

# NEW NHK DRAMA: DID YOU KNOW!?

Agathe Okumura (Univ. of Hamburg), Daniela Lemmermann (ibid.), En-Tzu Yang (Tamkang University), Yasuyuki Nakae (Faculty of Economics)

Begins: January 2013, 50 episodes / Executive Producer: Naito Shinsuke  
Directed by: Kato Taku, Ichiki Tadashi, Suenaga Hajime, and others

Starring: Yae - Ayase Haruka / Jo - Odagiri Jo / Brother (Yamamoto Kakuma) - Nishijima Hidetoshi

Story: This new exciting drama shows how Yae fights for Aizu in the war. It tells the story of a strong, slightly manly woman, who is not to be compared to other women of her time. Details can be read below.

## Historical background

After having studied in the United States of America, Neesima came back to Japan in 1874, thoroughly influenced by the Christian teachings that he came to know while studying abroad. So he came back with the desire to build a University based on Christian values. He thought about building this University, while working as a teacher himself.

However, at this time founding a christian University wasn't that easy. Neesima did ask for permission to build one in Osaka and Hyogo Prefecture for example but his request was resolutely turned down by the local governments.

Finally he met a man called Yamamoto Kakuma in Kyoto who was advisor to the chancellor at this time and who owned a big piece of land. This big piece of land is where the Imadegawa-campus is today. With the help and advice of Yamamoto Neesima finally got the permission to build a christian university in Kyoto.

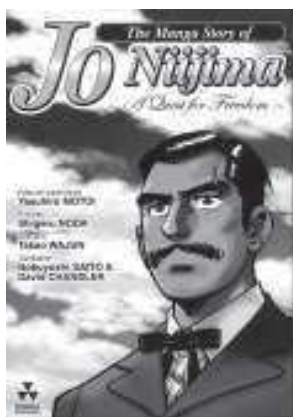
Working very close together with Yamamoto, Neesima also happened to meet Yamamoto's sister, Yae, with whom he got along very well with. Before long he married Yae, and they stayed together until his death in 1890.

Compared to other women of her time Yamamoto Yae was a very forward thinking woman. She was a very strong-minded person with an extremely free and modern way of thinking. But not only her thinking was special, even her clothes were very individual. Yae actually participated actively in the Boshin-war, fighting to protect the place she loved, wearing clothes which usually only men were allowed to wear. Even after the war ended she still continued to practice shooting, wearing a kimono now, but still wearing boots.

Because Neesima was different from other men of that time he and Yae got along very well and he was able to accept her way of thinking and behaving, something not many people would have been able to do.



## Manga



If there are some people who would like to find out more about Neesima, about how he founded our University, or how he met his wife Yae, we recommend *The Manga Story of Jo Nijima* (Japanese version available). *The Manga Story of Jo Nijima* consists of 2 books, which are produced by Doshisha University and sold for 952¥ (VAT not included).

We would also like to present one part of this book that impressed us. (See right.)

After having read the pages above there might be some that have become interested in the grave of Neesima. So we actually went there to have a look at it.



## Visiting the grave of Neesima

Do you know where the grave of Joseph Hardy Neesima (Nijima Jō) is?

You can reach it if you walk around 4 kilometers to the east starting at Doshisha University. It is located between Ginkakuji and Nanzenji.

If you walk the Philosopher's walk nearly until the end there is a sign spelled "Doshisha Communal Burial Ground; Yae and Joseph Hardy Neesima Gravesite" which is leading in the right direction.



After you have reached this very sign you will have to follow a steep mountain path for 20 minutes to get to the burial ground. The entrance to this mountain path is behind an old, small gate, where there is also a sign that really surprised us. What is written on it is: "Beware of the boars."

Furthermore, we thought we cannot enter at first because the gate looked as if it were closed, but because the gate was also mentioned on the sign (it said to close it again after entering), we decided to give it a try and entered.

After a while of climbing the steep slope, which was exhausting, a lot of decrepit gravestones came into our view. Obviously, we thought one of these had to be the grave of Neesima at first. However, because none of the visible graves appeared to be well looked after and there was no sign either, we came to the conclusion that we would have to climb on even further. As we did so, slowly the path we walked became a proper way. Following this way, which was illuminated by the shining evening sky, we finally reached the top where there was a surprisingly wide graveyard.

Wondering where Neesima's grave might be, we realized that there were a lot of stones with crucifixes carved on them.

Suddenly very pretty, bright red *momiji* came into the view. At this beautiful place there was also a handsome gate, which led to Neesima's impressive tomb.



The tombs of Yae Neesima (1845-1932) and Joseph Hardy Neesima (1843-1890)

Peacefully resting beside him were his wife Yae and their children – nearby, Yae's brother and Neesima's close friend, Yamamoto Kakuma.

With the enigmatic feeling of having met someone who lived more than a hundred years ago, we could sense the greatness of Neesima once more.

What do you think now, about eventually going to visit this splendid place yourself?



## How to Have a Merry German Christmas

Colette Miyoko Kronenberg  
Katharina Kuhring

Even though Christmas season has just ended, we would like to introduce to you the German way of celebrating Christmas. While many American and European customs have already reached the Far East and took hold here, there are still a few you might hear for the first time.

### Advent customs

The Advent season starts on the first Sunday after 26th November and ends 25th December. For Christians this time is viewed as preparation time for Jesus Christ's arrival ("Adventus" is Latin for "arrival"). Based on this belief, there are several customs that European countries usually do. One of them is the Advent wreath: This wreath is made of 10 to 15 cm long dark green fir branches that are fixed around a disc. It is topped off with four candles – usually red or white – that are to be lit one after another on every Advent Sunday so that all four candles will finally burn on Christmas Eve. You can also embellish the wreath with festive or wintry decorations such as stars, cinnamon sticks, or small fir cones.



An important part of Christmas – especially for the children – is the Advent calendar. From December 1st until Christmas Eve, one door of the calendar is opened every day. Behind each door, the children can find a piece of chocolate. Some parents like to make Advent calendars themselves, instead of buying one from a supermarket: therefore, they use 24 little bags or boxes filled with candy or little toys. This custom is not only reserved for kids: for those of you who are creative, it might be a nice idea for a pre-Christmas present for your girlfriend or boyfriend. ;)

### St. Nicholas' Day

St. Nicholas' Day is celebrated every year on 6th of December in honour of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children. The custom begins the night before, when kids put their polished boots in front of their bedroom door or front door. During the night, according to the belief, Saint Nicholas comes and fills the empty boots with Christmas cookies, wrapped candy or small gifts that can be enjoyed by their owners the next morning – on 6th of December. Another custom that is prevailing in Northern and Middle Germany is the visit of Saint Nicholas and his nasty companion Servant Rupert. Saint Nicholas questions the children how their behaviour has been throughout the year. Were the kids good then they will receive a present; were they bad then Servant Rupert will beat them with a birch.

### Secret Santa

Secret Santa is a lovely custom that is often carried out by a group of friends or school classes. With the beginning of Advent the name of every participant is written on a small piece of paper and tossed into a cap, bag or something similar. Then everyone draws one paper, thus everyone learns whose Christmas present they have to take care of. At the Christmas party that usually takes place before Christmas Eve all the presents are switched anonymously. The most important rule is to keep it a secret whose "Santa" you are – until the very end! To do so, all the presents are placed on a table, marked with the name of the receiver but not the giver. Additionally, to make sure that everyone gets a present of the same value, you can set a limit to how much can be spent on the present in advance.



### Christmas Market

From the end of November until 25<sup>th</sup> of December, it's Christmas market season! During this time little wooden huts and booths with very Christmassy decoration are set up at the marketplaces throughout Germany. In the evening people like to meet there with their friends, strolling between the cute little huts while searching for Christmas presents or drinking a cup of hot wine. Typical foods you can eat at a Christmas market are for example "Schupfnudeln" (finger-shaped potato dumplings) with sauerkraut, "Germknödel" (yeast dumplings with plum filling and vanilla sauce and "Kartoffelpuffer" (potato pancakes) with applesauce. There are also sweet snacks like roasted almonds and of course gingerbread. In some cities you can find different kinds of Christmas markets like for example the medieval Christmas Market in Esslingen. The oldest Christmas market in Germany is the "Striezelmarkt" in Dresden, which is held every year since 1434. Other very famous ones are those in Cologne, Nuremberg and Stuttgart with up to 5 million visitors every year.

For those who would like to experience a real German Christmas Market, it's not necessary to travel all the way to Europe: Thanks to several German societies every year from the mid of November until Christmas, in Osaka, Tokyo and Sapporo it's possible to taste original Christmas Market food like mentioned above.

### Glühwein / Hot Wine (or Mulled Wine)

Thinking of Christmas, every German will definitely think of drinking a delicious cup of hot wine. Being an essential part of the Christmas Season hot wine is not only enjoyed at the Christmas Markets but also hand-made at home. Even though it's difficult to get the so-called "Glühfix" – an instant mixture you just have to add to heated red wine – round here, you can try this very easy recipe to make your own hot wine:

#### Ingredients

- 1 litre of red wine
- 3 cloves
- ½ cinnamon stick
- 1 Star anise
- 2 lemon slices
- 50 g white rock candy



#### Preparation

Fill the spices - cloves, cinnamon and star anise - in an empty tea bag. Heat the red wine together with the lemon slices and the teabag in a pot - but don't boil it! When the wine is heated, add the rock candy and wait until it's dissolved/melted.

Pour your self-made hot wine in cups and enjoy! ;)

## My Christmas Eve

Although Christmas is originally a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, for many people today this Christian thought has taken a back seat. Unlike in Japan where people usually spend this day with their girlfriend or boyfriend, Christmas Eve in Germany is traditionally celebrated at home with the family. Nevertheless, the way it is celebrated differs from family to family – beginning with the size of the Christmas tree, the Christmas decorations, the obligatory church-going, and ending with the traditional Christmas Eve dinner. Below, we would like to introduce to you two families and their typical Christmas Eves.

Colette Miyoko Kronenberg (Tübingen University)

Unlike for most Germans, who for the most part go to Church on Christmas Eve, for my family Christmas is not a Christian Holiday. Since my elder brothers do not live at home any more, and they come back home only twice or thrice a year, we regard the Christmas holidays as an opportunity to get the whole family together and have a nice time.

Since I was a kid, the 24<sup>th</sup> of December has always been the same; in the morning, the Christmas tree is brought upstairs from the basement and is placed in the middle of our living room. Usually my mother and I are responsible for the decoration of the tree, but we often force one of my brothers to help a little bit. In the afternoon, my parents prepare the dinner, and everyone uses the time until the gift giving to wrap the Christmas presents or to make fancy hand-made gift coupons. Around 5 pm when it becomes dark outside, my brothers and I – the kids - have to stay upstairs while our parents prepare the gift giving. Next to the Christmas tree, there is a big table where they place the presents and for everyone a bowl full of hand-made Christmas cookies, chocolates, peanuts, mandarins and other candies. The fairy lights are turned on, and the candles of the Advent wreath and of the Christmas tree are lit up. Once everything is done, they ring the bell, which is usually used to show that dinner is ready, and we are finally allowed to come downstairs! Fully loaded with presents ourselves, we are still very excited every single year as we go down the stairs. When we were younger, we had to perform a Christmas song before we could open the presents: a real challenge for my brother, who has never learned any instrument and used to practice the easiest song he knew on the harmonica a few hours before the actual performance! My other brother plays guitar and I can play the piano, so for us it was not as much of a problem. But in the meantime, because of continuing resistance on our part this tradition has been successfully abolished.

Before the unpacking of the presents begins, we always try to take the perfect Christmas family photo first, as you can see on the right. Of course, our tomcat Luzi must not be missing! The actual gift giving is always very fun. In our family, every member does not only get one present from each person but one or more. Often we get together in groups; for example, my brothers and I find a present together for my father or my mother. Therefore, in the end there are always mountains of wrapping-paper on the gift table! Our "traditional" Christmas meal, which is in fact very untypical for a German Christmas, is a Swiss dish called raclette; you put cheese and vegetables such as corn, sliced onion, mushrooms and bell pepper, or bacon and wiener, on little pans, and you heat them with a special electric table-top grill. After the cheese is melted, you scrape it off and eat it with some baguette or cooked potatoes. There are various ways to eat raclette, so you can just add whatever you like. After the dinner we usually watch a movie together while eating Christmas cookies and enjoying our presents. Later in the evening, we usually get calls from relatives, or we call them ourselves to wish them a merry Christmas and to thank them for their presents.

Unfortunately, this year I couldn't celebrate Christmas at home with my family, but thanks to my lovely host family and new friends, this year's Christmas was different but just as nice as usual. (^\_^)/

Katharina Kuhring (Tübingen University)



Although I am not very fond of cold wintertime, Christmas has always been my favorite holiday since I can remember.

My typical Christmas Eve usually starts with a wake-up call from my mom to tell me what still has to be done before lunch. So I spend my morning by giving our house the final Christmas touch and preparing food for lunch and dinner while constantly listening to Christmas music. When all preparations are done, it is time to call relatives and friends to wish them a merry Christmas and thank them for their Christmas cards and presents. Of course we aren't allowed to open the presents until the "Christkind" hopefully brings the presents we've wished for.

During Advent's time, everyone, especially my grandma, is very busy with baking tons of Christmas cookies. Unfortunately it is always a big challenge to save some of these delicious treats until Christmas Eve. Whenever my mom does not tell us kids to eat "normal" food, we would end up having a diet of different flavored Christmas cookies. They are just too good to eat them only during Christmas!

My family normally spends most of the time in the living room; and this is where the Christmas tree glitters and sparkles in all its splendor. The "evolution" from normal tree to Christmas tree is carried out by us children before 24<sup>th</sup> December. It always calms my mind and gives me the pleasant thrill of Christmas Eve anticipation. A decorated Christmas tree is not only nice to look at, but also fun to mess with – at least that is what our pets seem to think. If it isn't the cat that tries to eat the shiny tinsel, then it is the dog that may bring down a Christmas ball with one swift whip of its tail. Once or twice, my dog, a hybrid of a German shepherd and a Bernese mountain dog, even managed to knock over the whole tree! Luckily my dog did not get hurt and only a few Christmas balls broke. During the more quiet moments, I often snack on Christmas cookies, chocolates or healthier food like walnuts or mandarins until my family goes to church. The service usually starts around 6pm and takes forty-five minutes. After listening to the story of Jesus Christ's birth and singing along to religious Christmas songs, the worshippers part with merry blessings. Because of my eight-year-old brother, my mom would take a few minutes longer to wish everyone "Fröhliche Weihnachten," so that my other brother and I can sneak back to our home and place the Christmas presents under the tree. Then, when my youngest brother finally enters the house, we would rush over to him and announce that the "Christkind" must have come because there are presents under the tree now. With a happy scream and smiling face he storms to the tree, ready to open them. However, he has to be patient until dinner is over – which always is kind of a hassle for him. Who needs to eat when there are presents waiting to be unwrapped, right? Dinner is traditional potato salad with Vienna sausages and a cup of hot glühwein or tea. After that the best part of Christmas has finally come: Christmas presents! Everyone is looking for his or her name that is written on the gifts and starts guessing what the wrapped something could be. This typically does not take too long, and in a few seconds everywhere around the Christmas tree there are scraps of wrapping paper. After thanking the present giver (the "Christkind") for their generosity, my family spends the rest of the evening with playing the new board game or reading the long-wanted book while enjoying festive music and the family evening at home.





Soul DongEun (Faculty of Commerce)

(Makes: 4~5 pieces per option) ; 15 min.

Ingredients:  $\frac{1}{2}$  leek, 1 onion, 1 carrot, oil, salt,  
Korean pancake powder (or medium flour & coating powder)

\*Sauce: soy sauce, vinegar, chili powder

※You can add kimchi, cheese, or seafood according to preference.

• **Sauce:** Mix soy sauce and vinegar and add a pinch of Chili powder.

• **Dough:** Follow the instructions below.

1. Korean pancake powder 300g : Water 500ml ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups)

2. Medium flour : Coating powder : Water = 2 : 1 : 2.5

• **Preparing Vegetables:** Chop the carrot and onion into bite-sized pieces. Cut leek into 4~5cm long pieces.

~ Add a little bit of salt and put in vegetables that you prepared into dough and mix all together.

~ Spread the mixture into a round shape on a generously oiled and heated pan. Fry both sides on medium heat until golden brown. Enjoy food with sauce. ☺

(4~5장분); 15분

재료” 부추1/2단, 양파1개, 당근1개, 식용유,  
부침가루(밀가루+튀김가루도 가능),소금

\* 양념; 간장, 식초, 고춧가루

※기호에 따라 김치, 치즈, 해물등을 추가해도 맛있습니다.

• 양념 만들기 : 고춧가루를 약간 넣고, 간장과 식초를 적당히 섞는다.

• 반죽만들기 : 아래의 비율로 반죽을 만든다.

\*부침가루의 경우 - 부침가루300g에 물500ml(약2컵반)

밀가루(중력분)과 튀김가루의 경우에는, [밀가루:튀김가루:물] = [2:1:2.5]가 기준.

• 야채 손질 : - 당근은 채썰기, 양파는 얇게 썰어두고, 부추는 4~5cm 정도로 잘라준다.

~반죽에 소금을 약간 넣고 준비해둔 야채를 모두 넣는다.

기름을 충분히 두른뒤 반죽을 후라이팬에 넣고 중불로 익힌다. 가장자리가 노릇해지면 뒤집개로 뒤집어 다른 한면을 마저 익힌뒤, 양념장과 맛있게 먹는다☺

## CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR!

### In Taiwanese style

En-Tzu Yang (Tamkang University)

In Taiwan, it is customary to celebrate the New Year in the January of the lunar calendar. Of course, we also greet the New Year happily with everyone else who goes by the solar calendar too – but for Chinese people, it is not really the New Year until January comes in the lunar calendar. Because the months are different in the two calendars, the lunar New Year takes place from around the end of January to the beginning of February in the solar calendar.

The most important thing about the New Year is considered to be how families that are scattered in various places go back to gather at their original home, to offer prayers to their ancestors, eat together, and so on. Special dishes of the season differ according to the region, but in many cases, the names of the dishes and ingredients have something to do with words of good luck. For example, the phrase 年年有餘 (*niánnián yǒu yú*) means that “Next year will also be a warm life (with ample wealth).” Also, 餘 (*yú*, meaning “surplus”) in Chinese has the same sound as 魚 (meaning “fish”), so it can be said that fish dishes are a standard of New Year’s cooking. In the old days, people generally cooked these dishes at home; but today, since eating out has become more convenient, there are more families that go to restaurants to eat New Year’s dishes or order them to be delivered to their homes.

Other indispensable elements to the New Year include firecrackers, gifts of money, and 春聯 (*chūnlián*, meaning “spring scrolls”). At New Year’s time, one can see the red spring scrolls and red decorations everywhere in the city. On top of that, there are the sounds of the firecrackers, which add to the bustling, lively atmosphere filling the air. Also, Chinese people have a habit of wearing new clothes for New Year’s, so there are many families that go shopping around this time. The reason why they buy new clothes is because, in the past, people did not have that much money to shop for new clothes at an ordinary time, and since it was the most valuable time of the year, they would wear new clothes to accompany the New Year. Moreover, wearing new clothes also has these meanings: “celebration of spring” and “avoiding bad things.”

在台灣，所謂的新年是指農曆一月。雖然西曆的12月31日大家也會聚在一起慶祝新的一年，但對於華人來說，農曆年才是真正的新年。西曆上的農曆年節日期每年都有些微差距，但大致是在西曆的一月底或二月初左右。學校的寒假也會受到農曆年的影響，每年的寒假長短有所不同。

過年期間是一般人辛苦工作一年才有的難得假期，也是家族全員能聚在一起的重要時光。因此四散各地的家族成員會回到老家享受團聚時光。說到過年的活動，其中相當重要的就是祭祖。祭祖是為了感謝祖先們保佑全家人的平安，帶有飲水思源的意義。

家人們聚在家裡一起享用年夜飯也是新年必做的事。年夜飯的菜色大多跟吉祥話的諧音有關。像是「年年有餘(魚)」，在中文「餘」和「魚」同音，而「年年有餘」代表了希望新的一年全家也能得溫飽，生活地有餘裕。然而現今因為外食的方便，不少家庭以在飯店享用年菜，或是向店家訂購年菜取代在家親自料理。

過年時期同時也是一波購物熱潮。俗話說「過年穿新衣」，意謂著華人在新年時有穿新衣服的習俗。雖然現代人物質生活比較富裕，隨時都能買新衣服，不像以前的人只有過年時才能買新衣服穿。但目前依然不少人認為過年還是要穿新衣才有過年的氛圍。

紅包、春聯與鞭炮也是過年不可少的項目。孩子們也因為能拿紅包，放鞭炮而興奮不已。以前，認為過年時會有稱之為「年獸」的怪物出現，所以家家戶戶會放鞭炮和貼春聯，以鞭炮聲和春聯的紅色驅趕年獸。現在也依然維持這項傳統。一到春節前後，家家戶戶甚至是百貨公司、店家，都充滿了春聯與各式各樣紅色的裝飾。

### In Japanese style

Ryohei Miyazawa (Faculty of Policy Studies)

First of all, I will explain about the Japanese New Year (お正月). The first day of the year, in other words, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is called 元旦 (*Gan-tan*), and this is a national holiday. When we think of New Year, we get the impression that it only lasts until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 三が日 (*Sanga-nichi*), but actually, it lasts until January 31<sup>th</sup>.

Next, I will explain about the cultural traditions of the Japanese New Year. In Japan, we send postcards called 年賀状 (*Nenga-jo*) to friends or acquaintances – though in recent years, more and more people turn to e-mails or phonecalls instead of sending Nenga-jo. Also, it is usually a taboo to send Nenga-jo to families that are in mourning – meaning that someone died in the previous year.

Some famous games children play in the New Year are 羽子板 (*Hago-ita*, which is like ping-pong and badminton put together), 凧揚げ (*Tako-age*, kite-flying), かるた (*Karuta*, a type of cardgame) and 駒 (*Koma*, spinning top).

Another thing that many children look forward to is お年玉. *Otoshi-dama* is an envelope containing money given to children by older relatives, and this is a FABULOUS custom!

Finally, I will explain about traditional New Year dishes. The most famous one is お節. *Osechi* contains many dishes, and each dish has a special meaning. 黒豆 (*kuro-mame*, black beans) is for living in a “*mame*” way (which means living sincerely). 数の子 (*kazu-no-ko*, herring eggs) is for having many children (because it consists of lots of eggs). 鯛 (*tai*, sea bream) is for “*mede-tai*” (which means an occasion to celebrate). These are some examples that have unique Japanese humor, 駄洒落 (*dajare*).

This is a general explanation of Japanese New Year traditions. Everyone looks forward to this time of year.

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Advisor: Masaaki Uneno

President: Naoto Oishi

Vice President: JeongMin Han

Editor-in-Chief: Yui Kajita

Treasurer: Ryohei Miyazawa

Editors: Yasuyuki Nakae, Agathe Okumura, Daniela Lemmermann, En-Tzu Yang, Colette Miyoko Kronenberg, Katharina Kuhring, Soul DongEun, Elena Kirillova, Moe Hasegawa, Shinobu Ando

Special Contributor: Alvaro Martinez

Contacts: The Doshisha Student (thedoshishastudents@gmail.com)

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