

KITANO (BEAT) TAKESHI

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THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

The multi-talented Kitano Takeshi, a.k.a. Beat Takeshi, is a Japanese comedian, actor, TV presenter, author, poet, painter, video game designer, award-winning film director and academic. He is one of the few Japanese entertainers to be famous around the world. His highly unique style and creative genius have kept him at the forefront of film and television for decades.

Kitano's career is so varied it's difficult to know where to begin. In his native Japan, he is best known as a TV host and comedian. Switch on Japanese TV and you're likely to see Takeshi in one of his many zany roles. He started in comedy in the 1970s as half of the manzai comic duo Two Beats. Their TV debut made them both household names.

Takeshi decided to go it alone in the 1980s and his resume greatly broadened. In 1983, he appeared in the movie 'Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence' and became world famous. He starred in and directed 'Violent Cop' in 1989, which was the beginning of his career as a filmmaker. His 1997 'HANA-BI' established his international status as one of Japan's top directors.

Kitano won the prestigious Silver Lion award at the Vienna Film Festival for 2003's 'Zatoichi'. Since April 2005, he has been a professor at Tokyo's National University of Fine Arts and Music. He continues to paint, write, be funny, and make movies. There's no telling in which direction his career will move next.

239 words
Flesch Kinkaid 10.3

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. a.k.a. | a. head |
| 2. academic | b. pair |
| 3. forefront | c. crazy |
| 4. varied | d. professor |
| 5. zany | e. also known as |
| 6. duo | f. diverse |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 7. broadened | g. respected |
| 8. appeared | h. expanded |
| 9. established | i. way |
| 10. prestigious | j. predicting |
| 11. telling | k. confirmed |
| 12. direction | l. acted |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. award-winning | a. where to begin |
| 2. His highly unique style | b. Silver Lion award |
| 3. it's difficult to know | c. alone in the 1980s |
| 4. you're likely to see Takeshi in one | d. film director |
| 5. Their TV debut made them | e. as one of Japan's top directors |
| 6. Takeshi decided to go it | f. both household names |
| 7. the beginning of his | g. and creative genius |
| 8. established his international status | h. his career will move in next |
| 9. Kitano won the prestigious | i. career as a filmmaker |
| 10. There's no telling in which direction | j. of his many zany roles |

LISTENING GAP FILL:

_____ Kitano Takeshi, a.k.a. Beat Takeshi, is a Japanese comedian, actor, TV presenter, author, poet, painter, video game designer, _____ director and academic. He is one of the few Japanese entertainers to be famous around the world. His highly unique style _____ have kept him at the forefront of film and television for decades.

Kitano's _____ difficult to know where to begin. In his native Japan, he is best known as a TV host and comedian. Switch on Japanese TV _____ see Takeshi in one of his many zany roles. He started in comedy in the 1970s as half of the manzai comic duo Two Beats. Their TV debut made _____.

Takeshi decided _____ the 1980s and his resume greatly broadened. In 1983, he appeared in the movie 'Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence' and _____. He starred in and directed 'Violent Cop' in 1989, which was the beginning of his career as a filmmaker. His 1997 'HANA-BI' established his international _____.
Japan's top directors.

Kitano _____ Silver Lion award at the Vienna Film Festival for 2003's 'Zatoichi'. Since April 2005, _____ at Tokyo's National University of Fine Arts and Music. He continues to paint, write, be funny, and make movies. There's _____
direction his career will move next.

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD:

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs in italics.

The multi-talented Kitano Takeshi, *a.k.a. / ala* Beat Takeshi, is a Japanese comedian, actor, TV presenter, author, *poetry / poet*, painter, video game designer, award-winning film director and *academic / academy*. He is one of the few Japanese entertainers to be famous around the world. His highly *uniquely / unique* style and creative genius have kept him at the forefront of film and television for decades.

Kitano's career is so *varied / various* it's difficult to know where to begin. In his native Japan, he is best known as a TV host and comedian. Switch on Japanese TV and you're *likely / likeness* to see Takeshi in one of his many zany roles. He started in comedy in the 1970s as half of the manzai comic *trio / duo* Two Beats. Their TV debut made them both *housework / household* names.

Takeshi decided to go *it / them* alone in the 1980s and his resume greatly broadened. In 1983, he *appeared / appearing* in the movie 'Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence' and became world famous. He starred *on / in* and directed 'Violent Cop' in 1989, which was the beginning of his career *as / was* a filmmaker. His 1997 'HANA-BI' established his international status as one of Japan's top directors.

Kitano *won / wins* the prestigious Silver Lion award at the Vienna Film Festival for 2003's 'Zatoichi'. Since April 2005, he *had / has* been a professor at Tokyo's National University of Fine Arts and Music. He continues to paint, write, be *humour / funny*, and make movies. There's no *telling / ordering* in which direction his career will move next.

SPELLING:

The jumbled words underlined below are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a Japanese aonicmed
2. video game dgeiensr
3. His highly enuuiq style
4. at the forefront of film and television for daeecsd

Paragraph 2

5. Kitano's career is so avider it's difficult to know where to begin.
6. In his iatvne Japan
7. He started in moeycd in the 1970s
8. Their TV ebtdu made them both household names.

Paragraph 3

9. Takeshi decided to go it loena in the 1980s
10. He starred in and tdirceed 'Violent Cop'
11. the beginning of his ceearr as a filmmaker
12. established his international tusast

Paragraph 4

13. Kitano won the strgeiiusop Silver Lion award
14. a esrfosrpo at Tokyo's National University
15. He teionnusc to paint
16. in which rinctdeoi his career will move next

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**1**) The multi-talented Kitano Takeshi, a.k.a. Beat Takeshi, is a Japanese comedian, actor, TV
- () presenter, author, poet, painter, video game designer, award-winning film director and academic. He is one of the
- () Kitano's career is so varied it's difficult to know where to begin. In his native
- () few Japanese entertainers to be famous around the world. His highly unique style and creative genius
- () Takeshi decided to go it alone in the 1980s and his resume greatly broadened. In 1983, he appeared
- () his international status as one of Japan's top directors.
- () on Japanese TV and you're likely to see Takeshi in one of his many zany roles. He started in comedy in the 1970s as half
- () for 2003's 'Zatoichi'. Since April 2005, he has been a professor at Tokyo's National University of Fine Arts and Music. He continues
- () of the manzai comic duo Two Beats. Their TV debut made them both household names.
- () to paint, write, be funny, and make movies. There's no telling in which direction his career will move next.
- () was the beginning of his career as a filmmaker. His 1997 'HANA-BI' established
- () Japan, he is best known as a TV host and comedian. Switch
- () Kitano won the prestigious Silver Lion award at the Vienna Film Festival
- () in the movie 'Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence' and became world famous. He starred in and directed 'Violent Cop' in 1989, which
- () have kept him at the forefront of film and television for decades.

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Takeshi Takeshi .a.k.a. Beat Kitano

2. creative His unique and genius highly style

3. know to it's to where begin difficult

4. the He in in 1970s started comedy

5. TV Their names household both them made debut

6. decided Takeshi alone it go to

7. filmmaker a as career his of beginning the

8. 'HANA-BI' status international his established

9. won prestigious Lion Kitano the Silver award

10. telling no There's direction which in

KITANO TAKESHI DISCUSSION:

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Kitano Takeshi?
2. Would you like to meet Kitano Takeshi?
3. What would you like to know about Kitano Takeshi and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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THE KITANO TAKESHI

KITANO TAKESHI DISCUSSION:

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Kitano Takeshi?
2. What questions would you like to ask Kitano Takeshi?
3. What would his answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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THE KITANO TAKESHI SURVEY:

Write five questions about Kitano Takeshi in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITING:

Write about Kitano Takeshi for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Kitano Takeshi. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. KITANO TAKESHI POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Kitano Takeshi. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Kitano Takeshi. Include an imaginary interview with him. Write about what he does every day and what he thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Kitano Takeshi. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should do in his future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Kitano Takeshi expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH:

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|----|---------------|
| 1. | a.k.a. | a. | also known as |
| 2. | academic | b. | professor |
| 3. | forefront | c. | head |
| 4. | varied | d. | diverse |
| 5. | zany | e. | crazy |
| 6. | duo | f. | pair |

Paragraph 3 and 4

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----|------------|
| 7. | broadened | g. | expanded |
| 8. | appeared | h. | acted |
| 9. | established | i. | confirmed |
| 10. | prestigious | j. | respected |
| 11. | telling | k. | predicting |
| 12. | direction | l. | way |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | award-winning | a. | film director |
| 2. | His highly unique style | b. | and creative genius |
| 3. | it's difficult to know | c. | where to begin |
| 4. | you're likely to see Takeshi in one | d. | of his many zany roles |
| 5. | Their TV debut made them | e. | both household names |
| 6. | Takeshi decided to go it | f. | alone in the 1980s |
| 7. | the beginning of his | g. | career as a filmmaker |
| 8. | established his international status | h. | as one of Japan's top directors |
| 9. | Kitano won the prestigious | i. | Silver Lion award |
| 10. | There's no telling in which direction | j. | his career will move in next |

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Look at the text on page 2.