

# E10

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**[00:01] Ekoda**

Good evening. Ekoda-chan here.

**[00:03] Ekoda**

Today, we're gonna switch things up  
and show you Ekoda-chan as envisioned

**[00:07] Ekoda**

by the artist, Sasaoka Yuriko-san.

**[00:09] Ekoda**

We've gone for a Supermarionation  
feel, so bear that in mind.

**[00:13] Ekoda**

Anyone who wants to watch some normal anime,  
now's your chance to change the channel.

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** Okay, let's get this show on the road!

**SIGN** Rinshi!!

**[00:22] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists in all our hearts ♪

**[00:30] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists in all our hearts ♪

**[00:38] Singing**

♪ More considerate than  
you'd think at first glance ♪

**[00:44] Singing**

♪ ...which gets taken advantage of ♪

**[00:48] Singing**

♪ Not as strong as she seems ♪

**[00:52] Singing**

♪ A hot topic! ♪

**[00:56] Singing**

♪ I find the tiniest bit of happiness ♪

**[01:01] Singing**

♪ ...and don't even realize! ♪

**[01:04] Singing**

♪ As long as loneliness exists in this world ♪

**[01:08] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists within my heart ♪

**[01:17] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists in your heart... ♪

**[01:31] Singing**

♪ Shine on, Ekoda! ♪

**[01:32] Singing**

♪ You're the Japanese Marilyn Monroe! ♪

**[01:35] Singing**

♪ Shine on, Ekoda! ♪

**[01:37] Singing**

♪ You're a modern-day samurai general! ♪

**[01:40] Singing**

♪ Usually naked! ♪

**[01:41] Singing**

♪ Usually naked! ♪

**[01:42] Singing**

♪ Usually naked! ♪

**[01:49] Singing**

*Gotta keep it real!*

**[01:51] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists in all our hearts ♪

**[01:53] Singing**

*You wanna go to Hawaii?*

**[01:54] Singing**

*You bet I do!*

**[01:57] ---**

*I don't care!*

**[01:58] ---**

*I'm jumping in the ocean!*

**[01:59] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists in all our hearts ♪

**[02:01] Singing**

*So slippery! Gonna crash!*

**[02:03] ---**

*Welcome to midriff town!*

**[02:06] Singing**

*High school!*

**[02:07] ---**

*Cool!*

**[02:08] Singing**

♪ Such a people-pleaser ♪

**[02:14] Singing**

♪ ...which gets taken advantage of! ♪

**[02:17] Singing**

♪ No peculiar sexual fetishes ♪

**[02:22] Singing**

♪ Not that anyone believes me! ♪

**[02:25] Singing**

♪ Once I get sick of being trapped in a cycle ♪

**[02:30] Singing**

♪ I never go back! ♪

**[02:33] Singing**

♪ As long as men exist in this world ♪

**[02:37] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists within all our hearts! ♪

**[02:46] Singing**

♪ Ekoda exists in all our hearts! ♪

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

**[03:33] Narrator**

They say that ten different people  
produce ten different versions.

**SIGN** Ten Versions

**SIGN** Ten People

**[03:37] Narrator**

But what if there were new Ekoda-chans?

**SIGN** Sugii

Gisaburo

**SIGN** Takahashi

Ryosuke

**SIGN** Daichi Akitaro

**SIGN** Mochizuki

Tomomi

**SIGN** Misawa Shin

**SIGN** Takahashi Takeo

**SIGN** Yonetani

Yoshitomo

**SIGN** Kobayashi

Osamu

**SIGN** Kojima

Masayuki

**SIGN** Shigino Akira

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi

**SIGN** Morimoto Koji

**SIGN** 12 Women

**SIGN** 12 Versions!?

**[03:43] Narrator**

12 women, 12 versions?!

**SIGN** Over the course of the next 12 episodes of the anime "Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan,"  
we'll be checking in with the directors of each episode, and the voice  
actress portraying Ekoda-chan!!

**[03:45] Narrator**

Over the course of the next 12 episodes  
of the anime "Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan,"

**[03:49] Narrator**

we'll be checking in with  
the directors of each episode,

**[03:51] Narrator**

and the voice actress  
portraying Ekoda-chan.

**[03:53] Narrator**

Today, we're unveiling the director  
of Episode 10: Nagahama Hiroshi,

**SIGN** Director

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi

**[03:59] Narrator**

and Ekoda-chan's VA: Kobayashi Ai.

**SIGN** Playing Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** Kobayashi Ai

**SIGN** And not only that, but this time,

**SIGN** Episode 10's Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** Kobayashi Ai

**SIGN** Episode 10's Director

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi

**SIGN** we have modern artist, Sasaoka Yuriko-san, joining in the fun!

**SIGN** Surprising secrets about the production will be revealed!

**[04:09] Narrator**

"Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan" special feature:  
The Director and Ekoda-chan's Naked Chat!

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-Chan

**SIGN** The Director and Ekoda -chan's

**SIGN** The Director and Ekoda -chan's

**SIGN** The Director and Ekoda -chan's

**SIGN** The Director and Ekoda -chan's

**SIGN** The Director and Ekoda -chan's

**SIGN** Naked Chat

**SIGN** Naked Chat

**SIGN** Naked Chat

**[04:15] Narrator**

We're baring all for you!

**SIGN** Nagahama  
Hiroshi

**SIGN** Project/Production  
Manager  
Kataoka Yoshiro

**SIGN** Rinshi!!

Ekoda-Chan:

The Director

and

Ekoda-chan's

Naked

Chat

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi x Kobayashi Ai

**[04:19] Kataoka**

Let's start with introductions.

**[04:20] Kataoka**

If you could go first, Kobayashi-san.

**[04:22] Ai**

Right.

**[04:23] Ai**

I played Ekoda-chan.

My name is Kobayashi Ai.

**SIGN** Episode 10's Ekoda-chan

Kobayashi Ai

**[04:27] Ai**

I've been a fan of Ekoda-chan ever since the manga first went on sale,

**[04:31] Ai**

so I'm tickled pink to be part of this.

**[04:33] Ai**

And that's all.

**[04:34] Kataoka**

And you, Nagahama-san...

**[04:35] Naga**

Well, I'm meant to be the director,

**SIGN** Episode 10's Director

Nagahama Hiroshi

**[04:38] Naga**

so I suppose you can say that's what I am. I'm Nagahama Hiroshi.

**[04:41] Naga**

Ekoda-chan has been adapted a few times in the past,

**[04:44] Naga**

so I wanted to try something a little different,

**[04:50] Naga**

and to achieve that, I approached this individual.

**[04:53] Ai**

Ta-da!

**[04:54] Naga**

Modern artist, Sasaoka Yuriko-san.

**[04:57] Naga**

Your turn, Sasaoka-san.

**SIGN** Modern Artist

Sasaoka Yuriko

**[04:57] Naga**

Right.

**[04:58] Sasa**

I'm Sasaoka Yuriko, a modern artist.

**[05:01] Sasa**

The Ekoda-chan manga was like  
a bible to me when I was a student,

**[05:08] Sasa**

so I'm also tickled pink.

**[05:09] Ai**

Right?

**[05:11] Ai**

This setup makes me wonder  
what you actually did, Director.

**[05:15] Naga**

Well, leaving that aside...  
For now, at least.

**[05:17] Naga**

We can come back to that later.

**[05:19] Ai**

I see.

**SIGN** Thoughts on today's recording

**SIGN** Nagahama

Hiroshi

**[05:21] Naga**

It was fun.

**[05:22] Kataoka**

Fun?

**[05:22] Naga**

I'd say that describes it pretty well.

**[05:26] Naga**

Nothing beats a job  
where everyone's laughing

**[05:29] Naga**

about how much fun it was  
to work on the project together.

**[05:32] Ai**

It wasn't really your typical  
voice-over session, was it?

**SIGN** Kobayashi-san struggled with recording the song?!

**[05:36] Ai**

More like... a recording session?

**[05:38] Naga**

A recording session.

**[05:38] Ai**

Where you record songs.

**[05:40] Ai**

I have to admit, I was sweating bullets.

**[05:43] Ai**

It feels like my little intro before  
the song is a distant memory now.

**[05:48] Ai**

I don't even remember doing it.

**[05:49] Naga**

Really?

**[05:50] Naga**

But the intro was done after the singing.

**[05:52] Ai**

It was, but because of the singing...

**[05:55] Ai**

I'd worked my vocal chords a little too hard.

**[05:59] Ai**

I even got choked up a few times.

**[06:01] Ai**

So... the order of things was kinda backwards.

**[06:06] Naga**

It turned out better than I was expecting.

**[06:08] Ai**

Oh, my.

**[06:10] Naga**

You were even truer to Ekoda-chan

**[06:11] Ai**

This is embarrassing...

**[06:11] Naga**

than I could've hoped for.

**[06:14] Naga**

Even the bits that were flubbed,

**[06:15] Naga**

or the bits that didn't  
sound the greatest vocally...

**[06:18] Naga**

They seemed totally in character.

**[06:20] Naga**

She did an amazing job. Don't you think?

**[06:23] Sasa**

She really did. For me,  
that just *was* Ekoda-chan's voice.

**[06:29] Sasa**

Because of that passion,  
and that throaty sexiness.

**[06:34] Sasa**

It's just how I imagined her sounding.

**[06:36] Ai**

I-I-I'm honored.

**[06:39] Ai**

Well, because I was so totally  
focused on nailing the singing,

**[06:43] Ai**

not much else was  
going through my head.

**[06:45] Naga**

I see. I see.

**[06:48] Ai**

I felt totally exposed.

**[06:52] Naga**

That makes sense. Just like Ekoda-chan.

**[06:53] Ai**

It felt less like a job

**[06:55] Ai**

and more like everyone was dogpiling me.

**[06:58] Sasa**

And yanking you about?

**[06:58] Ai**

Pulling me around, yeah.

**[07:00] Naga**

What a situation to be in.

**[07:01] Ai**

I was freaking out.

**[07:03] Ai**

It was nerve-wracking.

**[07:04] Sasa**

You said it was a rare sight,  
seeing Ai-chan so worried.

**[07:07] Naga**

It was, indeed.

**[07:09] Naga**

You looked like a soccer player.

**[07:11] Naga**

The way you were just bouncing around.

**[07:14] Naga**

Someone'd say: "We're ready  
for the next take, Ai-chan,"

**[07:17] Naga**

and you reply: "Gonna nail it."

**[07:18] Naga**

We were all confused!

"What's she going to nail?"

**[07:22] Ai**

Well, I meant hitting all the notes.

**[07:24] Ai**

Oh, the rhythm.

**[07:24] Ai**

And getting the rhythm right.

**[07:26] Ai**

It was a lot of fun, though. Even if  
I was in a world of despair the entire time.

**[07:30] Naga**

A world of despair!

**[07:30] Ai**

I seriously was.

**SIGN** Sasaoka-san's first time seeing anime being made

**[07:33] Sasa**

It was my first time seeing for myself

**[07:35] Sasa**

just how many people help  
put together a project like this.

**[07:41] Sasa**

It was kind of awe-inspiring.

**[07:46] Naga**

You basically directed the song  
by yourself, Sasaoka-san.

**[07:49] Naga**

Asking for stronger takes.  
That sort of thing.

**[07:53] Naga**

So this was a piece of cake for me.

**[07:56] Naga**

A total breeze.

**[07:56] Ai**

You had a constant grin.

**[07:58] Sasa**

I mostly just imitate what I've seen,

**[07:59] Sasa**

but when I work on a film,  
I like to do the music myself.

**[08:04] Sasa**

I'm the kind of person who isn't  
satisfied unless I'm involved

**[08:06] Sasa**

in every part of the process.

**[08:08] Ai**

Wow.

**[08:09] Ai**

It would've been nice  
if you could've sung, too.

**[08:11] Sasa**

Oh, no, I can't sing.

**[08:13] Naga**

She can, really.

**[08:15] Naga**

But if she'd done the singing, as well,

**[08:18] Naga**

it would've put a limit on how much  
she could experience with this project.

**[08:22] Naga**

Sasaoka-san doesn't usually do  
this kind of collaborative work.

**[08:26] Naga**

She's usually a one-woman show.

**[08:29] Naga**

So I wanted her to find out what it was  
like to work with others on a project.

**[08:33] Naga**

And I hoped that she would  
end up getting something out of it.

**[08:38] Naga**

Just doing what you always do...

**[08:40] Naga**

wouldn't have been as much fun, would it?

**[08:41] Sasa**

You're right.

**SIGN** Behind the scenes of

"Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan"

Episode 10

**SIGN** Nagahama

Hiroshi

**[08:48] Naga**

This is a very interesting manga.

**SIGN** Director Nagahama's proposal for the anime

**SIGN** Rinshi!!

Ekoda-Chan:

The Director

and

Ekoda-chan's

Naked

Chat

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi x Kobayashi Ai

**SIGN** Nagahama

Hiroshi

**[08:51] Naga**

And I was sure it'd make  
for an interesting anime.

**[08:53] ---**

That's what I thought, anyway.

**[08:55] Naga**

So I asked Kataoka-san about

maybe doing an anime adaptation...

**[09:02] Naga**

How long ago was that?

**[09:04] Kataoka**

13 years ago.

**[09:05] Naga**

That was 13 years ago!

**[09:07] Naga**

The fact he remembered that discussion,

**[09:10] Naga**

and actually made it happen  
after all this time amazes me.

**[09:13] Kataoka**

I'm really grateful to Nagahama-san  
for making me aware of it.

**[09:17] Naga**

Well, that's kind of you to say.

**[09:18] Naga**

But it's really weirding me out,  
Kataoka-san being so deferential to me.

**SIGN** Not an adaptation, but a work born out of "Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan"

**[09:23] Naga**

The idea was to be fully aware that this is  
something born out of the Ekoda-chan manga.

**[09:29] Naga**

Strictly speaking, this isn't  
an adaptation of the manga.

**[09:32] Naga**

It's more something that was  
made with the manga in mind.

**[09:37] Naga**

Because of that, both in the  
illustration I produced for it,

**[09:40] Naga**

and in the animation for the intro,

**[09:44] Naga**

she's got blue skin.

**[09:46] Naga**

That's one of Ekoda-chan's alter  
egos that appears in Volume 2.

**[09:50] Naga**

These alter egos are  
everywhere in this episode.

**[09:52] Naga**

And that's part of the theme of this episode.

**[09:57] Naga**

We're all her alter-egos.

**[10:00] Naga**

And although Ekoda-chan  
would hate the comparison,

**[10:07] Naga**

that sentiment shows that we  
all have something in common.

**[10:12] Naga**

And it creates the kind of animosity  
that comes from being alike.

**[10:19] Naga**

That was part of the reason why  
I asked Sasaoka-san to get involved.

**[10:23] Naga**

I wanted something that  
couldn't be accomplished

**[10:26] Naga**

by someone just drawing  
an animated version of the manga.

**[10:30] Naga**

And I thought the medium she  
works in would be just the ticket.

**[10:36] Naga**

My initial concept was producing something  
that looked like "Thunderbirds."

**SIGN** Director Nagahama's plan

**[10:42] Kataoka**

You did, didn't you?

**[10:43] Naga**

Yeah. I wanted it to look like "Thunderbirds,"  
but sound like "La La Land."

**SIGN** Going to "La La Land" with "Thunderbirds"

**[10:49] Naga**

But then, I had to actually  
figure out how to do that.

**[10:55] Naga**

There's this live-action  
director called Motoi-san,

**[10:59] Naga**

and I asked her: "Do you know anyone who  
works with Thunderbirds-style marionettes?"

**[11:07] Naga**

So it was Motoi-san who turned  
me on to Sasaoka-san's work.

**SIGN** Director Nagahama meets Sasaoka-san

**[11:12] Naga**

Anyway, I went to see her  
while she was working,

**[11:16] Naga**

and it was just like  
watching Ekoda-chan.

**[11:18] Naga**

She was in this worn-out sweatshirt,

**[11:20] Ai**

Was she naked?

**[11:20] Naga**

and worn-out jeans... Yeah.

**[11:22] Naga**

She wasn't naked! There was no nudity!

**[11:23] Naga**

That's not what I meant!

**[11:24] Ai**

I was getting excited for a second!

**[11:25] Naga**

You just had to go there!

**[11:28] Naga**

I thought she was really interesting.

**[11:31] Naga**

And after she showed me some of her  
work, I thought: "It has to be her."

**[11:34] Naga**

If this woman takes on the project,  
she'll look deep into Ekoda-chan's soul.

**[11:42] Naga**

And I thought I'd get the "Thunderbirds"  
meets "La La Land" episode I was after.

**[11:47] Sasa**

Was it like that, though?

**[11:48] Naga**

In regard to the run-time...

**SIGN** Struggles with the three-minute run-time

**[11:51] Naga**

I think animation is defined by the  
built-in limits of a specified run-time.

**[11:56] Naga**

Conversely, if you just sorta said:  
"Take all the time you want,"

**[11:59] Naga**

or, "You can make it as long as you like,"

**[12:03] Naga**

it would basically change the medium.

**[12:07] Naga**

I wanted to show something quintessentially  
Ekoda-chan in the time allotted.

**[12:10] Naga**

I imagine all the other directors

**[12:12] Naga**

felt the same way.

**[12:12] Kataoka**

They did.

**[12:13] Naga**

And that made it easy  
to get motivated for this.

**SIGN** Getting fired up for a three-minute show

**[12:15] Naga**

To make something that'd  
leave people wanting more.

**[12:21] Naga**

Where they react with:  
"What? It's only three minutes?!"

**[12:24] Naga**

You have to figure out how to  
get people to feel that way,

**[12:28] Naga**

and that's a fun problem to solve.

**[12:32] Naga**

So I wanted Sasaoka-san to have  
the majority of the time to herself,

**[12:38] Naga**

and we just handled the introduction.

**[12:43] Naga**

That intro set things up for  
Sasaoka-san's part of the episode,

**[12:48] Naga**

and made it seem like some  
kind of programming error.

**[12:53] Ai**

But it was premeditated.

**[12:54] Naga**

It absolutely was.

**[12:56] Ai**

I mean, even here, in this segment,

**SIGN** A truly unique episode

**[12:58] Ai**

where it's usually just the director and  
Ekoda-chan's VA sitting down for a chat,

**[13:02] Ai**

we're so fancy, we got a third person in!

**[13:04] Ai**

There are literally two people  
here you could call the director.

**[13:08] Ai**

I think this episode crams  
a lot more in than usual.

**[13:13] Kataoka**

You've got a point.

**[13:14] Kataoka**

Usually, we just have the two  
who made the episode happen.

**[13:17] Kataoka**

But this time, two people  
came up with the core concept.

**[13:20] Naga**

That's a good point.

**[13:22] Kataoka**

For this particular three-minute episode.

**[13:25] Naga**

And, at first, I was kinda worried  
that I wasn't being directorial enough.

**[13:29] Naga**

But that just added to the entertainment.

**[13:31] Kataoka**

From what I've heard today,  
I do think you did the job of a director.

**[13:33] Naga**

Really?

**[13:35] Naga**

Well, that's good, then.

**[13:36] Ai**

Yeah, it is.

**[13:38] Naga**

As long as it all worked out.

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** The Director and

Ekoda -chan's

Naked Chat

**[13:44] Narrator**

In the first half, they discussed  
difficulties in the recording,

**SIGN** Episode 10's Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** Kobayashi Ai

**SIGN** Episode 10's Director

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi

**SIGN** Rinshi!!

Ekoda-Chan:

The Director

and

Ekoda-chan's

Naked

Chat

**[13:48] Narrator**

and the director's approach to the episode.

**[13:51] Narrator**

In the second half, we'll examine their lives through the lens of Ekoda-chan.

**[13:56] Narrator**

And what production materials will Sasaoka-san unveil that you can only see here?

**SIGN** The Director x VA

& Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** Nagahama

Hiroshi

**SIGN** Could you relate to Ekoda-chan?

**SIGN** Nagahama

Hiroshi

**SIGN** Nagahama Hiroshi x Kobayashi Ai

**[14:06] Naga**

Well?

**[14:07] Ai**

I have nothing but sympathy for her!

**[14:09] Naga**

I figured you might!

**[14:11] Ai**

Sympathy, and admiration.

**[14:14] Ai**

She goes through a lot,

**[14:16] Ai**

and my reaction to those moments would be more emotional,

**[14:19] Ai**

but she's already laughed it off by the next panel.

**[14:23] Ai**

And that's something I really admire.

**[14:27] Ai**

I get what she's going through. I see myself in these situations.

**[14:31] Ai**

Not necessarily with this episode, but I genuinely feel that way.

**[14:36] Ai**

When I'm reading Ekoda-chan, I'm always going, "I know, right? I know, right?"

**[14:41] Ai**

There was one lyric in the song that really stood out...

**[14:46] Ai**

I didn't sing that line, but the part where  
she's called a modern-day samurai general...

**[14:51] Ai**

That was really funny.

**SIGN** The appeal of Ekoda-chan

**[14:54] Sasa**

I think it's a manga where  
you can recognize feelings

**[14:57] Sasa**

you don't necessarily  
have the words for yet.

**[15:01] Sasa**

And seeing it on the page  
allows you to sympathize,

**[15:04] Sasa**

and helps you realize there are  
others who feel the same way.

**[15:07] Sasa**

Something about that  
is really reassuring.

**[15:10] Sasa**

And as you read through, you start  
to see yourself reflected in Ekoda-chan.

**[15:17] Sasa**

Sort of like with Buddhist statues.

**[15:19] Naga**

I see!

**[15:19] Sasa**

For some reason, in Volume 1,

**[15:21] Sasa**

she looks kind of intense and scary,

**[15:25] Sasa**

but as it goes along, she softens,  
and you start to see her cute side.

**[15:29] Sasa**

Like when she gets  
attached to some mildew.

**[15:31] Naga**

That's a good example.

**[15:32] Sasa**

I think she's really great.

**[15:35] Naga**

I don't know if I could honestly say  
I fully understand it, since I'm a man,

**[15:41] Naga**

but it's like... I want to understand,

**[15:46] Naga**

and there are parts I definitely do get.

**[15:48] Naga**

Parts that any man should be able to get.

**[15:52] Naga**

I think it's a pretty versatile  
manga, in that sense.

**[15:54] Naga**

It doesn't pigeonhole itself  
by only being aimed at women.

**[15:59] Ai**

Friend M is pretty cool.

Like, you think, "I want a friend like that."

**SIGN** The existence of Friend M

**[16:03] Ai**

The way their relationship is...  
I think it's really appealing.

**[16:08] Ai**

They're not too close; they have  
just the right amount of distance.

**[16:13] Ai**

That's something I'm envious of...

**[16:15] Ai**

and it makes me wish  
I had a friend like that.

**[16:18] Naga**

She was in this episode.

**[16:21] Ai**

That's right.

**[16:22] Naga**

Voiced by...

**[16:24] Ai**

A classmate of mine.

**[16:27] Naga**

Wait, really?

**[16:29] Ai**

Well, you asked me if I had anyone in mind,

**[16:32] Ai**

so I ended up casting her!

**[16:35] Naga**

Well, Friend M is Ekoda-chan's friend,

**[16:38] Naga**

so it made sense for Ai-chan to pick  
the person she wanted to play her.

**[16:44] Naga**

And that person was Komatsu-san.

**[16:46] Naga**

Well...

**SIGN** How the Director and Kobayashi-san met

**[16:49] Naga**

Where we met?

**[16:51] Ai**

"Mushishi"?

**[16:52] Naga**

"Mushishi," yes.

**[16:52] Ai**

The audition for "Mushishi."

**[16:54] Naga**

Right, it was at the "Mushishi" auditions,

**[16:56] Naga**

for the role of Tanyuu,  
a very important character.

**[17:00] Naga**

And then, after that...

**[17:03] Naga**

She just sorta stuck in my memory,

**[17:07] Naga**

and when we had to cast a princess  
for a Crayon Shin-chan movie,

**[17:11] Naga**

I brought up the name Kobayashi Ai.

**[17:15] Naga**

And since then...

**[17:16] Ai**

Since then...

**[17:17] Naga**

It's been ten...

**[17:18] Ai**

Ten...

**[17:20] Both**

...years.

**[17:23] Naga**

Sure has.

**[17:24] Naga**

My impression at the time... hm...

**SIGN** First impressions of Kobayashi-san

**[17:30] ---**

My immediate impression was  
that she *had* to be Tanyuu.

**[17:37] Naga**

But then...

**[17:39] Naga**

You don't like the "but."

**[17:40] Ai**

Yeah, I'm not a fan of it.

**[17:41] Naga**

But when I listened back over the tapes,

**[17:42] Ai**

You'll ruin my career!

**[17:43] Naga**

I was like, "Wait, why did I pick Ai-chan again?"

**[17:47] Naga**

But the thing is...

**[17:49] Ai**

I didn't do a great job.

**[17:51] Naga**

Right, in the audition.

When auditioning for the part.

**[17:53] Naga**

But in the actual voice-over sessions, she was spectacular.

**[17:58] Naga**

You were great, really.

**[18:00] Naga**

So I was kinda impressed with myself for seeing her potential.

**SIGN** Kobayashi-san's first impression of Director Nagahama

**[18:06] Ai**

My impression of you is mostly from when we were traveling around for "Mushishi."

**[18:13] Ai**

I thought you were a funny guy.

**[18:17] Ai**

We ended up going all over Japan and spending some time together,

**[18:22] Ai**

and ever since, I've thought of him as a goofball.

**[18:27] Ai**

But once you get past that side of him, you see the incredible work he does.

**[18:32] Ai**

So there's both admiration and a sense of familiarity.

**[18:36] Ai**

We're good friends in a sense.

**[18:40] Kataoka**

I'm actually really curious

**SIGN** The use of marionettes

**[18:42] Kataoka**

as to how you actually use the marionettes.

**[18:42] Ai**

Oh, I am, too.

**[18:44] Sasa**

Right. Well, I have a marionette right here.

**[18:50] Sasa**

And I control the marionette just like this,

**[18:56] Sasa**

and later, I paste my face onto it here,  
where a face would usually be.

**[19:01] Sasa**

And that then becomes Ekoda-chan.

**[19:04] Sasa**

You generally don't see this kind  
of elaborate movement in anime,

**[19:08] Sasa**

and even Pixar doesn't try to do it,

**[19:11] Sasa**

so I try to make sure I get in as much intricate,

**[19:13] Naga**

Wow!

**[19:14] Sasa**

articulated movement as I can when I film.

**[19:18] Naga**

Impressive.

**[19:19] Sasa**

Including me, there are three  
people holding the puppets,

**[19:23] Sasa**

and moving them in time with the music.

**[19:25] Sasa**

And when I'm making a film, um...

**[19:29] Sasa**

I like to do long, single takes with no cuts,

**[19:34] Sasa**

so any slight mistakes or habits  
end up feeling emphasized.

**[19:41] Sasa**

Which makes for a thrilling  
experience filming it.

**[19:44] Sasa**

I started using this method because  
I wanted to find a middle ground

**[19:49] Sasa**

between a puppet show and a movie.

**[19:52] Naga**

And this is Ekoda?

**[19:53] Sasa**

Yup, it's her.

**[19:56] Sasa**

Before I get to work, I find I have trouble getting started if I haven't drawn something.

**SIGN** Illustrations drawn before filming

**[20:03] Sasa**

So I draw the character first to help place them in my mind,

**[20:09] Sasa**

in terms of what kind of person Ekoda-chan is,

**[20:12] Sasa**

and what kind of things influence her,

**[20:17] Sasa**

and then, until I actually portray them, I have these.

**[20:21] Sasa**

Done in pastels.

**[20:22] Naga**

That's impressive. In pastels, huh?

**[20:24] Sasa**

Yeah, I used pastels.

**[20:26] Sasa**

Here's Big Sis. I tried to get across how crazy she is.

**[20:31] Sasa**

Here we go. I wanted to really emphasize the faces of *Ekoda-chan*.

**[20:35] Sasa**

So I basically discarded the bodies.

**[20:39] Ai**

That's an amazing choice.

**[20:41] Ai**

Just cutting everything else.

**[20:41] Sasa**

It puts the focus on the faces.

**SIGN** Your thoughts on having worked on the episode

**[20:44] Ai**

I'm kinda sad that it's over after today.

**[20:52] Ai**

This was my first time meeting Sasaoka-san, for instance.

**[20:56] Ai**

And getting to talk, and sing, and do a round table like this...

**[21:00] Ai**

It's all been so much! I feel full.

**[21:03] Kataoka**

That's good to hear.

**[21:04] Naga**

**[21:05] Kataoka**

What about you, Nagahama-san?

**[21:07] Naga**

Well, let's see...

**[21:10] Naga**

Y'know, it was really fun.

**[21:12] Naga**

I got to drag the artist,  
Sasaoka-san, to the recording.

**[21:18] Naga**

Someone who's normally  
cooped up in her own studio.

**[21:21] Naga**

So that was fun.

**[21:22] Ai**

She sure doesn't dress like a shut-in.

**[21:25] Naga**

True enough!

**[21:27] Naga**

I'm very satisfied with how everything went.

**[21:32] Naga**

I'm glad.

**[21:33] Sasa**

This was my first time being around  
a professional production like this,

**[21:40] Sasa**

and seeing how many people  
have internalized this work

**[21:44] Sasa**

to put together three minutes of film for it

**[21:50] Sasa**

really helps me realize the amount of  
polish that goes into a project like this.

**[21:58] Sasa**

And I think it's an experience  
that'll help me in future.

**[22:01] Sasa**

I feel almost like there's  
pressure to capitalize on it.

**[22:04] Sasa**

So I'm going to keep working hard.

**[22:07] Naga**

That's good to hear.

**[22:07] Kataoka**

Thanks for coming.

**[22:10] Narrator**

And that's it for today's discussion.

**SIGN** Next Episode Preview

**[22:13] Narrator**

Next time on "The Director  
and Ekoda-chan's Naked Chat,"

**[22:17] Narrator**

we're ditching the studio and crashing  
the episode wrap party instead!

**SIGN** Director

**SIGN** Ekoda-chan's

VA

**SIGN** Director

**SIGN** Ekoda-chan's

VA

**[22:22] Narrator**

And a big-time musician  
makes an appearance?

**[22:24] Narrator**

Will the free-flowing conversation  
end up making any sense?

**SIGN** Ekoda-chan's

VA

**SIGN** Director

**[22:28] Narrator**

Find out next time!

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** The Director and Ekoda -chan's

**SIGN** Naked Chat

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

**SIGN** Until she's ready

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

Until she's ready

**SIGN** Kyoto Studio

**SIGN** Today, the footage for Friend M and Big Sister is being filmed

**SIGN** The completed makeup for Friend M

**SIGN** Test Photography

**SIGN** The footage will be composited onto the faces of the marionettes

**SIGN** The backgrounds are all done on blue screen

**SIGN** Cameras rolling

**SIGN** Checking the footage

**SIGN** Filming Big Sis

**SIGN** That's a wrap for today

**SIGN** Ekoda exists in all our hearts

**SIGN** Rinshi!! Ekoda-chan

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