

!! 特報 !!

ニューヨーク、ジャパン・ソサエティーでの弁士公演(DAWN OF JAPANESE ANIMATION 2008.2.13-2.16)が2月10日付けThe New York Timesで紹介されました。

Arts&LEISURE

The New York Times

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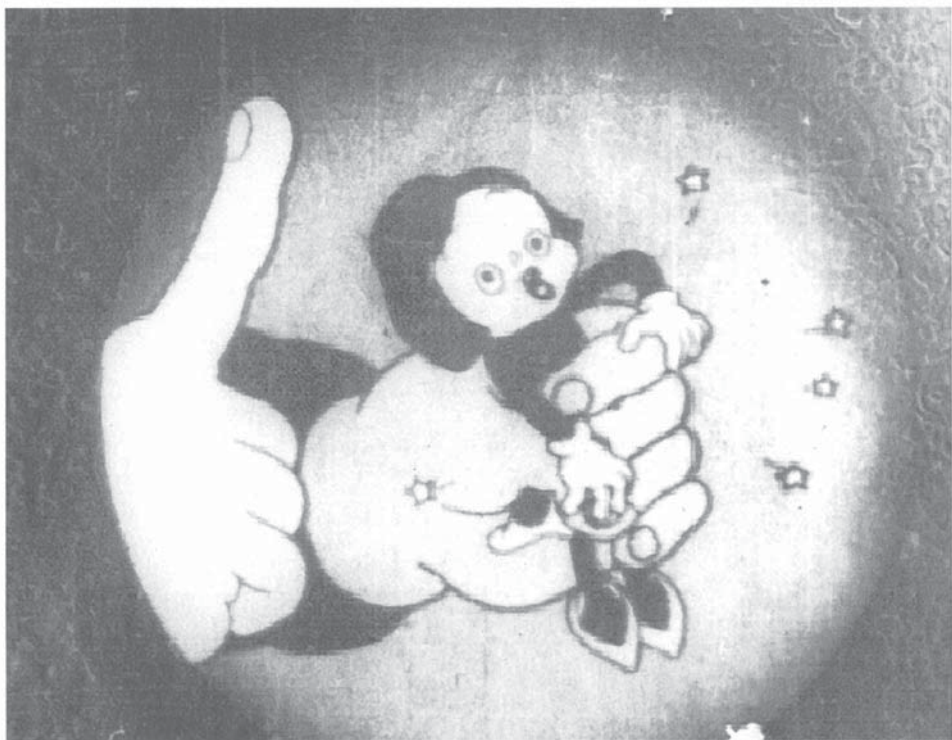
Film

Mike Hale

Japanese animation had already had a golden age decades before Osamu Tezuka began to define what we now think of as anime in the early 1960s. Films from that period have been next to impossible to see, but that will change for four nights this week when Japan Society presents **DAWN OF JAPANESE ANIMATION**, a festival of nearly 40 cartoons dating mainly from the late 1920s to the mid-1930s.

The short, mostly silent films reflect an obvious, inevitable American influence — particularly the Fleischer brothers, but also early Disney — that combined in fascinating ways with Japanese visual forms, from manga to woodblock prints, and narrative traditions. Characters from Japanese folklore move to jazz-age rhythms in stories that incorporate ancient pieties and modern, imperial anxieties. In “Momotaro’s Sky Adventure” (1931) by the great Yasuji Murata, for instance, the folk hero Momotaro is reimagined as a pilot fighting suspiciously American-looking eagles. (It’s part of the “Propaganda” program on Friday, the most interesting of the four nights, which also includes Sanae Yamamoto’s beautiful “Animal Village in Trouble” and Noburo Ofuji’s “Kimigayo,” in which the Jap-

42



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“Ta-chan’s Underwater Adventure,” a 1935 cartoon by Kenzo Masaoka, is being shown at Japan Society.

anese national anthem is set to pulsing, often semi-abstract nationalist symbols.)

Making this opportunity even more unusual, the society is presenting many of the films with benshi narration — the uniquely Japanese practice of having a live performer not only read the intertitles but also recite dialogue and describe the action — by Midori Sawato, one of the last active benshi. *Animation programs at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 5 p.m. Saturday, each followed by a short live-action feature; \$10 to \$15; 333 East 47th Street, Manhattan, (212) 715-1258, japansociety.org.*

詳しくはデジタル・ミーム担当者にお問い合わせください。

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