

# ' A R I S I N G S O N '

Treatment for a movie for television  
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An original story  
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**Log Line:** A Japanese student, sent to Canada to learn English, is caught up in a big rock band competition.

## ACT I

In a Japanese high school, YOSHI, a good looking guy, is busy writing in his beginning English class. Except he's not writing his lesson, he's working on the lyrics to a rock song. He is broken out of his writing by a question from the teacher in English. He doesn't understand and is ridiculed by the class.

Vancouver, British Columbia. At an outdoor concert, a rock band plays on to an appreciative crowd. NEIL, the lead singer, guitarist, songwriter, is hard on his band, making them perform exactly how he wants them to. Backstage, his girlfriend, HIROKO, a pretty Canadian/Japanese girl, watches adoringly.

In a tiny storage shed in a field, Yoshi and his two piece band practise. They've been offered a potential summer tour, but they'll only be allowed to do it if they pass all their final exams. Including English.

The marks come back for Yoshi. His parents are furious. His passion for music has made him fail English. In a hard decision, they are sending him away for the summer to learn English, band tour or not. Where's he going? To the land of ice, snow and igloos - Canada.

Hiroko finds out she's been saddled with babysitting some old family friend from Japan for the summer. Yoshi is going to destroy her summer. Frustrated, Hiroko tries to get some sympathy from Neil but he's busy planning for a huge band competition he intends to win in the summer.

Depressed, Yoshi leaves behind his band and flies off to Canada. He lands on a beautiful summer day in Vancouver. After meeting Hiroko's parents, and being captivated by how pretty Hiroko is, Yoshi asks to see around the city.

Rather than showing him the sights of Vancouver, Hiroko takes Yoshi to see Neil at his studio. Neil is working his band hard in another rehearsal. Finding out that Yoshi plays, Neil invites him to join in, expecting to embarrass him thoroughly. But Yoshi is

good. Too good for Neil's liking. Neil abruptly cuts short the jam, mentioning the band competition. Yoshi's ears perk up. A band competition? Yeah, Neil replies, laughing, but only if Yoshi can find himself a complete band in just ten days.

Yoshi is staying at Hiroko's house, in the basement. Hiroko ignoring him, he's a burden to her. But her parents like Yoshi a lot, he's really polite to them, and he speaks Japanese, something Hiroko can't.

Hiroko drops Yoshi off at the university for his first day of classes. She zips off to work, leaving Yoshi in the middle of the campus, all alone. He's trying to decipher his map when he hears a band jamming in a building. Distracted, he goes in to find a room full of musical equipment with four student jamming together. It turns out they are all learning English and can't communicate together, but they can play music together. Yoshi grabs a guitar and eagerly joins in.

In Yoshi's English class, **JANET**, the pretty young teacher, is waiting for five missing students to arrive. Frustrated, she starts telling the rest of the class about the course. It is policy to kick out students who don't do their homework, fail their tests or don't show up for class without a valid reason.

Back in the other building, Yoshi realizes that his class has started and he doesn't even know where the class is! The others also realize they're late too! In a panic, everyone races off in different directions.

## ACT II

Yoshi races through the campus, arriving, out of breath, at his class. The rest of his new music friends run in after him. They're all in the same class! Sheepishly, they enter, and get supreme hell from Janet about not taking their education seriously. Janet grudgingly allows them to enter but warns them not to let it happen again.

At lunch, Yoshi joins his classmates as they talk about what they're going to do while in Canada - see Banff, the Rocky Mountains, Whistler. Janet comes up and reminds them that they are only supposed to speak English while in Canada. Yoshi explains he's going to enter a band competition. His classmates don't understand, how can he let down his parents by wanting to be a pop star? Yoshi gives up trying to explain and leaves.

After jamming with his band, Yoshi arrives home to Hiroko having an argument with her parents. They want her to spend more time

with Yoshi. She doesn't want to. Under severe parental pressure, Hiroko grudgingly invites Yoshi to a party Neil's throwing. Yoshi is thrilled because the party is at Neil's studio.

Neil's party is a wild one, taking over all of his studio and living space. His band is performing. Karen, one of Hiroko's friends, starts to talk to Yoshi until she finds out he barely speaks English. Neil is joking with him about the band competition, and pressuring him to enter, knowing he doesn't have a band. After a while, Yoshi slips out, forgetting to tell Hiroko he's leaving.

While Yoshi sits in the basement, playing his guitar, headset on, Hiroko is still at the party, panicking, trying to find him. When she finally does, she's furious at him for leaving without telling her. Yoshi tries to apologize but Hiroko won't hear it.

Yoshi is on the bus going to school, when he spots a sign in a music show window. It's the headquarters of the band competition. Yoshi hops off the bus and goes in to pick up an entry form. But as he's leaving the store, his eye is caught by a fabulous electric guitar on display. He spends what money he has to get it, sure he will win it back in the contest.

At the next jam session, Yoshi brings up the competition with the band. But they are all worried about their grades, learning English, and they don't want anything to do with the competition. Yoshi can't really disagree with their argument, but how can he win a band competition without a band?

### ACT III

After class one day, Yoshi asks Janet to join him for lunch. Over food at a greasy spoon serving authentic Canadian food, Yoshi asks Janet to help him fill out the entry form. He assures her that he will do fine on his studying while winning the contest. She reads the entry form to him. He needs to have a three song demo tape to enter. And he's got only three days to get a band and make a demo tape! Janet thinks he should forget the contest and concentrate on studying. Yoshi won't listen and they end up in a fight. Janet walks out on him.

At home, Yoshi tries to apologize to Hiroko again. He needs her to ask Neil if he can use his studio and if he can help him make a demo tape. She says no. She's still angry with him, besides, why should Neil help him?

The next day, Yoshi goes to Neil, all by himself. Contrary to what Hiroko thinks of Neil, he says he'd be happy to help. After Yoshi leaves, Neil remarks to Mark, how good can they be, they've

only been a band for less than a week. Right? The session will be good for a joke. Mark is less than sure.

Yoshi and the band jamming. He pauses to convince them, one final time about the contest. He promises them it won't take much time. But what about the demo tape, they ask. Yoshi's got that solved. Not a problem. They finally agree, which is a relief for Yoshi, they're to be at Neil's within the hour to start their session.

At Neil's studio, the band show up with all their great equipment. Neil gets worried when they start to play well, really well. They rip thru a funky version of 'You ain't seen nothin' yet', by BT0, to warm up. Mark is staring at them, mouth agape.

As the session carries on, the band quickly put their songs down on tape, including a great song of Yoshi's with him singing in Japanese. Neil confides to Mark that he'll just sabotage the mix of the tape to ensure that they don't get into the competition. Easy as that. There is no way Yoshi's going to beat Neil. Neil will make sure of that.

#### ACT IV

With the band finished their recording, the mix down starts. Yoshi wants to stay and help, but Neil assures him that he and Mark work better by themselves. They'll drop it off first thing in the morning, ready to go. Only one day to spare for entry to the competition. Grateful for their help, the band leaves.

Fortified with beers, Neil and Mark starting to wreck the tapes in their mixdown. It's hard to make the really good band sound bad, but they do.

The next morning, Neil and his band arrive at Hiroko's house and drop off the finished demo tapes. Neil and his band immediately heads off on a weeklong tour.

Yoshi is thrilled and grateful, until he gets back inside and everyone listens to the demo. It's terrible. Yoshi doesn't know what to do. Everyone is being polite but it really sounds terrible.

That day at school, everyone in the band wants to hear the tape. Grasping at any excuse, Yoshi tells them the only copy went to the competition. He assures them it sounds fantastic and he'll get more once Neil returns.

During lunch, Janet questions Yoshi on the demo tape. He can't evade her and ends up playing her the tape, in private. The tape is due the next morning by 9 am. But it's so terrible, he can't

submit it. Everyone is excited about being in the competition. What's he going to do? Janet wants him to tell the band the truth, but Yoshi can't!

### ACT V

As the band energetically rehearses for the competition, they only get a lackluster performance from Yoshi. No one knows why because no one speaks English well enough to communicate.

that evening, Yoshi walks up the street and sits down on the front step of Hiroko's house. Suddenly his eyes light up. He starts to smile as he realizes what he can do. He's still smiling when Hiroko's car pulls into the driveway. Trying to be casual, Yoshi innocently asks if Hiroko has a key to Neil's warehouse. When she says that she does, his smile doubles in size. He sincerely apologizes and begs her to let him in to Neil's studio so he can remix the songs. If not for him, then for his friends. She isn't sure, Neil's studio is his pride and joy, but a little more begging and pleading from Yoshi make her agree.

Yoshi and Hiroko step into the studio and look around. Yoshi scans over the racks of tapes and finds the master for his songs. As he readies the equipment for mixing, Hiroko begs Yoshi to be careful. He grins at her and tells her not to worry. She sighs and goes off to make them some food. Yoshi starts the playback. He pushes up all the mixing volumes, creating a bad wall of sound, then starts turning them off until he has isolated only the drum tracks. It is clear that he knows what he is doing as he begins to adjust the tone and effects on the tracks.

Hiroko absentmindedly cleans up while Yoshi works away. She finds a bright shirt that isn't familiar to her, but hangs it up in Neil's closet. She also whips up some simple food for the two of them.

Against her protestations, Yoshi gets Hiroko to help him with the mixdown. She's quite good at it, but Neil's never let her touch his equipment. They talk while eating Hiroko's food. They have more in common than either of them realized. Hiroko realizes a big difference between Neil and Yoshi. Yoshi is doing music because he loves it, Neil is doing it to make money, first and foremost.

The sun is coming up over the city as Yoshi finishes. Exhausted, he climbs into bed beside the sleeping Hiroko and instantly falls asleep. Hiroko shifts and curls up against him. The clock beside the bed reads 8:00 am. They've got to get the tape to the organizers by 9:00 am!

**ACT VI**

Hiroko awakes curled up beside Yoshi. Startled it's not Neil, she jumps out of bed, waking Yoshi. Changing the subject, Hiroko finds out that Yoshi finished the remix. At the same moment, they look over at the bedside clock. 8:45! The tape has to be downtown by 9:00! They dash out of the studio.

Yoshi jumps out of Hiroko's car in front of the organizer's office, before it stops. He bursts thru front doors and up the stairs, tossing the tape onto the organizers desk as his computer clicks over to 9:00. Yoshi did it!

Yoshi and Hiroko, both exhausted, struggle through long days at work and school. Hiroko arrives home to find Yoshi asleep on the couch with his homework. She closes his books, covers him with a blanket and goes to sleep in an armchair.

Neil arrive back after a gruelling tour. He rewinds his phone machine only to find glowing complements about the demo he did for Yoshi. Confused, he listens to more messages while he finds a note from Hiroko explaining what they did. He flings his beer bottle against the wall, furious. Now he's got a big problem.

Yoshi is halfheartedly trying to study when he gets a phone call. His band has been accepted for the contest. Their first round gig is the next night! Yoshi is thrilled and phones up the rest of the band.

In a crowded nightclub, Yoshi and his band have their first gig. They're really good and their music is even better with a audience to appreciate it. Neil and Mark are in the audience. Neil is really worried, nothing is working out right. He goes off and makes a terse phone call.

Next day there is a Fedex envelope waiting for Yoshi when he gets home from school. It's from the organizers of the contest. When Hiroko comes home from work, Yoshi is still trying to translate the letter. Hiroko quickly reads it. The organizers have made a decision. Only original songs, in English. Because of the songs Yoshi chose on his demo tape, his band is out of the contest!

**ACT VII**

Yoshi is totally depressed. Despite Hiroko trying to cheer him up, he just walks away. Hiroko has to go and help Neil get ready for his final round performance.

Neil is backstage with Mark, gloating about not having to worry about Yoshi anymore. Mark is putting up with it as Hiroko

arrives. She tells them the bad news about Yoshi and Neil pretends he hadn't heard. Mark is confused.

Janet finds the band, depressed. When she finds out they've been kicked out of the competition because of language, she's furious. Rousing the band, they race down to the organizers. With Janet threatening them with an ugly discrimination lawsuit, they roll over, allowing Yoshi and his band back in the contest. But his final song has to be an original, sung in English. The organizer is adamant. Janet assures him Yoshi will sing in English.

As the band heads off to find Yoshi, Janet sits down to translate Yoshi's lyrics. Finding Yoshi in Stanley Park with his guitar, looking out at the ocean, they all try to convince him that they're back in the contest. He doesn't want to believe, he's given up. But they drag him off, telling him Janet's translating his lyrics as they speak! Now he can sing in English!

Mark questions Neil on how he knew about Yoshi being kicked out. Neil grins, he made the call, he got them kicked out! The last straw, Neil's band turns on him. They don't want to win that badly. Karen arrives wearing the shirt Hiroko found in Neil's apartment. Hiroko turns on him. Neil's been cheating on her!

It's time for Neil's band to take the stage. They won't go out with him. He walks out alone and starts singing a song. But Neil's no good by himself. He's booed off the stage. Yoshi and his band come thru the door just in time to see it. Now it's their turn. Armed with his translated lyrics, Yoshi's band plays their best song and wins the contest.

To the cheers of the crowd, Yoshi plays another song, this time, singing only in Japanese, but the crowd love it anyways.

Hiroko is with Yoshi back in Japan. She is now taking Japanese lessons. They are in love. And on the strength of their newest single, Yoshi and his band are on a sold out tour.

## THE END

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