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| **Your article** |
| Furukawa Roppa (1903–1961) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Japanese comedian, film actor and essayist, known for his round face with Lloyd’s glasses, active before and after World War II, successfully transferring his stage performances into a film career.  Roppa Furukawa, born the sixth son of Baron Katō Terumaro, was adopted by the Furukawa family, following his family custom. While attending Waseda University, he became a film critic and editor and published his own magazine *The Age of Film* (1926-1931). In 1926, Furukawa participated in the variety show group Troubled Society formed by the former *benshi* (performers providing live narration for silent film). Roppa’s specialty was voice impersonation. Recommended by Kikuchi Kan, the novelist and Kobayashi Ichizō, the founder of Hankyū Railway and Takarazuka Girls Opera, Furukawa became a professional comedian and made a stage debut at Tokyo Takarazuka Theatre in 1932. In 1933, Furukawa, contracted by Shōchiku’s Tokiwa Productions, formed the comedy troupe Kingdom of Laughter with the former members of Troubled Society, comedians popular in Asakusa, Asakusa Opera singers and Nichigeki Theatre’s dancers. Each production consisted of several short plays, accompanied by variety shows, which made an immediate success. Repertories include comedies such as *The Bumpy Broadcasting Station* (1933) and adaptation and dramatization of famous plays and masterpieces from Japan and the West such as *Chūshingura* (1933), *Carmen* (1933) and *Treasure Island* (1935). Future Tōhō’s Director Kikuta Kazuo was one of the major playwrights for the troupe. |
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