

## Concept of »Shounen Alice«

What does one have to do to describe the self well? Gender, age, nationality, race, name, »title«. Symbols to fulfill these criteria, we have many of them. But these symbols, how much can they tell of the whole? For example, just within me, a lone human being: masculine and feminine, child-like and adult-like, strength and weakness, tenderness and coldness, such directly-opposed elements exist together.

But if I must mark this disk with one symbol, I think »Boy Alice« will do the job well. Just as all people do, I carry many contradictions and infinities. If I am to express such emotions, then I think these words will do the job well.

Maaya Sakamoto



## Insider's How to Enjoy »Shounen Alice« by producer Yoko Kanno

01. Mr. Kira\*, the director who created the animation for »Min'na no uta« was like a buddhist monk in training.

\* Keizou Kira

02. I'm sure Sakamoto was thinking »I'm Yazawa\*« when she was singing this song. Just like at Budoukan\*\*. C'mon laser lights.

\* I think she means Yazawa Eikichi, a famous Japanese singer-songwriter

\*\* Budoukan is a big concert hall in Japan, among other things.

03. At the »jajaja~an« part in the intro, pretend to do tennis practice swings. Then you will feel like you are a high school student.

04. »Sazae-san\*« comes out part way through, in my opinion.

\* The main character of a comic strip and animated show of the same name.

05. It becomes a bath house part way through, in my opinion.

06. A tune that we recorded last year, but I had totally forgotten about, and which Sakamoto discovered. Hey, it's not a bad song at all! Things like this happen quite often.

07. A song that Sakamoto wrote last year, but she had totally forgotten about, and which I put to music. She's so young yet she writes lyrics to kill a man, in my opinion.

08. To think she's come to sing lines like »such as ... your partially drained cup«.

09. The drum break that Yabu-san, the engineer, mixed while saying in an abashed manner »Got to do something cool once in a while«.

10. The score was riddled with 5/4 time and 3/4 time, and none of the musicians could play it immediately, but go-getter Sakamoto sang the song with ease without noticing any of that. Ignorance is bliss\*.

\* Sakamoto can't read music. She once said on her own radio show that she only places the score in front of her during recordings to get the lyrics right.


11. A friendly one-shot take with Ilaria\*, an Italian singer who just happened to be visiting the studio at the time. Studios are fun places because things like this happen.

\* Ilaria Graziano, who has sung a few tunes recently for Kanno. Sakamoto mentioned meeting her in London in an I.D. entry.

12. I really love the parts »Chestnut cake!« (should be Cream Cake) and »rattattatta~« and I get these absolutely wonderful feelings.

13. We recorded the sound of cars passing by on the roof of the studio. Real Tokyo.

14. The lyrics are very good, and it's really all quite wonderful, but when I think that the letter ends with »Please feed the fish 2 times a day«, it becomes a strangely business-like memo and it's fun.

**Remarks:** (1) To Sakamoto's 12th and last »12 Nin no Yasashii Hito-tachi« guest, Yoko Kanno, she asked her, »What catchphrase is attached to Maaya Sakamoto?« And YK answered, »Shounen Alice«. [roxfan] (2) »Shounen arisu« is the title of a book first published in the early 1980s (maybe earlier?). Kanno once said that Sakamoto reminds her of the protagonist, a boy named »Alice«. [kaijyuu\_m] (3) Picture taken from [www.jvcmusic.co.jp/maaya/alice03](http://www.jvcmusic.co.jp/maaya/alice03). Translations by [kaijyuu\\_m](#) and [roxfan](#). Edited by [TenAJs](#) at [www.ykdb.webhop.net](http://www.ykdb.webhop.net) (4) Leaflet design by Johannes M. Heuss © April 2005 – [www.original-heuss.de](http://www.original-heuss.de)  yokokannoDB

01. Uchuu Hikoushi no Uta (Astronaut's Song)
02. Sora wo Miro (Look At The Sky)
03. Sukurappu~Wakare no Uta (Scrap~Song Of Farewell)
04. Makiba Alice! (Farm Alice!)
05. Mahiru ga Yuki (Snow in Broad Daylight)
06. Kingfisher Girl (The Song of »Wish You Were Here«)
07. Hero
08. Yoru (Evening)
09. Call To Me
10. Hikari Are (Let There Be Light)
11. Chibikko Fooku (Little Folk)
12. Park Amsterdam (The Whole Story)
13. 03
14. Okitegami (Letter)

## »Shounen Alice« Music Introduction by Maaya Sakamoto

01. I've come very far but I am still feeling you so close to me.
02. No one will help you even if you plant yourself on one spot and cry. So get up! On your own!
03. We were young.
04. All right! Today, the world starts to shine! With the aura of you and me!
05. When all I want to do is assimilate it all quickly.
06. She continued to sing. Standing on the banks of the river of life, just for the sake of that person.
07. Go ahead and fawn on me.
08. A night when I am effortlessly dragged into some disorderly place which I never wished for.
09. Hello, moshi moshi\*, you're there, aren't you.  
\* As if saying »Hello« on the phone
10. A hope that makes you want to still try to believe.
11. Just you wait, so I want to tell them. Although someone may say that I will never make it there in time, I will head there.  
\* The title: »Chibikko Fooku (Little Folk)« as in »folk music«
12. The size of their bodies, species or words, the story of a little bird that fell in love with a human, overcoming all things.
13. Very soon, you will open your eyes and return to the real morning. Even if you are unable to recall anything at that time, please don't be sad. While you dozed, I once again held your hand.
14. And so the story ends. And again, it has started.