



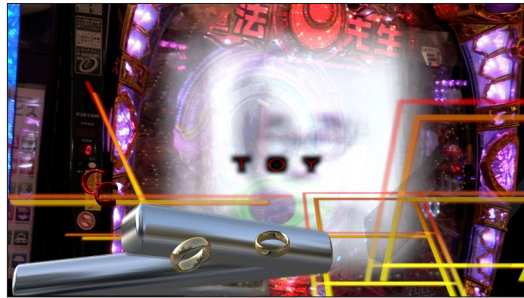
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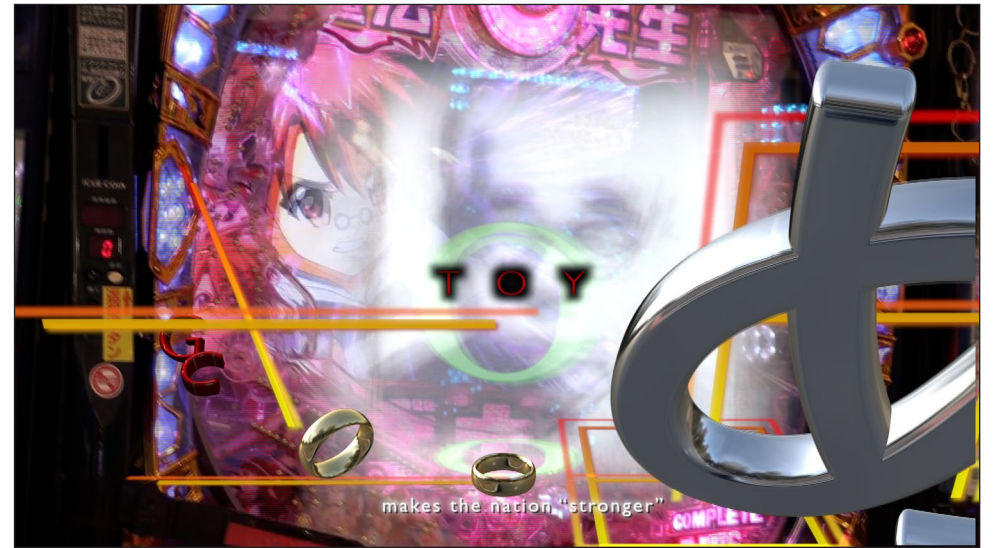
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MODERN DANCE ODORI 137. TAKUBOKU ISHIKAWA 3. LIFE

Christopher Lawrie 2019



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Celebrated tanka poet rode the tumult of his times as he transformed from provincial romantic to national firebrand. The society of Takuboku Ishikawa's era was in dramatic political flux, and its complex issues became his personal obsessions. After his death, Takuboku's preoccupations came to be seen as a symbol of the social and emotional upheavals of his times. The key word in the last two decades of the Meiji Era (1868-1912) was "polemics." Intellectuals and socially conscious people were actively involved in a nationwide discourse, played out in all aspects of the culture — literature, theater, graphic arts, journalism — as to what the nature of future Japanese society should be. In essence it is the same current that continues to rage today: Should society be open to ideas on the basis of their true merit, creating a fluid situation that leads to the betterment of all classes? Or should the body polity be unified in thought and action behind one ethnic, religious or ideological idea, an idea that presumably makes the nation "stronger" and more successful at engaging in conflicts with other countries?

Takuboku Ishikawa: Engaged Observer by Roger Pulvers The Japan Times
 However long I work
 Life remains a trial
 I just stare into my palms



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