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The Very Good Adventures of Yam Roll in Happy Kingdom

"Karaoke Okey-Dokey"  
Written by Christine Alexiou

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Yam Roll I Productions Inc.  
276 King Street West, Suite 301  
Toronto, Ontario. M5V 1J2

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YAM ROLL

"KARAOKE OKEY-DOKEY"

DRAFT TWO - SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

Written by: Christine Alexiou

FADE IN:

1 EXT. LARRY OKI'S KARAOKE -- NIGHT

WE HEAR BOOS as the front door swings open and YAM ROLL and EBI run out onto the street dodging a barrage of tomatoes. They stop, out of breath and pick tomato off their heads.

YAM ROLL

Boy, that was one tough Karaoke crowd.

EBI

You better not do "Quando, Quando, Quando" - ever again. Now, if I just had a lettuce - I could make us a salad.

AT THAT MOMENT a head of lettuce rolls by Ebi and Yam Roll.

TAMAGO (O.S.)

Somebody stop that head!

TAMAGO comes into sight on his delivery bicycle with a bunch of groceries in the side-car. On the side-car is the lettering "Sumo Market". Just then, Tamago's front wheel falls off. Then the back wheel falls off and rolls out of frame. Then the side-car tips over, and finally the frame clatters to the ground. Tamago sits suspended on his seat, holding onto the handlebars. Then the seat drops out from under him and he thuds to the ground, skids along in a seated position, holding onto the handlebars. He stops in front of Yam Roll and Ebi.

YAM ROLL

You okay Tamago?

Tamago surveys his fallen-apart bike in dismay.

TAMAGO

This is terrible! I've got all these deliveries to do. Everyone's depending on me. If they don't have groceries, they don't eat, and if they don't eat, they'll starve and then nobody will order groceries again and Mr. Sumo will fire me --!

(CONTINUED)

He stops to take a huge breath.

YAM ROLL

Don't worry, you can borrow my cab.

Yam Roll holds up his car keys.

TAMAGO

Really?

Tamago grabs the keys, stuffs the grocery bags inside the cab, and jumps in the front seat. He starts the engine.

TAMAGO (CONT'D)

Your cab is safe with me, Yam Roll.

Tamago puts his foot on the gas and reverses into a fire hydrant, denting it.

TAMAGO (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Yam Roll. I'm an excellent driver!

The car lurches forward as the water spurts out of the top of the broken hydrant. Tamago adjusts his glasses and then screeches into traffic causing two cars to have a fender bender. Yam Roll frowns anxiously.

YAM ROLL

Oh dear...

Ebi tosses the head of lettuce in the air.

EBI

Relax, he'll be fine...You do have insurance - right?

YAM ROLL

Oh dear, oh dear...

Yam Roll makes to step off the curb after Tamago but is forced to jump back as a white, stretch limousine drives up to the front of Larry Oki's, followed by a crowd of screaming and waving GIRLS.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

Who **is** that?

EBI

That's Shitake Tempura, the Karaoke Pop Idol. Girls go loco for him.

The CHAUFFEUR opens the door and SHITAKE, his gold chains, black pompadour and sideburns glistening, steps onto the red carpet, as photographers snap pictures of him - the flash-bulbs popping. Behind the red-velvet ropes the girls scream even louder.

(CONTINUED)

GIRLS

[SCREAMS]

Shitake does a hip roll and eyebrow waggle. The girls faint and fall over ONE BY ONE - like dominoes. Shitake disappears inside the club.

YAM ROLL

It's so clear!

EBI

Yeah - like mud!

(beat)

What are we talking about?

YAM ROLL

The way to get Minamiko, of course!  
I gotta become the next Karaoke Pop  
Idol. Then Minamiko will be chasing  
my car down the road!

EBI

If you ever get it back.

2 INT. MOUNT FOOPI -- DAY

Yam Roll mops Katcho's floors. He squeezes the water from the mop and slaps it on the floor, humming under his breath. He stops mid-mop, grasps the handle like a mic and belts out the lyrics to Loverboy's "Turn me Loose" while doing his best rendition of Mick Jagger's "chicken strut". He doesn't notice KATCHO watching him from the door-way, wincing at his horrible off-key delivery and bad hip wiggles.

YAM ROLL

*I was born to run, I was born to  
dream. The craziest boy you ever  
seen. I gotta do it my way, or no  
way at all --*

Yam Roll screeches out the last line - his eyes squeezed tight with emotion and his arm raised to the sky. Katcho can bear it no more and snatches the mop from an oblivious Yam Roll, and knocks him on the back of his head.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

Ooow!

KATCHO

Yam Roll ! You sound like a cat  
wrestling with a cement mixer. What  
do you think you are doing?

YAM ROLL

Practicing to become the next Karaoke  
Pop Idol - like Shitake Tempura.

(CONTINUED)

KATCHO

Hmmph! You call what he does  
Karaoke?! Karaoke is an ancient and  
mystical power. Few possess or  
understand it.

YAM ROLL

Oh, he possesses it alright. He  
sings and girls faint --  
(snaps his fingers)  
-- like that.

Katcho hits Yam Roll on the head with the mop handle again.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

Owww!

Yam Roll rubs his head.

KATCHO

That's not the power I'm talking  
about. The time has come for you to  
begin Karaoke instruction as part of  
your *spiritual* training.

Rummaging through an over-stuffed filing cabinet, Katcho  
unearths a rolled-up map. He unfurls it and a cloud of dust  
billows up sending Yam Roll into a coughing fit.

KATCHO (CONT'D)

This map will lead you to the ancient  
Karaoke Monastery where you will  
learn the 'true art' from the Masters  
who live there.

3 EXT. MOUNT FOOPI -- DAY

Yam Roll stands on the ledge and consults the map.

YAM ROLL

Okey-dokey - this says if I walk  
over here...

Yam Roll walks a few paces and stops. He thrusts his hand  
through the cloud, feels around for a few beats and then  
taps onto something metal. The cloud parts and reveals a  
ladder.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

That was *not* here yesterday!

Yam Roll steps onto the ladder and climbs up out of frame.

4 EXT. CLOUDS -- DAY

Yam Roll climbs into view, out of breath. Above him is  
another ladder leading up into the clouds.

(CONTINUED)

Yam Roll steps on that one and climbs up. He disappears from view and pops out of the top of another cloud. This time, he's got a BIG BIRD on his head. The bird leans over to peck at Yam Roll's rice. Yam Roll shoos him off frantically. The bird flies off. Yam Roll sees yet another ladder. He climbs up out of frame again.

5 EXT. KARAOKE MONASTERY -- NIGHT

Yam Roll climbs into view and steps off the top rung of the ladder. He's huffing and puffing. He's surrounded by a hazy fog. He consults his map. Looks around. Suddenly the wind blows the fog away revealing the intricately carved doors of the Monastery.

YAM ROLL

Wow...

6 INT. KARAOKE MONASTERY -- NIGHT

Yam Roll steps inside and beholds the interior of the monastery with awe: red velvet curtains adorn the walls, a mirrorball hangs from the ceiling, and a giant TV screen sits at the back of the room showing cheesy visuals of couples frolicking on the beach and sunsets. Yam Roll sits at a table surrounded by seated MONKS. On stage, dressed in a gold lame robe of the order is the ABBOT. He's just rounding into the finale of Gowan's "You're a Strange Animal".

ABBOT

(singing)

*You're a strange animal. That's  
what I know.*

He swings the mic with ease, he waggles his hips in time, he prowls the stage like a cat - he's got the crowd eating out of his hand!

ABBOT (CONT'D)

*But you're a strange animal. I've  
got to follow. O Ominous Spiritus!  
Aaahhh!*

Yam Roll is dazzled by his over-the-top vocals and campy Vegas stylings. When the song is over, smatterings of CHEERS and APPLAUSE are heard.

ABBOT (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you. You're too  
kind.

ON YAM ROLL

YAM ROLL

Wow...

(CONTINUED)

ABBOT  
Greetings Weary Traveller.

Yam Roll turns around in surprise. The Abbot is suddenly standing at his table. This guy is stealthy!

ABBOT (CONT'D)  
Welcome to the Karaoke Monastery. I am the Abbot here. Tell me - why have you come?

YAM ROLL  
I'm Yam Roll. My Master Katcho sent me here to learn the mystical secrets of Karaoke.

ABBOT  
Ah, any student of Katcho - is welcome here. If I recall - he does a mean "Send in the Clowns". It sends shivers down my spine. Tomorrow we will begin your personal instruction. In the meantime, please have a cocktail on the house.

He motions to the HOSTESS in a short skirt.

ABBOT (CONT'D)  
Laverne - bring our guest a Shirley Temple.

A frothy, pink drink with a paper umbrella is set before Yam Roll. He takes a sip and his eyes widen - delicious!

7 INT. TEMPLE OF KARAOKE -- DAY

The next morning, Yam Roll enters the darkened Temple of Karaoke. He calls out tentatively - his voice echoing.

YAM ROLL  
Helloooo? Anybody heeere?

A spotlight flicks on and the Abbot steps silently into the light. He beckons Yam Roll. Yam Roll walks forward.

ABBOT  
The Way of the Karaoke is not for the faint-hearted. Are you ready, Yam Roll?

Yam Roll nods nervously. The Abbot throws a MIC towards Yam Roll. C.U. on the mic arcing and rolling in the air. ON YAM ROLL as he catches the mic with one hand. Simultaneously all the LIGHTS GO UP and MUSIC begins.

MONTAGE: The Abbot puts Yam Roll through the paces as the MUSIC continues throughout.

(CONTINUED)

The Abbot throws his mic from hand to hand. Yam Roll tries to imitate him and gets himself wrapped up in the mic cord.

The Abbot watches from the audience as Yam Roll races around the stage trying to keep with the moving spotlight. The Abbot slaps his forehead.

Yam Roll watches a big TV screen. On the screen is a SUSHI COUPLE canoodling and a row of JAPANESE CHARACTERS on the bottom of the screen. Yam Roll sings along to the BOUNCING BALL. Suddenly, the ball hovers in the air, spinning and then shoots itself through the screen, winging Yam Roll.

Yam Roll holds the mic stand horizontally over his head like an Olympic weight lifter. The Abbot stands by with a stopwatch. Yam Roll's arms start to wobble and he tips over backwards.

8 EXT. KARAOKE MONASTERY -- DAY

Yam Roll stands before the Abbot and the rest of the monks in their robes.

ABBOT

We've taught you all we can, Yam Roll. The time has come to send you out into the world to spread the Karaoke way. Don't let the glitzy clothes and the groupies lead you astray. True Karaoke spirit comes from the giving, not the getting. Got it?

Yam Roll's CELL PHONE RINGS. He holds up a finger.

YAM ROLL

Uh, can you hold that thought?  
(he answers the phone)  
Ah, hello?

He pauses to listen.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

Ebi - can't talk right now. Kind of in the middle of a ceremony, here. I'll talk to you later...I know this is great reception.

Yam Roll hangs up. A MONK passes the Abbot a GOLD MICROPHONE, who presents it to Yam Roll.

ABBOT

Yam Roll - in parting we present you with this gold commemorative microphone forged in the fiery bowels of Mount Foopi.

(CONTINUED)



Yam Roll takes the microphone and does an expert toss from hand to hand.

ABBOT (CONT'D)  
Karaoke well, Yam Roll.

YAM ROLL  
(bowing)  
I will. Thanks. A lot.

Yam Roll steps to the ladder and waves goodbye as he makes his descent and disappears from frame. A GONG TOLLS...and the Monastery vanishes!

9 INT. LARRY OKI'S KARAOKE -- NIGHT

The club is packed as Yam Roll enters the hot nightspot. Ebi runs over to greet him.

EBI  
Yam Roll - you made it!

YAM ROLL  
And I'm ready to Karaoke-down. Is Minamiko here?

EBI  
She's sitting over there.

Ebi points to where MINAMIKO sits at a table with a bunch of other GIRLS, sipping Shirley Temples.

YAM ROLL  
(to himself)  
Oh, yes. You will follow my car.

ON THE STAGE where EDAMAME is making a mess of "Gloria" by Laura Branigan.

EDAMAME  
Gloria (Gloria), I think they got your number (Gloria) I think they got the alias (Gloria) that you've been living under...

The crowd forces him off stage with boos and hurled fruit.

CROWD  
[BOOS]

SPICY TUNA CONE gets up on stage ducking a flying pineapple. He holds up his hands.

SPICY TUNA CONE  
Alright, settle down folks.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

## SPICY TUNA CONE (CONT'D)

Hold onto that fruit- because you're gonna need it! Next up is somebody you and I know and love to throw produce at. Plug your ears for Yam Roll!

The spotlight comes up and we see Yam Roll with his back to the audience. The opening bars of "You're a Strange Animal" begin and he twirls around and strikes a masterly Karaoke pose. He's wearing a RHINESTONE COWBOY HAT. A beat. Then the crowd GOES WILD - clapping and cheering. Yam Roll works it - swinging the mic with finesse, winking at the ladies.

## YAM ROLL

This little ditty goes out to the lucky lady right over there.

He points his finger towards Minamiko as the spotlight picks her up. Minamiko bats her eyelashes and blows Yam Roll a kiss. He pretends to catch it, takes a deep breath, opens his mouth to sing, when CRASH! - his cab comes smashing through the front window and bashes into the stage! People run in all directions. The car door swings open and falls off with a creak and Tamago rolls out onto the floor, unconscious. Minamiko and the other girls rush to his aid. Minamiko leans down and adjusts Tamago's mangled glasses.

## MINAMIKO

Oh, you poor baby!

Tamago groans. He mutters, delirious.

## TAMAGO

Will that be plastic or paper, ma'am?

## MINAMIKO

C'mon girls, help me carry him to my house.

Minamiko and the girls lift Tamago and carry him out of the club. Yam Roll walks over to the bar and sits down - utterly dejected. Popping up from behind the bar, Ebi sets a SHIRLEY TEMPLE in front of Yam Roll.

## YAM ROLL

I can't believe it! All that Karaoke training and what do I get? Tamago wrecks my cab and Minamiko takes him home! She's never gonna chase my car!

## EBI

So Minamiko took off. And your cab is a right-off. But you slayed the crowd, buddy. You gotta get back on that Karaoke horse.

(CONTINUED)

YAM ROLL

Never! I'm through with Karaoke!

Yam Roll gets up to leave.

EBI

Fine - but don't forget this.

Ebi throws Yam Roll the GOLD MICROPHONE. It spins in the air and Yam Roll's arm shoots up to catch it. He FLASHES BACK to the Abbot who appears in a cut-out above Yam Roll's head.

ABBOT

True Karaoke spirit comes from the giving, not the getting. Got it?

Yam Roll shakes himself out of the reverie.

YAM ROLL

You're right, Ebi.

EBI

As rain!

(beat)

What are we talking about?

YAM ROLL

You reminded me what Karaoke is really all about. I feel the need to give coming on.

Yam Roll jumps on stage. He motions to Ebi.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

Hit it!

The opening strains of "You're a Strange Animal" play. Yam Roll channels the true spirit of Karaoke for the first time - working the spotlight, tossing his mic and moving like a master. Ebi claps and whistles as Yam Roll begins to sing.

YAM ROLL (CONT'D)

You're a strange animal/ That's what I know/ But you're a strange animal I've got to follow...

IRIS TO BLACK

THE END