

# Kamishibai

Japanese "paper theater" or "showcase of fairy tales in the streets", is a Japanese paper theater.

The origins of the Kamishibai can be found in the Buddhist wanderings monks of the 10th century. They used the method of image-based storytelling to spread Buddhist teachings

The Kamishibai, which is known today, developed into a popular culture of the Japanese pre-war era. The Kamishibai's artists used short texts to recount changing images that are pushed into a stage-like frame. The lyrics and pictures were specially developed for this narrative form.

The performances were free of charge and the narrator earned his living by selling sweets. Kamishibai became substantially popular during the Great Depression of the 1930s and after the Japanese surrender to the Allied Forces in 1945. This period is known as the "Golden Age" of kamishibai in Japan.

After the Pacific War, until 1953, when television was first broadcasted, there were about 10,000 Kamishibai narrators and five million daily viewers in Japan. Many picture artists later became well-known cartoonists.

The type developed for this occasion is called the "Integral movie theater", because it combines old and new forms and techniques in favor of a new experience.



A KAMISHIBAI ARTIST IN TOKIO



PROCESSION NAGOYA



A STORY OF ÖGON BAT



OSAKA



SENDAI