

**The Takarazuka Revue Traveling Troupe under Japan's Total War Regime: Performances in Miyazaki Prefecture**

The Takarazuka Revue, mobile theatre, Miyazaki prefecture, Theatre Control, central and regional

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In 1944, under wartime measures, the Takarazuka Revue was forced to suspend theater performances as “flamboyant and luxurious” and shifted to nationwide touring. This article examines these wartime touring activities, focusing on performances in Miyazaki Prefecture, with the aim of situating the role of the traveling troupe within the local entertainment industry through comparison with other troupes. Miyazaki, far from major urban centers, had been dominated by traditional forms of entertainment such as naniwabushi and kabuki. Viewing these conventions as overly conservative, local intellectuals welcomed the change, expecting greater diversity in entertainment. Takarazuka performances were regarded as wholesome and more advanced forms of entertainment. The physical appeal of young female performers captured the attention of male audiences, but this allure did not function as an effective vehicle of propaganda, which wartime policy had initially expected the troupe to fulfill. However, precisely because of its appeal as entertainment, it contributed to sustaining the wartime regime by supporting the reproduction of labor power.