk tale of the Ainu people in Hokkaido.

The main character, Setona, falls in love with a young man named Manibe, who is engaged to another girl.

Their engagement had been sworn before the god of a lake.

The god of the lake imposed three trials on Setona and Manibe.



Oh, that was superb...

Eternal love reaching fruition was expressed well in the last part...

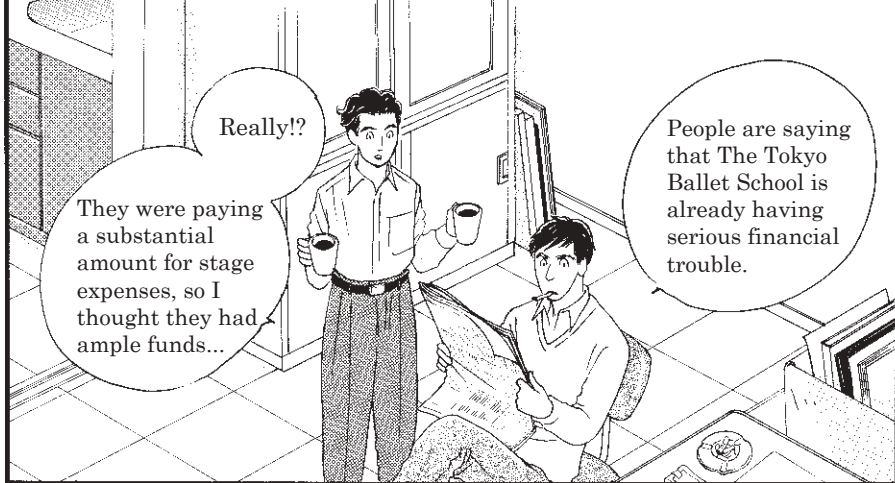


What?

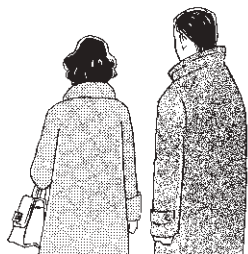
The stage was superb, but...

...reality is harsh, they say.

In the end, their love is fulfilled and the two turn into *marimo* (algae balls) unique to the lake.



Since no new teachers were sent from the Soviet Union for nearly a year after that, many students left school.



The Soviet teachers returned home as contracted after the *Marimo* performance.

Tadatsugu, you really accepted this offer!?

The Third Performance of
The Tokyo Ballet School
Swan Lake

Then...



Well, I've been with them all this time... I've got to do it.

You must be joking!

They haven't even paid for the *Marimo* performance yet!

Yes.



Swan Lake is one of Tchaikovsky's three greatest ballets.

The story is about the true love between Prince Siegfried and Odette, who has been transformed into a swan by a spell cast by the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart.



It is a timeless masterpiece that continues to be staged throughout the world more than 140 years after its premiere in 1877.

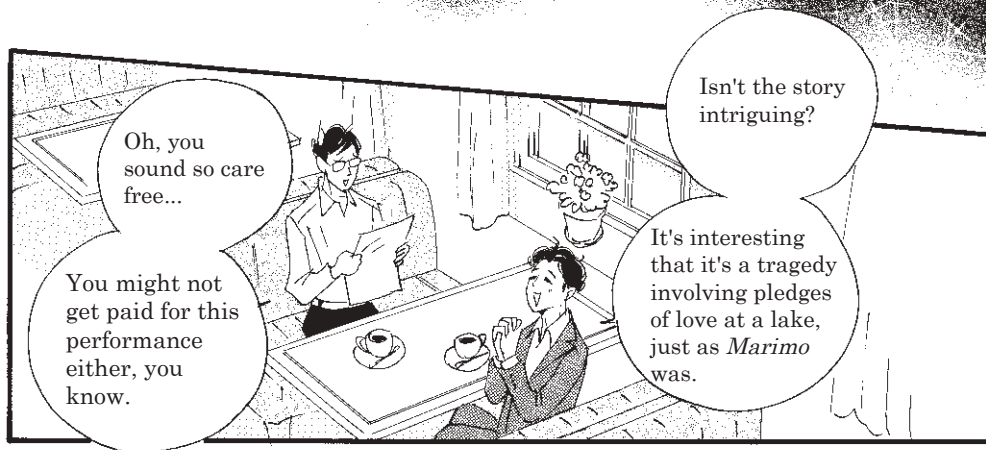
Prince Siegfried and Odette profess their love for one another, but before Prince Siegfried can pledge his eternal love, which would break the spell, Von Rothbart sends him a beautiful seductress, Odile.

Prince Siegfried is tempted by Odile and betrays Odette...



There are differences in how the music is used and how the story ends.

Various versions have been produced by different stage directors.



Oh, you sound so care free...

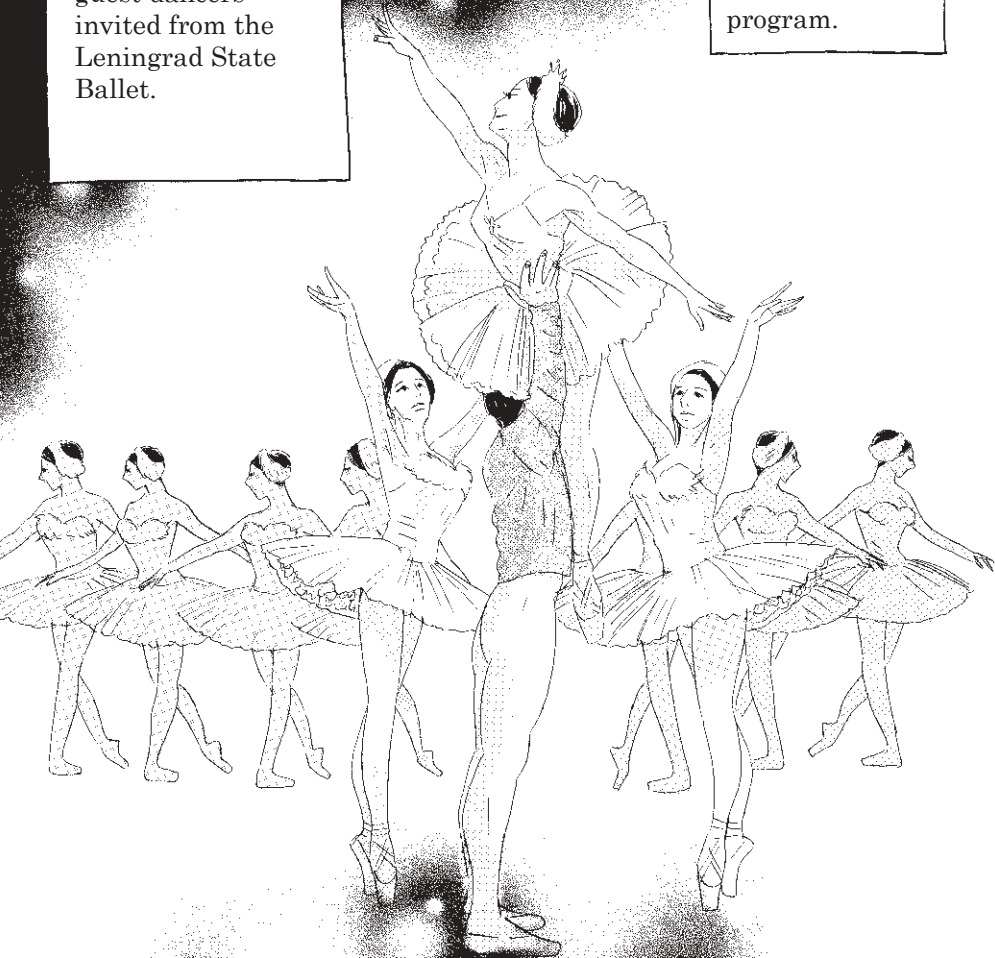
You might not get paid for this performance either, you know.


Isn't the story intriguing?

It's interesting that it's a tragedy involving pledges of love at a lake, just as *Marimo* was.


Swan Lake was performed 14 times in four halls, with guest dancers invited from the Leningrad State Ballet.

Tadatsugu made full use of his connections and planned the school performance as a ballet concert program.

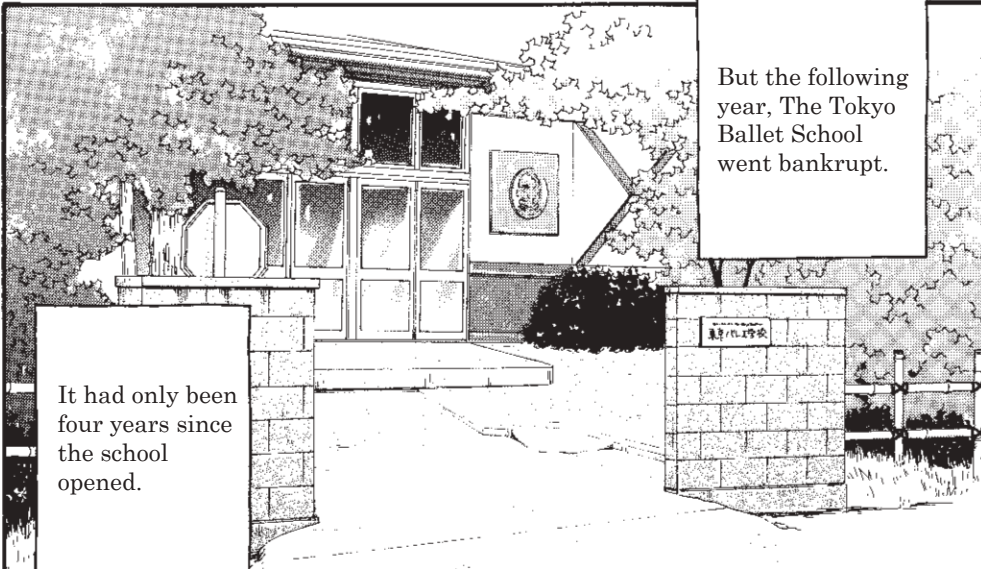




A splendid performance can reach the heart of an audience.



The day will surely come when these huge debts will turn into success!!



But the following year, The Tokyo Ballet School went bankrupt.

It had only been four years since the school opened.