

DO THE DANCE!

AKB48 FANZINE

なんてったってアイドル #06 WHAT AN IDOL... (HUH?)

WINTER
2024

WE TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE IDOLS INTERESTS



DRAMA REVIEWS
HARE-KON AND
SENTIKA F8ABA6 JISARIZ

**GUARDIANS
OF THE CLOCK**
OUR FIRST FANFICTION COMIC

THE OTAKU IDOLS FAVORITE
MANGA
ONE PIECE

SLS SKATER
SEIJI REINA
+ much more

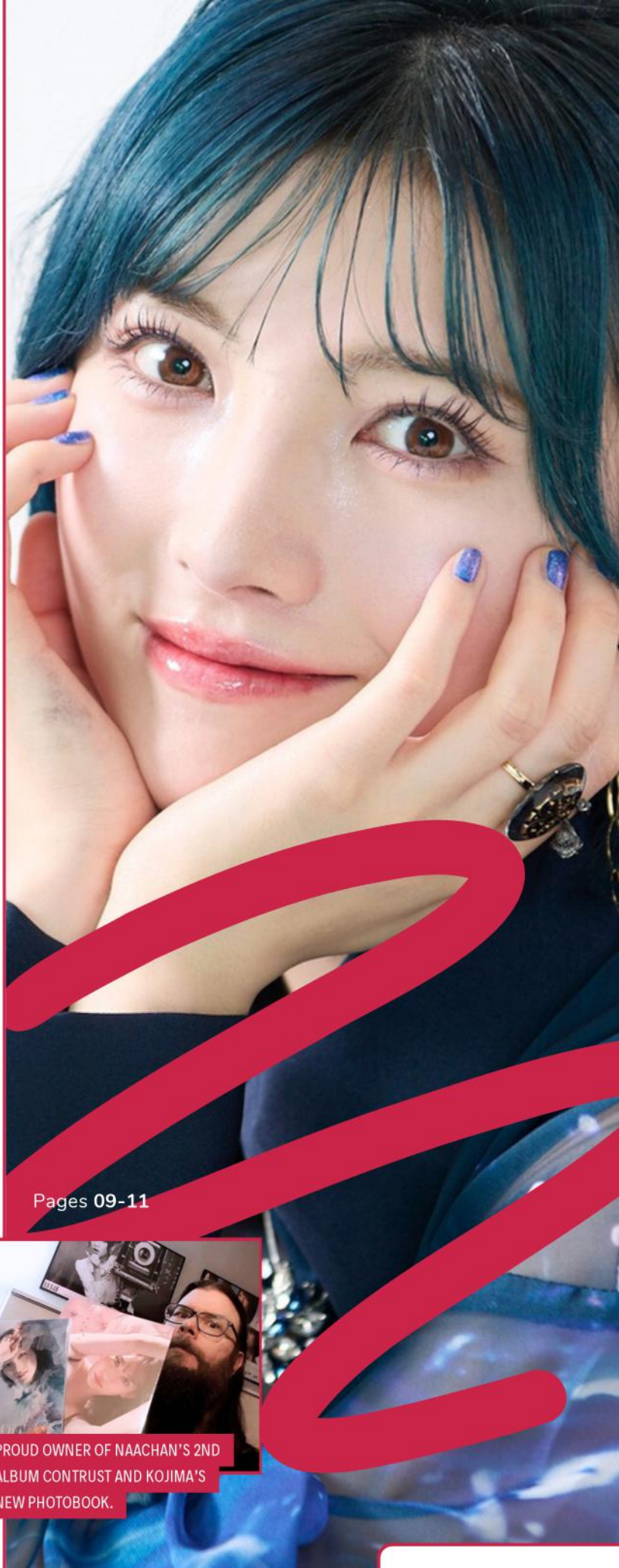
WELCOME TO THE LAST ISSUE OF DO THE DANCE

...At least for this year! Never would I have dreamed of doing 6 issues in the span of 6 months, when I wrote the editors column in #01. A lot of great contributors have joined since then, exactly what I had hoped for. And now there's at least 95% exclusive content for every issue, and it really feels more like a real magazine at this point, with both longer and shorter articles. That was also something I really wanted for the fanzine from the beginning. I also mentioned that I felt it was fun to write articles, even though I mostly wanted to focus on making the layouts for them. But as you might have recognized now – I have written a lot since #01. This is something I feel very proud of, as I also get to use my creativity in another way and talk about all the 48G things I truly love.

Another creative person who have let me use his Hotechan fan-art in two issues is the new article contributor Hochito. He wrote about his first experience meeting his oshimen Hotechan for the first time during the TIF Tour. He also writes about Hotechan's nerdy interests. My Japanese Instagram friend hanachan let me use his pictures and comments about his 2-shot with AKB48 members in the 10th album celebration. David61 tells us about his meetings and 2-shot during the celebration of AKB48's 5th studio album Thumbnail in 2017 with now mostly graduated girls. This issues main focus is revolving around our beloved graduated and current members interests. It's always fun, but sometimes hard to come up with new themes for the issues. But this is also something I have learnt to love, and it's always fun to give the contributors ideas and topics to write about! It's often things I personally want to read, so it's truly a win win situation for me to say the least. And it sounds like you readers enjoy it! In the CD Reviews section you can read about Nana Okada's 2nd album that is finally out. I hope you will enjoy the fanfiction written by Hoellenmeister that we decided to do in the style of a graphic novel, with screenshots from the MV. We also have a fun article about NGT48's Reina Seiji and her skateboarding, written by Far East.

I'm sad to say that I didn't have time for the NEW SHIP section for this issue, but don't worry – it will be back in the next issue. It was too much to handle, as I wanted to get this issue out before the Christmas season. And it's honestly a pretty packed issue anyway. I didn't want to do another really big issue like #05. Oh, and my comment from #01, that I didn't think I would manage to do a 48 page issue more than once became a big fat lie at the end. With this new font, the wordcount for the articles also got bigger. We wish you a Happy New Year, and well met in 2025 with more 48G love!

theamazingdaveman



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PROUD OWNER OF NAACHAN'S 2ND
ALBUM CONTRUST AND KOJIMA'S
NEW PHOTOBOOK.

Covergirls
Yui Murayama and Mizuki Yamauchi

Leader and contents page
Nana Okada and Reina Seiji

Backside
Manaka Taguchi

**DO
THE
DANCE!**

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NEWS

THE LATEST IN THE
48 GROUPS WORLD



AKB48 THEATER RENOVATED AND THE NEW STAGE



On Dec 8th "Japan's most sophisticated show" was finally reopened! The renovation looks very beautiful and luxurious with the glass cabinets in the lobby that proudly displays AKB's achievements and iconic outfits. The former general director Minami Takahashi and general producer Yasushi Akimoto was at the New Theater Opening Ceremony before the first new stage in 9 years began. The name of the new Theater Stage is Koko Kara Da which means 'From Here', and has 16 new songs written and produced by Akimoto. AKB begins their new era and had their 19th anniversary as well, and their goal is set on Tokyo Dome once again.

theamazingdaveman

ZUKKII AND A FORMER MEMBER IN A LOVE LIVE! DRAMA



Mizuki Yamauchi and her 16th gen mate member Nanami Asai, who graduated earlier this year, met up once again – now as cast members in the drama Love Live! School Idol Musical the DRAMA. It's based on the live musical from 2022–2023 for the Love Live! School Idol Project franchise; which has countless of manga, anime, light novels, live shows, dramas and music products for its growing fanbase to enjoy. Zukkii plays the role of Hikaru Amakusa and Naamin the role of Yuzuha Sumeragi, both support roles. STU48's former Kenkyuusei member Akari Yura is also one of the support roles. We can also see Hinatazaka46's former member Miho Watanabe in one of the main roles together with Nanaka Tomita from ≠ME (an idol group produced by Rino Sashihara) among the cast members. The first episode aired on November 21st, 2024 and you can find English subs from Skewed. I love the fact that Zukkii gets more and more drama roles lately, since I have really enjoyed the acting I have seen thus far. More idols for the masses!

theamazingdaveman



NMB48 WANTS YOU TO JOIN THEM IN HELL...



NMB48 will have a live broadcast on their Nico Nico Channel platform on the Shin YNN NMB48 CHANNEL with the title 24 HOUR GO TO HELL.

It will start on December 28th at 8PM (Japanese time) and go on for 24 hours. This is their annual 24-hour livestream, which they have done since 2013. Team N's Karin Kojima said that she will be in it, and usually all the members are showing up some time throughout the stream. Do you have the courage and stamina to join them for the whole stream?

theamazingdaveman

AZU AND YUNACHAN IN A STRANGE HOUSE



18th gen members Yagi Azuki and Yuna Akiyama will be among the cast in the horror drama Strange House. It will be screened at the Home-town Film Festival on December 28th. I guess that the movie later will be posted for free on the YouTube channel @HorrorChannelJapan. The same channel where you can find Broadcast Prohibited which Far East reviewed in DO THE DANCE #05.

theamazingdaveman

おしかつ

Welcome back to Frida's Oshikatsu Corner!

This time I will be reviewing the **AKB48 Halloween merchandise**, as well as talking about some new merch coming up. *Let's go!*

Amongst upcoming merch, we have the **Christmas themed merchandise**, as well as the **2025 New Years bundle**.

The Christmas merchandise pre-order window has already ended, and included a Acrylic Keychain Standee with a glitter background shaped like a Christmas tree, and a Coaster and Straw-Charm set, consisting of a coaster with a standee, as well as a small charm on a rubber loop to hang around the straw of your drink, perfect for taking cute Oshikatsu photos this winter! The standee on the coaster also has a little message by your chosen member written on it. I will review these items in the next issue!

AKB48 メンバー選択

セット内容(8点)



UPCOMING MERCH

I have personally decided to skip out on the New Years bundle, as the Shrine Maiden themed shoots have never really been my favourites, and most of the items do not appeal to me, kind of the same feeling I had about the summer yukata bundle earlier this year. The set is 15,000 JPY and includes a variety of items such as photos, a wall scroll, a small wooden ema charm, a zip up hoodie and other non-member themed items. The appeal of this set really lies in the possibility of being one of the lucky ones who win a signed polaroid or message from your favourite member, or to attend some of the new stages after the theatre renewal, all of which are lotteries you can join in on with your purchase.

Another interesting "gift with purchase" this time around, is the recently (at the time of writing) announced akusta available along with the Nante Datte AKB48 album on 7Net. The members available are the album's senbatsu members, and there is even a set that lets you buy them all at once (anyone want 16 albums?) or you choose the member(s) you want individually, as they are able to be connected via their bases.

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The merch review section will be small this time, as the **Halloween merch collection** wasn't that big.

- Halloween Ghost-Shaped Cushion
- Halloween Linked Acrylic Keychain

HALLOWEEN GOODS REVIEW

ハロウィン

Something that however *was* big, was the **HALLOWEEN GHOST-SHAPED CUSHION**, priced at 5500 JPY, which ended up being way bigger than I imagined! Did I just not read the dimensions before ordering, or were they not written out at the time? The cushion ends up being 60cm tall, about the length of a standard pillow, and not around the 25-30cm that I was expecting! The ghost shape is a bit awkward when the member side is facing up (which is how one would like to display it, right?) but overall I like the quality of it. The printing is really nice, and I haven't seen any loose threads or stuffing sticking out, and the amount of stuffing is really good too. So whilst this is bordering on being too awkwardly big to display, it is a purchase I am overall happy with.



The second item from the collection is the **HALLOWEEN LINKED ACRYLIC KEYCHAIN**, priced at 1200 JPY. This was a bit smaller than I expected (what is up with the sizing in this collection?) but the very cute face drawn on the ghost by Mahopyon makes up for it! The special part with these keychains, were that the middle charm would be of either a pumpkin, ghost or bat with a cute face designed by your chosen member. The member derived design aspect is really cute, I like how it carried over from the li Oshi No Hi akusta to this keychain, I hope we get more member-designed merch in the future!

Yumenotobiira



CONGRATS ITOMOMO!

She won the first place in the AKB48 Groups + UNLAME contest for the magazine bis.

The contest happened at the end of November. This was the final round (earlier there was the first round that Itomomo also won). I'm really happy for her. I took a look at the official page for the contest, and I was a bit surprised because I thought that this contest was to become a regular model for the magazine but it looks like the whole top 3 won the right to have auditions to become a regular model for a year, so it's not confirmed yet. Itomomo will have to pass an audition. Hopefully they take her because... I mean she would be perfect for it, and they saw how much money her fans spent for this... They really spent a LOT of money! So really they should give it to her... Another prize that she got as the first place is that she'll appear at the biggest fashion event of Japan (well, I don't know if it's the biggest one but that's what they called it). So there's that! But yes I really hope she can get more than this, because the fans spent so much and she worked so hard and the fans worked so hard for her too! So let's hope!



On December 6th, it was Itomomo's birthday, she turned 21 years old! This is the first birthday that she celebrates as a member of AKB! And hopefully it's the first of many many. From the moment she debuted, she directly got my interest, first because she looks very pretty, but then because I saw how good she is as a performer, how cute her personality is, and she's such a hardworker, she can act, she can dance, she has a nice voice! She really has

everything and for me she is already a perfect idol. I'm glad that she is receiving opportunities already in AKB and she can show her talent, and I hope things continue to be so positive for her and she can keep getting lots of work and more and more fans and support. I will keep supporting her for sure! I already consider her as a favorite member. I want her to have the best career! Let's support Itomomo!



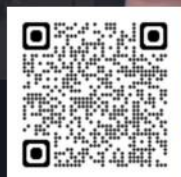
Kojiharu was at the theater on the day of the anniversary and new stage, and Itomomo took pictures with her! I love these interactions!! It would be great if Itomomo could meet with more old gen members like this.

I have to say, after watching **Koko Kara Da**, it confirmed to me that Itomomo is one of my 2 favorite members in AKB. During the whole stage, I focused a lot on Yuiyui (she's just amazing!!), and along with it, I was also always looking for Itomomo, who usually would stand somewhere at the back (often on the left, lol) and she also got a few close-ups! and I loved seeing her, I think she did amazing, and I'm so so glad that they included her in the original line-up!! I hope that someday maybe, she can be under for the center position. I would also love to see her perform the other units! Not sure if that will ever happen but I really want to see it! But yes for now she will probably only do her own position and it's great, I love it. I want to watch more performances of Koko Kara Da to see her.

Mana



NANA OKADA - CONTRUST (2024)



The powerful MV for 'Zankyo Alive'

Naachan finally released her new album *Contrust* as a nice ending to the year.

I was so excited about the solo career that I hoped Naachan would get after she graduated from AKB48 in 2023. She has been one of my absolute favorite members for a long time, and I loved her solo song '**Kowasanakya Ikenai Mono**' on the 59th single **Moto Kare desu**. Since then, in 2022, I have dreamed of a full solo album from her. In Nov 2023 her first solo album **Asymmetry** was released on Avex Trax to all her fans' excitement. I was sure to pre-order it on CDJapan as soon as it was possible. The album had a big impact on me, as I was grinning from ear to ear hearing the metal song '**TAKOYAKI ROCK**' which was followed by the very beautiful '**Ikiru Riyuu**' which made me cry. It's one of the albums I have listened to the most in 2024. In my honest opinion it was truly perfect. Naachan had some personal struggles during and after the release of **Asymmetry**. I hoped for her to get better of course, and was not expecting a new album so soon. The vibe I get from **Contrust** is much more uplifting and brighter, both musically and in the lyrics department. **Contrust** opens strong with the first song and album single '**Zankyo Alive**', which is a cool, uplifting J-rock song with awesome musical arrangement by the studio musicians, especially the drummer impressed me. '**moratorium**' sticks out a bit and feels like an anime intro song with its fun arrangement, where '**Kyouhan Camera**' could have been the outro song. One of the more beautiful songs imo is '**UNMEI**', which reminds me of the Disney musical sounding '**Silent Mermaid**' from **Asymmetry**, with its strings and piano. Nana's mixing of vocal styles throughout the album is something you have to experience. We can hear her singing in both a low and high register. I totally love all her singing styles. This is a great follow up to the 1st album – and I know I will listen to it a lot throughout 2025 as well. But it's not a perfect album which I feel **Asymmetry** was, that had a much broader and fun mix of genres which she managed to do extremely well. The Limited Edition of **Contrust** comes in a 48p photobook in A5 size, with very beautiful and artistic pictures of Nana in various settings, with different hairstyles and clothing. Although this edition is nice, I hope for a new "real" PB in the future.

theamazingdaveman

Contrust is the second solo album of the former member of AKB48 and STU48 Nana Okada. The title is a word play of the words contrast and trust. It consists of eleven songs, all written by Nana, as in her debut album. The main song is '**Zankyo Alive**' and it has a music video you can watch on YouTube.

Contrust is a lighter and more optimistic follow up to **Asymmetry**. In **Asymmetry** the songs versed about her dual nature reflected in the covers of the three editions of the album and the focus was on expressing her feelings. She had a lot to say after her graduation, not just in her songs but in interviews too. In this new album, she wants to reach the audience, especially the non fans so she looks outside. The duality gives way to the contrast between light and shadows and how a bright light creates a dark shadow. This leads to the necessity to accept our shadows, our weaknesses, to move toward the light. Another interesting change is that she includes some love songs in the mix. I think it's a vibrant album that not only keeps the momentum from her debut album but consolidates her as a solo artist who writes her owns songs. Another great talent produced by AKB48 who has learned from one of the most successful lyricists in the world, Yasushi Akimoto. Nana Okada has acknowledged that influence, which is nothing but expected as she spent a lot of years singing his lyrics. From the cover design to the songs themselves, you can see that she is an artist with a clear vision who wants to share her ideas and thoughts, whether they are dark or light, as she embraces both sides of her personality. The special edition that comes with a photobook, which is the one I own, is a fantastic piece of art, something any fan of her and idols will treasure as a significant part of their collection. The photos are great selection with very distinctive styles and even sizes. It also include the lyrics, sadly only in Japanese. A great package that can compete with K-Pop, wich are known for their gorgeous editions, as I can attest with the albums I own from IZ*ONE and Le Sserafim. If you like **Asymmetry** this album is for you. If you are not familiar with Nana Okada, this is a great entry point. **Adolfo Rodríguez**

Naacord

NAACORD'S REVIEW OF CONTRUST

Naacord is the Okada Nana fan discord server, and Naachan's new album **Contrust** was a hot topic of discussion. Here is what some of our members had to say:

OVERALL

Cherry92: This is another masterpiece 🌟🌟🌟 Rock, Ballad, Pop. Naachan nailed the songs range 👍 Seriously, I've been listening the album for more than 9 times but still can't decide how to rank my favourite 🤔 Her skill has improved in all genre 🌟

AnaNana: Just finished listening to the whole album. "Cool, Cute, Sexy, Beautiful". Those 4 things are how I feel to describe the whole album. Naachan really slays with that concept. I don't understand the lyrics so I can only comment on the music, and all the songs feel so familiar. Like I can feel the resemblance from all the past songs she covers from her first anniversary concert and tours. It also feels like a continuation from her first album. For example 'akai yoru ga michiru' really feels like the continuation from the song 'arigatou shiawaseninattene' idk why but just the vibe. Just how did she get so many good songs tho. The whole album really all hit no misses. Her vocal technique also improved sooo freaking much, the songs are really hard to sing and I can hear she used techniques or voice I never heard she used before. Her TV live last night was also impressive. It was so solid and stable. I'm so proud. On this album she really proves how versatile and solid she is as a solo artist.

If you want to join **Naacord**, DM **Parker**
Discord: insectie
X & Instagram: @ParkerCastleb
Tiktok: @parker4138



zankyou alive

Marlene: I've already been listening to this song on loop since it released early and I still absolutely love it. The lyrics are amazing and naa's vocals 🥰

Parker: Clearly the main track. Like some of Naachan's other songs, it really reminds me of an anime song, from artists like **supercell** or **nano**. Fun fact: it is over 4 minutes long, quite long for a main song, but Naachan insisted the song be released without cutting anything.

5-gatsu ni futari wa uso wo tsuku

Marlene: I love the upbeat vibe of this! It reminds me a little of **Yorushika** in the best way possible. I also love that the lyrics are so explicitly about dating a woman!

Parker: Cute, catchy song about heartbreak.

Naachans: The beat: 🥰🥰🥰 The lyrics: 🥰🥰🥰
😊



moratorium

Marlene: I love the part where she suddenly sings really fast, you can really hear the desperation. The lyrics are very poignant for Naachan and I'm glad she didn't go from full sad to full happy and still has raw songs like this one.

Parker: Super cool. Really blunt, straight lyrics like Naachan's earlier songs.

Lala: I really understand what she meant when she compared it to a vocaloid song.

kyouhan camera

Marlene: The instrumentals on this one are so fricking good, I can't even explain it. The lyrics are again so desperate and real, this song has high potential to be my favourite on the album.

Parker: I want to give Naachan a hug. Sounds like a vocaloid song or anime opening (now picked as the opening for a drama!). A great song about Naachan's dualities, one of her most interesting points.

Lala: I can really feel her embody the character of who she becomes when she's drunk like she talked about in the interview with avex. A song that embodies contrast.

Naachans: The lyrics... Naachan is genius.



kami-sama wa mada boku wo shinasete kurenai kara

Marlene: Once again a really honest and beautiful song by Naachan 🥹 I love the part where she says "since god won't let me die, I'm singing about secrets I can't tell"

Parker: I'm glad Naachan said this wasn't exactly about her own experiences but dedicated to those who have things they can't tell anyone. I think Naachan knows this feeling well from fans confiding in her.

Lala: It doesn't not sound how I expected it to instrumentally but I love it. Omg I really did not expect it to sound this way.

Naachans: All I have to say is "WOW!"

kuuhaku to takanari

Marlene: This is very different from the vibe of the others but I really like it! It's really sweet and reminds me of 'arigatou, shiawase ni natte ne' because of the "you don't know the meaning of the moon is beautiful" line.

Parker: A straightforward love song (almost surely dedicated to Yui). Naachan intentionally sang this in a cute voice.

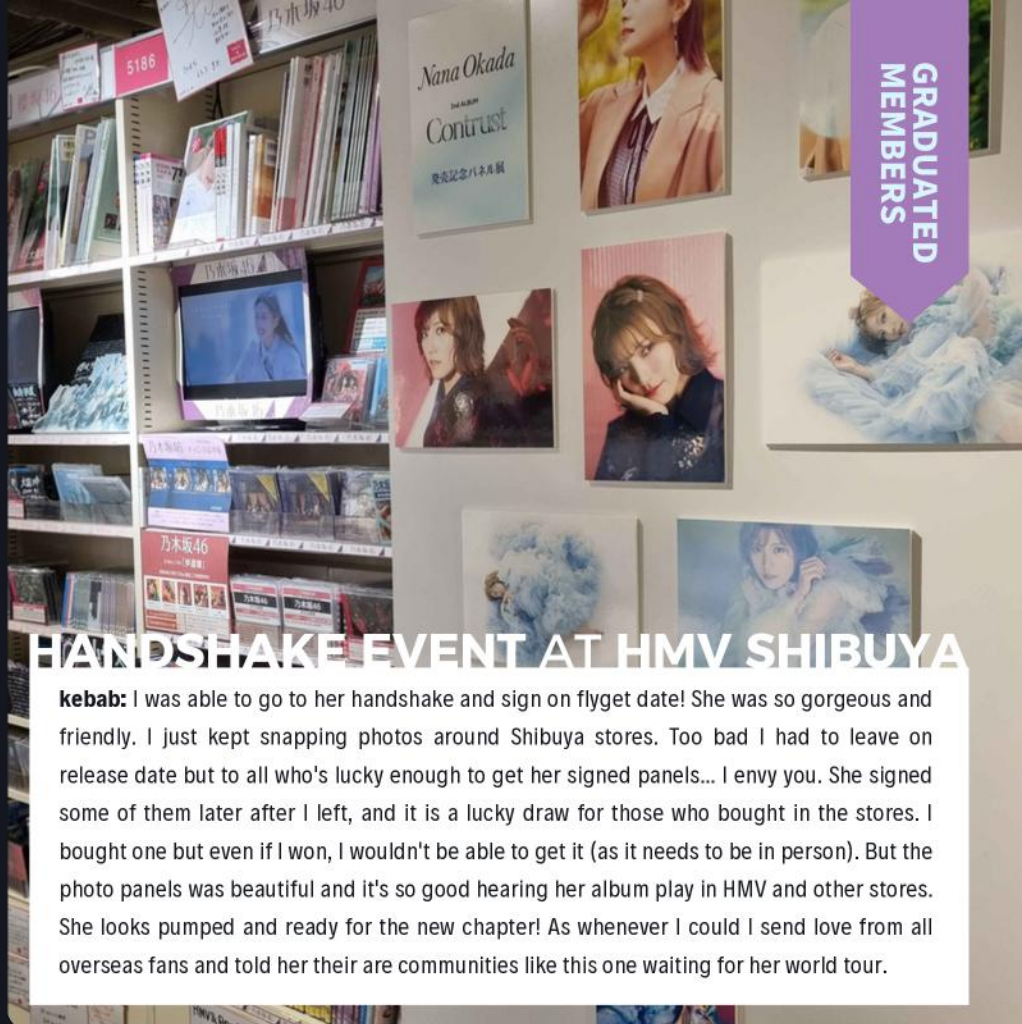
Lala: My favourite so far. It's was so sweet and Naachan vocally conveyed the emotions within the lyrics so beautifully.

Naachans: I hate that I almost cried while listening to this as if I have a reason to Imaooo.

suki no mahou

Marlene: Maybe the rockiest song on the album? Which I didn't expect based on the title, but it was really nice to listen to as well.

Parker: Naachan said this is her favorite song on the album. She intentionally made the gap between the cute lyrics and rock instrumentals.



HANDSHAKE EVENT AT HMV SHIBUYA

kebab: I was able to go to her handshake and sign on flyget date! She was so gorgeous and friendly. I just kept snapping photos around Shibuya stores. Too bad I had to leave on release date but to all who's lucky enough to get her signed panels... I envy you. She signed some of them later after I left, and it is a lucky draw for those who bought in the stores. I bought one but even if I won, I wouldn't be able to get it (as it needs to be in person). But the photo panels was beautiful and it's so good hearing her album play in HMV and other stores. She looks pumped and ready for the new chapter! As whenever I could I send love from all overseas fans and told her their are communities like this one waiting for her world tour.

UNMEI

Marlene: A slower number! I really really love the lyrics and composition for this one.

Parker: Very interesting sound that I can best describe as epic. A wonderful song of hope.

Lala: Oh my goodness. 'UNMEI' has made me the most emotional of all the songs so far.

Naachans: I love this song a lot !!!

akai yoru ga michiru

Marlene: I've also listened to this a lot already since the early release and I still love it. Naa's voice is a lot softer here, similar to how she uses her voice in some of my favourite **Asymmetry** songs.

Parker: The imagery in Naachan's lyrics are so powerful, you can really imagine the scenes she describes. For this reason, listening while reading a translation of the lyrics made me cry.



12.24

Marlene: AN ACTUAL CHRISTMAS SONG???? I FEEL SO BLESSED THANK YOU NAA ❤️!

Parker: Naachan's staff gave her the idea to try writing a Christmas song, and this was the result. A very sweet story.

Cherry92: We got an actual early Xmas present in a form of song ❤️

Lala: I have a new favourite Christmas song I will play this when I put my tree up.

Naachans: I wish I had someone to think about while listening to this SIGH but its a beautiful song!

sakura-iro no kimi wo omou

Marlene: This has an old-school vibe that I really love. The lyrics are so lovely and sweet and the melody makes me feel in love ❤️

Parker: Written about Yui and Yui's letter to Naachan on her graduation. The 3 last songs of the album were intentionally arranged in autumn, winter, spring order. The 'graduation' theme was done well in the melody too.

Lala: Literally the perfect song to finish with. I also love how she placed it at the end since it's an album that suits winter and spring brings the end of winter. Like I really love the thought behind that so much.

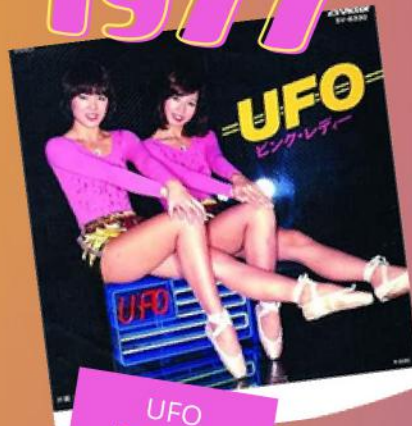
Parker

1975



Toshishita no Otokonoko
(Candies)

1977



UFO
(Pink Lady)

1981



Cherry Blossom
(Matsuda Seiko)

1986



Jaane
(Onyanko Club)

1989



Samishii Nettaigyo
(Wink)

AKB48'S
FIRST
COVER
ALBUM

NANTETATTE AKB48
なんてったってAKB48



On December 25th you can buy
AKB's first album in 6 years.

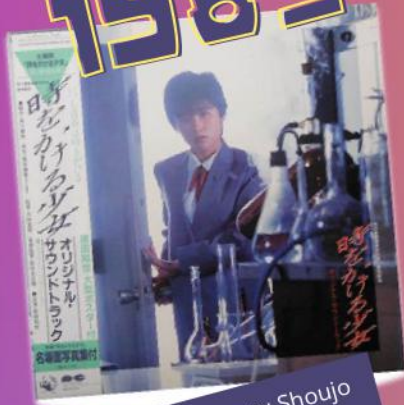
But it's not a regular studio albums with singles
and a few new songs. Not even the center song
is a new one, but also a cover as the rest of the
songs. The new center Yurii said this about
the songs on AKB48's official website:

"I listened to a lot of Kyoko Koizumi's
songs when I covered 'Nantetatte Idol',
but what impressed me the most was
her happy singing voice and live
performance! Therefore, I was ►



なんてったってAKB48

1983



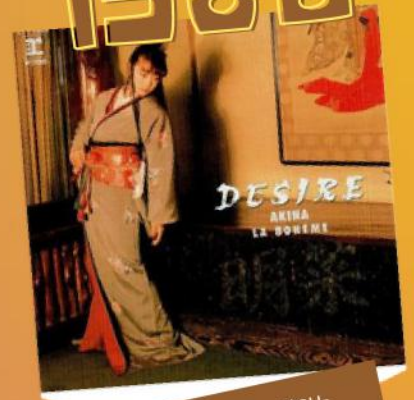
Toki wo Kakeru Shoujo
(Harada Tomoyo)

1985



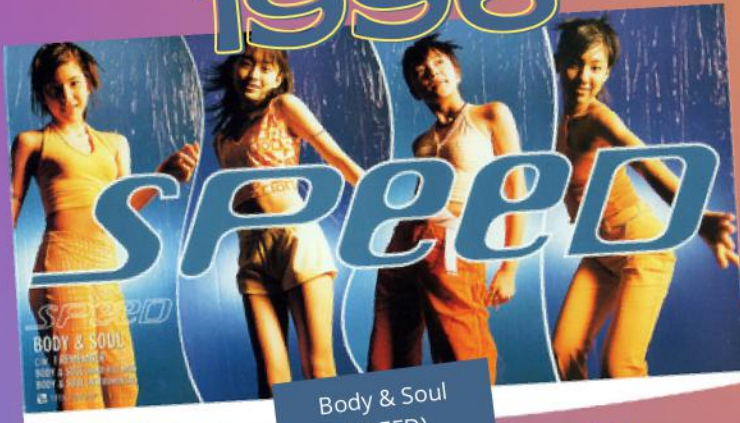
Nantettatte Idol
(Koizumi Kyoko)

1986



DESIRE -Jounetsu-
(Nakamori Akina)

1996



Body & Soul
(SPEED)

1999



LOVE Machine
(Morning Musume)

2010



Ikuzel! Kaitou Shoujo
(Momoiro Clover)

2013



Kimi no Namae wa Kibou
(Nogizaka46)

2020



Otona Blue
(Atarashii Gakko)

*conscious of singing with my heart
rather than singing beautifully. I
hope you can feel the fun and live
feeling!"*

VERSIONS OF THE ALBUM

Limited Edition (CD+Blu-ray)

Regular (CD)

*"Because this cover album is packed with various histories such
as Showa, Heisei, and Reiwa, I think that I can use the "depth as a
person" that only I can show in my 13 years as a member of
AKB48!"*

It truly sounds like a fun album to listen to around the holidays
and new year!

theamazingdaveman

2022



Kawaikute Gomen
(Honey Works)

10TH ALBUM 2-SHOT EVENT

AKB48's 10th album Nantetatte AKB48 release celebration and 2 shot-photo session.

2024.11.23

TRANSLATED BY FAR EAST



Sato Airi

The last time I took a photo with Aichan was during the group photo session at last year's Sendai fan meeting. The beret suits her so well. I told her, "Come to Sendai again!"



Ota Yuki

I left the pose up to Yukitan, and we made a heart together. I told her that her face is my type and that I often check her Instagram.



Hotei Moka

Seeing Hote-chan up close, she was so tiny and adorable. Her glasses suited her so well. She reminded me of Kei Akizuki from Hoshikuzu Telepath. We made a heart pose, but the plastic barrier got in the way, so it didn't show up. Still, Hote-chan was in the shot, so it was all good. I'm feeling all Hote-Hote now~



Hatakeyama Nozomi

I requested Nonchan to do the "I love hamburg steak~" pose. I told her that her SHOWROOM is really entertaining. Her carefree smile is so typical of Nonchan, and I love it~ This smile gives me so much energy.



Muto Orin

I did a Pokémon catch pose with Orin-chan. She noticed the "道" symbol on my hat, so I explained that it's a pro-wrestling hat, and she said, "I love pro-wrestling too!" which made me super happy. Orin-chan mentioned that she likes Jushin Thunder Liger. She was such a sweet girl. Her Espoon costume was so cute.



Nagatomo Ayami

With Ayamin, I did the Hiroshi Tanahashi pose during the 4th slot. In the 5th slot, I left it up to her, and since it was related to Hana-chan, we ended up doing a flower pose. In the 4th slot, I was so nervous that my mind went blank, and I couldn't say anything, but in the 5th slot, she said, "Welcome back!" which eased my nerves, and I was able to talk properly. At the end of the 6th slot, I also participated in her birthday ceremony! I was so happy to be able to congratulate Ayamin directly.



AKB48 OTAKU MIION

Miion was, and still IS a true AKB otaku which can be seen on her YouTube channel On-Channel.

There is no secret that Miion was a big AKB fan long before she was part of the group. She invited Zunchan (who had to leave AKB for her new venture in KLP) to her YouTube channel where they were going through AKB memorabilia they bought mostly before they joined the group. They had a lot of pretty rare items, and they both agreed on not saving all the magazines, as they took up too much space. I bet Miion could have only dreamed of being on the covers of magazines like BOMB, BUBKA and Weekly Young Magazine, when she started listening to AKB in her young teen years. And this as we know happened just some years later.

Miion has also done a couple of videos where she was analyzing the lyrics of AKB songs. In one video, the summer songs to see if they were connected in some way. You can also see videos of her talking about her concerts she saw before she joined AKB, showing off her tickets. And if you want to see graduated members this is the right place, as she visited Miichan at her baby shower where a lot of big names showed up. You can also see her doing dance challenges with current and past members and do collaboration videos with Yukirin and Chori. The channel is a gold mine for AKB otakus!

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AKB48 & GOTO MAKI

The TV TOKYO Music Festival songs!

On November 20th AKB48 was participating in the TV TOKYO Music Festival and was paying tribute to the idol groups of the past; all groups they do covers of on the 10th album. In the groups first performance of the lead song 'Nantettatte Idol' our new center Yuiri took the lead as she sang the first few words of the lyrics first verse. In another cute performance they were outside singing Onyanko Club's 'Sailor Fuku wo Nugasanaide'. This is not the first time AKB have performed Aki-P's classic song, so it was also a fun nod to AKB's past. And lastly, the always beautiful 39 year old J-pop princess Goto Maki entered the stage. She and AKB were performing the classic Morning Musume hit song 'Renai Revolution 21' together. On a personal note, she's the only member I still have any connection to from my days listening to MM and her solo stuff. She has also showed up on AKB's, and Yukirin's YouTube channel a couple of times which I find very fun!

theamazingdaveman





THE ONYANKO CLUB FRENZY

Idols are not a new thing; in fact, their golden age is a bygone era over half a century ago.

On an interesting note: If it wasn't for a 1963 French movie and 52 young girls scouted in a variety TV show in the 80s, AKB48 would have never existed in the first place...

"The word 'idol' (aidoru) began to take hold in Japan after the French film Cherchez l'idole was released in 1963 under the title Aidoru o Sagasu (In Search of an Idol). Early movie stars aside, the word idol is mostly associated in Japan with young performers who sing, pose for photographs, and appear frequently in the media."

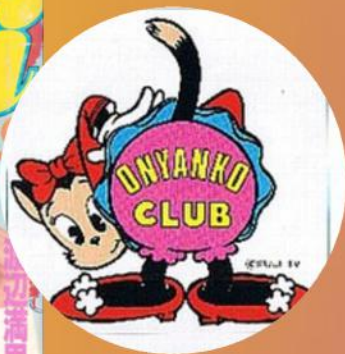
– Idols and Celebrity in Japanese Media Culture (Patrick W. Galbraith and Jason G. Karlin, University of Tokyo, Japan)

After the movie release in Japan, everyone became enamored with Sylvie Vartan. The entertainment industry, seeing the major uproar the young French star caused, didn't lose time and tried to find their own Vartan to please the masses and, well... they found three! In 1971 Japanese audiences were introduced to Koyanagi Rumiko, Amachi Mari and Minami Saori and thus began the first year of the idol era.



After that, Idols became vastly popular in Japan pop culture and would dominate the entertainment industry in ways that is hard to even conceive. The public always wanted more, to the point that over one hundred idols would debut every year through the 80s, and among many, one group in particular will make history, setting very important foundations for the future of the idol industry.

In 1985 a group of 52 girls auditioned through Fuji TV 'All Night High School Girl Special' TV show were introduced as the j-pop group **Onyanko Club**. Created by Akimoto Yasushi this was the very first "massive" idol group, meaning the first group having dozens of members, a novelty in a scene dominated by solo singers and small groups. But don't be mistaken, this was not a grandeur delusion. You see, it's very hard to predict consumer taste, too many groups and too many idols make the public split

ONYANKO CLUB'S
FIRST LOGO

into minor fandoms supporting specific names, but by having a larger group you can (1) appeal to more people at once and (2) create internal rivalries boosting fans' interest in investing time and money into the contest. Onyanko also started the idea of debuting girls with no prior experience in the show business, giving the fans the idea that they are the ones responsible for the idol growth.

The start was not as smooth as planned. A tabloid managed to take photos of six members smoking in a coffee house, all of them minors at the time. The six had their contract terminated and disappeared from public eyes. The incident was not taken lightly by the public; Onyanko Club's TV show, **Yukake Nyan Nyan**, a major publicity stunt for the group, lost its national prime time broadcast and was forced into a local late night air time. Yet recovering from their very first scandal, in July 5th, 1985, the first single, '**Serafuku wo Nugasai De**' was released, achieving major success, staying in the Oricon charts for no less than 17 weeks, the music would then become a hymn. Onyanko Club for the next 3 years will then become the most successful idol group in the country, rising into legendary status.

Of the many particularities Onyanko had, one that can explain its massive success was the clear inclination to appeal to male audiences. Idols in the past didn't aim for any specific gender,

targeting pretty much everyone, but Onyanko Club, by usage of sexual themes, created a male dedicated product. Let's begin with the group's logo, a female cat bending backwards showing her underwear; the often suggestive if not explicit lyrics: '**Serafuku wo Nugasai De**' is about a school girl who's about to lose her virginity; The term Nyan Nyan was artfully overused: it was a generic term for "member" used by the fandom, a pose often performed by the members imitating the logo, and, the biggest catch here, is that Nyan Nyan was a slang word for sex.

Also it was here that the first units of an idol group have appeared! **Ushiroyubi Sasaregumi** was the very first one, the formation being made by Yukiko Iwai and Mamiko Takai, Onyanko big Ace and later on, already as a solo singer, Akimoto Yasushi's wife. **Nynagillas** is a comedy unit formed by the unorthodox idols Aki Kihara, Mika Nagoya, Rika Tatsumi and Mako Shiraishi. Last but not least, **Ushirogami Hikareta** with Akiko Ikuina, Shizuka Kudo and Makiko Saito, it was the only unit that outlived Onyanko Club, being active for a year after the main group's disbandment; the 2008 AKB48 **Watarirouka Hashiritai** unit with Watanabe Mayu, Ota Aika, Haruka Nagawa and Ayaka Kikuchi was a revival of them. Together the three units released 13 singles and 7 albums.

On its peak Onyanko Club was a national phenomenon, members' faces were everywhere, their TV show was a success, and they even got to star in their own movie, **Onyanko The Movie: One Shot Crisis!** (1986, dir. Masato Harata). Japanese market was flooded by Onyanko merchandising and everyone had a favorite member. But in September 1987, after only three years and seven months after debuting and nine singles (with six of them debuting at number one in Oricon charts) Onyanko Club was performing their last concert with 19 remaining members out of 54. Although their new ideas were a gamechanger, solo idols were still favored, making many of the group's aces to leave Onyanko in hopes of a solo career. Japan's musical tastes also took a turn, favoring rock over pop. '**Jaa Ne**' (See Ya) was one of the last songs performed to close the disbandment concert, marking a very emotional moment to members and fans.

Onyanko Club was the Golden Age of idols' swan song, maybe a J-pop magnum opus. A decade later its legacy was the spark of a new era, headed by **Morning Musume**, leading to **AKB48** and its sister groups, culminating now into the **Sakamichi Series**. Every pattern, many of the fandom microcultures and pretty much all the production structures we know now came from this one group that took the nation by storm, changing the whole industry forever, leaving to future generations of idols a blueprint for greatness.



AKB48 vinyls ♪

Official and Unofficial AKB vinyl records!

We, as idol-otakus, know all about the collectibles of our beloved groups, and sometimes we search for valuable limited editions. It might be a photo card, a rare CD release, or even something unusual like the AKB48 PSP (you know, the one with the dating simulator game, LOL). But have you considered collecting vinyl records? They have a lot of advantages over typical collectibles: they have large covers, playing them is an experience, and they feel genuinely valuable. Unfortunately, AKB has only released two vinyl records: **'Koisuru Fortune Cookie'** and **'Halloween Night.'** Both are limited editions, but I knew I had to get them. I found them on Mercari for 5,500 JPY and 3,800 JPY. It wasn't cheap, but hey — it's a limited edition, so I could easily justify the price! Both came with lyric sheets, and Halloween Night even includes 30x30 cm photos of the other covers. The record itself is standard black, but it includes an instrumental version of the song on Side B. I really like the records, and I find it a bit sad that AKB hasn't released more songs on vinyl.



and a small fan project

But fortunately, there's a solution to that problem (at least if you don't mind it not being an official product): there are people out there with vinyl cutting machines! So, I made my dream of a 'Heavy Rotation' single (or, better yet, a whole "AKB best of" record) a reality, with 'Teacher Teacher' on Side B. I found Marco from Vinylhouse.it, based in Milan, Italy, who has one of these machines. He made the record, and even a 7" single of 'Tsubasa wa Iranai', for me. I really love that single; it's a perfect match for the vintage hobby of record collecting. The best part is that he also made labels and covers for the records, making them look like true collector's items.

Now, I'm considering a wall of AKB records in my new flat — not only because of their value, but also because some AKB48 singles have truly amazing covers. For example, 'Negaigoto no Mochigusare' shows the girls flying with a dandelion, and the night cover of 'Bokutachi wa, Ano Hi no Yoake o Shitteiru' is beautiful.

Hoellenmeister





TRUE PRO WRESTLING FANS



MOCCHI vs. HOLLYWOOD JURINA

Have you ever thought: who are the muscular guys in front of the ring in the 'Koisuru Fortune Cookie' music video?

The gigantic guy in the middle is the legendary Japanese wrestler Kenta Kobashi and beside him to the right, Kenny Omega, the popular wrestler from Canada. Both wrestlers have connections to AKB48 and SKE48 through the graduated members Asuka Kuramochi and Jurina Matsui.

In 2009 Asuka did her very popular "Kobashi Anecdotes" in the **AKBingo** segment 'AKBEST10'. Here she talked about her favorite wrestler, and was showing cute illustrations of him. This was noticed by Kenta, and he personally invited Asuka to his next match via a video in ep. 46. In this episode which is one of my favorite early episodes of AKBingo we will follow a hyped up Kuramochi that shows how a real wrestling fan "fights alongside the wrestlers", something she said to Sayaka and Chiyuu, who accompanied her. Mocchi showed up with all the necessary items; a towel, a megaphone and a Kenta biography book (?).



It was finally time for Mocchi to meet her biggest idol, and what she wanted to do the most was to do his famous backhand chop on him (not nibble on his ears, strangely?). This is a pretty classic clip in the wrestling fandom today. It's so incredibly cute and wholesome – the way she chops his enormous body multiple times, while asking for permission to do so. I have not seen a bigger smile on her face than in this blissful moment of hers.



Jurina Matsui on the other hand, was in the wrestling drama **Tofu Pro Wrestling** in 2017, where she borrowed the Canadian's pose where he's pointing his finger to the camera, doing the gun shot movement with his hands. It seems like they have become great friends throughout the years. Jurina won her first senbatsu center in AKB ('**Sentimental Train**', in 2018) at the same time as Kenny Omega won his IWGP Champion belt. Jurina posted a picture on her X in 2021, saying: "Three years has passed since we both became a champion...". On her graduation concert, also in 2021, Omega sent her a video message: "Jurina J, long time no see. And congratulations on your graduation.[...] And someday I want to see you somewhere. Maybe... in the wrestling rings? All right, until next time Hollywood Jurina. Goodbye and good night." After the graduation she has attended many wrestling shows as a fan, but has not yet come back to the World Idol Pro-Wrestling ring sadly... but who knows, maybe she's doing some wrestling beside the Brazilian jiu-jitsu training? Jurina and Kenny interacted once more over X in 2024, this time she tweeted a picture of them together alongside the comment: "Welcome back, Mr. Kenny I look forward to the future of the two people who helped me fall in love with wrestling". This was regarding a match between Kenny Omega and Kazuchika Okada, both had a rivalry in NJPW. Both men are today signed with the American wrestling federation AEW (All Elite Wrestling).

theamazingdaveman

...AND TRUE PRO WRESTLING

TOFU PRO WRESTLING THE REAL 2018 WIP QUEENDOM

In 2017 and 2018 the cast from Tofu Pro Wrestling participated in a real WIP wrestling event.

The show **Tofu Pro Wrestling THE REAL 2018 WIP Queendom** was held on February 23rd, 2018. It was the second show they had, where the first one was WIP CLIMAX held on August 29th 2017, just a little under two months after the 24 episode drama **Tofu Pro Wrestling** (2017) had ended. It can be seen as a follow up to the drama where Sakura Miyawaki had the main role, and the antagonist Hollywood Jurina was played by Jurina Matsui. Some of the girls from the drama, and also other 48G members had matches in the squared circle. You can see all the participants' matches on this page. It's a really fun show and much better than you can imagine coming from idols who are mostly known for their dancing and singing abilities. As a wrestling fan myself I was really impressed by some of the moves from the girls - I think you will enjoy the show as a non-wrestling fan as well. The showmanship is really great! The 7 matches throughout the 3 hours and 45 min event went by like a breeze I tell ya. I still have to check out the first show where we also could see these members: Saho Iwatachi (Saho Iwatate), Cutie Renacchi (Rena Kato), Pappara Kizaki (Yuria Kizaki), Momo Kawamoto (Saya Kawamoto), Ikemen Momoka (Momoka Kinoshita), Yumbo Shimada (Haruka Shimada) and Cherry Miyawaki (Sakura Miyawaki); all characters in the drama that I want to review in an upcoming issue.

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GRADUATED
MEMBERS
+ CURRENT
MEMBERS



From Stage to Obstacle Course:



48G IDOLS SHINE IN SASUKE IDOL QUALIFIERS 2024

What happens when you combine Japan's most grueling obstacle course with the energy, charm, and grit of idol stars?

You get the groundbreaking **SASUKE Idol Qualifiers 2024**! This year's competition added a sparkling twist to the legendary show, inviting female idols to put their strength and stamina to the ultimate test. The qualifiers consisted of four events: Beach Flags, Hell Shuttle Run, Infinite Jump Challenge, and the SASUKE Time Trial. The final event, SASUKE Time Trial, is a miniature obstacle course split into three segments: Hurdle Crawl, Balance Beams, and a miniature version of the infamous Warped Wall. Only the contestant with the highest overall score earned the right to compete in the main event, standing on the sacred grounds of Midoriyama. Among the twelve fierce participants, three exceptional members from the 48G: **Masai Mayuu**, **Ito Miki** and **Seiji Reina** all caught the spotlight and turned heads with their performances.

SEIJI REINA



Representing NGT48, 23-year-old Reina Seiji brought her unique skateboarding background to the competition – And her very own skateboard too! Her 3 years of mastering balance and coordination in skateboarding proved to be invaluable as she breezed through obstacles like the Hurdle Crawl and Warped Wall with much ease. *"I'm using everything I've learned from skating – core strength, balance, and quick reflexes – to give my best performance,"* Reina explained. Her agility and poise left both fans and fellow contestants cheering her on, proving she's more than just a performer – she's an athlete to be reckoned with.

MASAI MAYUU

Grace Under Pressure



At just 19, Masai Mayuu carried the legacy of AKB48 with pride. Her decade-long experience in rhythmic gymnastics gave her a unique edge, allowing her to tackle the course with elegance and precision. Whether it was the Jump Challenge or the dreaded Warped Wall, Mayuu showed unwavering focus and flexibility. *"Carrying the AKB name, I'm determined to give it my all,"* she said before the event. And she did not disappoint, becoming an instant fan favorite with her graceful yet powerful approach.

ITO MIKI

The Endurance Queen



Known as SKE48's marathoner, 22-year-old Miki Ito brought her unmatched stamina to the game. Having completed the Tokyo Marathon earlier this year in under 4.5 hours, Miki was well-prepared for the endurance-heavy obstacles. From the Beach Flags to the Shuttle Run, she powered through with a mix of grit and determination. *"I've always relied on my ability to push through tough situations,"* she shared. And push through she did, leaving the crowd in awe as she stormed past challenges that would make seasoned athletes shudder.

SASUKE × 48G

The **SASUKE Idol Qualifiers** were held on October 7th, 2024, at the Kashiwa City Central Gymnasium in Chiba, featuring twelve idols competing across multiple events, marking a groundbreaking change in the show's 28-year history. If any of you remember, 48G used to have a Sports Festival event back in 2015 and 2016, pitting 48G idols against one another in athletic events. You could say that this was a whole different kind of battlefield compared to the General Elections! The franchise has a lot of athletic idols specializing in all kinds of sports lately, and it'll be a waste if they can't put those specialties to use, so it would be nice if the Sports Festival would come back once again. Though considering how rare 48 Group interactions are nowadays and with differing management, it would be a miracle to organize such an event. The competition's highlights and results are scheduled for release on the **official SASUKE YouTube channel** starting November 25th, 2024, with new episodes every Monday and Friday.

Far East



ANNOUNCER HIYUKA

Just watched the video! it's crazy that she had 0 rehearsals for it!

She's really naturally great when it comes to talking and entertaining people. She mentioned that she actually always wanted to be an announcer so yes, it's great that she got this opportunity. This kind of thing is like what she does on her **Kagayaki** videos where she's a reporter, with the train hat.

She thanked everyone for the nice comments and everything, and she said that she was so excited that night after all of this. She got a lot of attention, new followers, and new fans too! She talked about the part with the photobooks of Maho and Zukkii and she said that both photobooks are great, and that she said sorry to Maho after. Because in the video, she took a look at both photobooks and said that Zukkii's one is better (for fun) she herself said *"it's awful to say that"* at her own comment, in this video. Of course she's laughing about it and she talked about how Maho made a comment to her on X after this so I went to look! Maho replied to Hiyuka's tweet that day and she said *"To Hiyuka, I'll have a talk with you later. From Maho. (The report was awesome)"* and Hiyuka replied *"Maho-san!! I'll always love you!! Please forgive me!!"*, and Maho said *"I look forward to see you next time!! (kiss face)"*



IN AKB48 SAYONARA MOURI-SAN EPISODE 45 (2023)

Hiyuka also talked about how some might be surprised to see this side of her, but she said that she can do anything, and she can show a lot of different things when she talks, when she's performing etc. and she also did some quick promotion for her HS/2-shot by saying *"come talk to me about it, just the two of us"* and she asked people to come to the theater too and started singing the song **'Gekijou e Youkoso'** (Welcome to the theater) from the new stage. At the end, she said that she hopes to do more variety shows and that she looks up to Sasshi! And then she also said that she is aiming for senbatsu!

This also made me think that this is such a waste that AKB48 doesn't have a weekly variety show... I wish they had one... so girls like Hiyuka could shine, she has such a talent for this! She talks so well and it's always funny! Sadly she still wasn't very present in AKB48 at the time of **AKB48 Sayonara Mouri-san** (2022-2023) but she did appear in a few episodes and she had one of the funniest parts when she talked about that Showroom story with her brother (lol). If only AKB could have a weekly show then I'm sure Hiyuka would do SO well and her popularity would increase a LOT!!

Mana



TIF TOUR @ MACAU

- MY FIRST EXPERIENCE

2024.11.02



TIF ASIA
TOUR 2024
TOKYO IDOL FESTIVAL

I've been waiting for this report for ages!

What makes it so special? Well, it's not just my first time seeing AKB perform live, but also my first time meeting my oshimen in person! If you're reading this, be warned, this report may be a bit different from what you're used to. But trust me, I'm super excited to share my experience with you, and I hope you'll keep reading!

As an overseas fan, I've had a tough time getting tickets to AKB events in Japan. So when I heard that Hotechan, along with Yuki and Yumemin, would be performing in the TIF tour in Macau, which is just a boat ride away from where I live, my dream of seeing my oshi in person suddenly didn't feel too far-fetched.

I was so excited to finally meet Hotechan, but the decision to go was actually a very sudden one. I was swamped with work and didn't think I could make it to Macau and see the show. On the first day of the tour, which I couldn't go to, I saw photos from other fans on SNS and felt a huge sense of FOMO. I just couldn't let this chance slip away, so that night I bought boat tickets to Macau for the next day and kept my fingers crossed that everything would go smoothly.



I set off to Macau on my own for the first time the next morning. My mind was racing with a thousand thoughts. What if I couldn't make it there on time? What if I missed something and couldn't get tickets? What if I made a mistake and went to the wrong venue? But I was also filled with excitement and couldn't wait to see Hotechan live.

When I finally made it to the venue on time, I was so relieved! I shared photos I took of the venue with other fans, and my Japanese friends were so happy for me and wished me a great time. I got my iced coffee and waited in line for about an hour. Finally, I got my tickets and was stunned to see more and more fans lining up at the entrance.



I quickly realized that I wasn't alone in my excitement. Many people from Hong Kong had come to Macau just to see AKB live. At first, it seemed like there were more Yuki oshis, some even had custom robes and uchiwas. I felt a little self-conscious, but I didn't want to talk to anyone else. Everyone seemed to be in a hurry, so I didn't want to interrupt anyone. But I was feeling nervous, so I decided to wait in line for a while. I ended up in front of a series of booths, with the first one labeled AKB48. It was finally time for our first meet! I could feel my heart pounding in my chest. Seeing Hotechan for real was so exciting, and I couldn't think straight.

After a bit of waiting, the three members finally started moving out and into the booth in their red costumes. They waved and smiled brightly, giving off an incredibly strong and dazzling idol aura. After a warning from the staff not to hold up our phones and take photos, the line started moving towards the members in the booth. I waved at Hotechan and called her name. To my surprise, the very moment our eyes met, she instantly recognized me and called my Japanese nickname right away! I was over the moon and couldn't even speak. I quickly moved with the line to make room for those behind. It was a feeling of pure happiness and satisfaction that I've never experienced before. Hotechan recognized me right away, even though we only met a few times online. I thought to myself, *"all the hard work I've put in to show my support has been worth it after all!"* All the insecurity and worries I had as an overseas fan were completely gone.

After the quick but memorable first meet, it was time for the stage. It was another 40 minutes of waiting, but I stayed and waited in front of the stage to get a good spot at the center. Some Japanese fans were already there in front of me, and I was shocked to see domestic fans make it to an event this far away. There was an unusually excited local fan next to me, shouting random Japanese phrases and lyrics of songs playing on the stage. The Japanese fans were surprisingly open in roasting him, probably assuming that no one else could understand them. I pretended not to know and got my phone ready to photograph the performance.

The wait was finally over! AKB48 finally took the stage after a short intro by the event MC. The overture started playing, and I was both terrified and thrilled to be leading the MIX. But when many others joined in and I felt a lot better. The crowd went wild when our beloved members started coming on stage towards the end of the overture. The live started off strong with the iconic **'Ano Natsu no Bohatei'**. The choreography was so incredibly cute, and shouting "hey" with everyone was a blast. Oh, and it goes without saying that Hotechan's smile in real life was even more stunning and adorable than I could ever imagine. The songs that followed were classic hits like **'Oogoe Diamond'** and **'Flying Get'**. The crowd's cheers were even louder. I wonder if it was because people were more familiar with older songs. Then it was time for the members to introduce themselves, and I was so excited to yell "MOKARON~~" during Hote's catchphrase. It was everything I could wish for! The remaining tracks were a delightful surprise, with the newest single **'Koi Tsunjatta'**, the best ballad **'365nichi no Kamihikouki'**, and the youthful **'Hoshi ga Kienai Uchi ni'** as the ending song. The three members handed out signed balls during the last song, and the crowd was going crazy when it happened. Even though I was at the front, I couldn't get a ball from Hote, but I was still overjoyed as the performance was coming to an end. The three members gave their thoughts one by one and wrapped up the half-an-hour-long performance. Hote and I met eyes one more time during a group photo shoot right after the performance.



As AKB48's performance came to an end, many people started leaving. I decided to take a break and rest in the indoor exhibition next to the stage. I had hundreds of photos to sort through, and I was surprised to find that Hote looked directly at the camera so many times. I managed to capture some great shots, and it was a nice surprise to see the signatures from the three members on the wall. It was an unforgettable day, and I can't believe it's already over. It was a big item on my bucket list ticked off, it was a seemingly unreachable dream made true, it was my first fansite debut, and above all it was my first real meeting with my oshi. I hope there will be many more to come! Thanks so much for reading this far!

Hochito

ANIME AND MANGA
PART 1: ONE PIECE

OTAKU おたくアイドルズ IDOLS

In this first part of a serial I wanted to tell you about past and current members' love for the otaku culture – starting off with One Piece!

That a lot of the members in AKB48 through the years have been big lovers of the otaku culture involving things like manga, anime and video games is probably not hot news for most of the fans who have been following the group through the years. We have all seen the love for One Piece from beloved aces like Takamina and Yukirin, and more recently from newer and current members like Mahopyon and Ayane to name a few. And we also have the whole cosplay aspect which all of them have been involved with. Not really cosplay per se, but here are a cute picture of Kitarie dressed in an adorable Choppa onesie. Hands down one of the most cute and charming animal characters ever!



And now I have not even mentioned their love for the manga, which can be seen behind Takamina in the MV for **Hanarete ite mo**, AKB48's beautiful message song that came out during the coronavirus in 2020. It had a lot of returning members like her, Acchan, Yuko, Tomochin and Sasshii to name a few...



And speaking of Sasshii, in time for the phenomenon's 20th Anniversary in 2019, the 14th One Piece movie **One Piece: Stampede** had a world premiere on August 1st and was loved by the fans all over the world. Sashihara Rino who graduated from HKT48 just 4 months earlier got to voice act for the diva character Ann, and I bet she, who's also a big fan of the series, was stoked to lend her cute voice to Ann in her first appearance in a One Piece movie.

The One Piece shenanigans don't stop there. In **AKB48 Team 8 no Kanto Hakusho** (episode 28, 2018), the MC for the variety show, Takuchan presented himself as Takufalgar D. Water Law, cosplaying with a goofy Trafalgar hat on. He was definitely not liked by the One Piece lovers Shiorin and Ayane who shouted "yadaaaa!" when he wanted to be recognized as the character created by mangaka Eiichiro Oda. They were certainly not impressed and pleased to watch the comedian cosplaying and making fun of their beloved cool character, with awesome poses, phrases and all!





Some of the members had a life time change to be part of the One Piece manga as background characters. This happened in the first episode of **AKB48, Saikin Kiita yo ne...** the third installment of the AKB48, Saikin Kiita variety show. In the episode that aired on October 4th, 2022, the members Mahopyon, Satomina, and Naruchan were gathered in a group video chat to talk with a man about the manga magazine Shonen Jump where One Piece started and is still running in. Naruchan told him that she was dreaming of being in a manga, and he told her that it might be a possible dream come true. When they found out they got to meet the mangaka Sohei Koji behind the spin-off parody **One Piece: Academy** that started in 2019, the girls became ecstatic! Mahopyon meant business when she told him that she had watched 1000 episodes of One Piece in just half a year. And she was showing her true otaku-self with both a Jujutsu Kaisen and Haikyuu!! pillow behind her, both manga from Weekly Shonen Jump.

Soon after they met Koji in person, and now even Yuiyui joined them and got mightily impressed while flipping through the pages in a One Piece: Academy tankobon (the gathered chapters of roughly 200 pages, which we find in a Western manga book), asking him if he had drawn it. Yuiyui is not an otaku like the others, but still impressed and certainly knew about One Piece (how could she not?). Now it was time for the girls to negotiate with the mangaka, and Naruchan begged him about it, and didn't care if she was just a mob. They ended up becoming crew members behind the character Perona, which Satomina admired. She love her characteristic lower eyelids as she demonstrated with her hands, and would have loved to see the same type of eyelids on her figure if possible. The members could not wait to finally see the finished product, and boy were they happy! Zukki, Yurina and Miion at the studio in the end of the show were very imp-

ressed by how big the panel was, and how Koji managed to get the girls' characteristics right. Naruchan herself mentioned her mole which couldn't have been better for her as her characteristic. The chapter which they appeared in was published in the November 2022 issue of Saikyo Jump. This is the magazine where One Piece: Academy began its serialization. So if you want some AKB48 related stuff with your manga, you know which issue to look out for!

AKB48、最近聞いたよな...
～一緒になんかやってみませんか?～



I could've probably written about a lot more things considering how old One Piece is today, and how many members have been inspired by this awesome pirate manga throughout the years. Both through happy and sad times when Takamina re-read it during Covid, and happy times when she dressed as the main character Ruffy in a cosplay on a variety show. But for now I will leave it here. Next time I will mention some other series like Mayuyu's favorites **The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya** and **K-ON**. And not to forget her awesome drawing skills and sweet and cool cosplays of the characters from the mentioned geeky fandoms that still live on even today for those franchises. I might also mention some of the numerous magazines with manga where the 48G girls have graced the covers and insides with their gravure. Otaku out!

theamazingdaveman

Hotei Moka: **SECRETLY A FELLOW NERD LIKE US (?)**

If you don't know much about Hotechan, you may think of her as a typical young idol with a cute face and voice.

But she, like many other exceptional members, is more than meets the eye. In this short but jam-packed article, I'd love to introduce you to some unusual hobbies and interests Hotechan is known for!

On the surface, Hotechan has a fair amount of common, idol-ish hobbies you may come to expect. Buying makeup, eating donuts and shaved ice, collecting huge stuffed toys, decorating her nails, visiting **Sanrio**-themed cafes, just to name a few. But she's also got some more peculiar, even boyish interests that you might not know from her.



HOTECHAN WEARING THE EARMUFFS SHE KNITTED (FROM SHOWROOM)

1. Knitting: This is one of the newer interests and rather unexpected skills Hote revealed to her fans recently. It's something she had learned a while back but has recently picked up again. She showed off her adorable hand-knitted earmuffs and roses on one of her latest SHOWROOM streams. After some fan suggestions, it looks like there might even be a chance for fans to get their hands on these knitted masterpieces? Well, Hote has been toying with the idea of doing exactly that in her first fan club event in January next year, so let's wait and see.





HOTECHAN AND HER BODY PILLOW WITH CHAINSAW MAN'S REZE

2. Gaming: Hote is one of the biggest gamers among the new-gen members. From mobile games to arcades, she's well-versed in a wide range of games. As one of the few members who managed to make it to the top 14 and participate in the upcoming **Dobon** live, she is known as one of the more active members participating in special events of the AKB-branded multiplayer card game. Hote's addiction to game centers is also well-known among members and fans alike. Some fellow same-gen members like Yuki even mentioned being dragged by Hote to play with her, lol! Hote's skills in games can also be seen on a recent iiken livestream, where she and other members were playing **Piko Park** on the Nintendo Switch together.

3. Anime: Perhaps her biggest and most relatable interest to many is good ol' anime. Hote has a well-founded obsession with anime of various types and genres, with the most well-known one probably being **Chainsaw Man**. She's got a gigantic Pochita plushie, bought and showed off many goods of the series, and made various posts on SNS about the anime, like one on Instagram about her experience watching a 4D spin-off show and a recent post on X where she claimed that Denji, the main protagonist of the series, was her recommendation on "ii oshi day". The most unorthodox anime-related possession I have seen from Hote is probably a body pillow, which she showed off on multiple occasions on SHOWROOM.



AKB'S MOBILE GAME DOBON



PICO PARK



HOTECHAN AND CHAINSAW MAN'S POCHITA

Well I hope you've learned something new about Hotechan! Every time she shows off her nerdy side is a reminder that she is a down-to-earth geek who likes similar stuff as we do. And we all love her for it (right~~?). Just a little bit of PR, Hote's own fan club was announced on her birthday on Dec 1st! If you would like to lend her some support and get a signed postcard with your own name on it, make sure you sign up with a yearly membership before the end of the year!!!

Hochito



Erina Oda likes video games, mostly those that don't make you feel disappointed...

In the second stay at home episode of **AKB48 Team 8 no Kanto Hakusho** (episode 64) that aired on June 7th, 2020, the members talked about what they had occupied themselves with at home during the coronavirus. Rinrin who did some physical training sent the question to the next person... "Odaeri, what have you been doing?" Oda told her that she has played a lot of **Animal Crossing: New Horizons** on the Nintendo Switch together with Nanase lately. This game that was released in late 2020 came out at the perfect moment when people wanted to forget reality for a minute. It sold a gigantic amount of copies during this hard time. Even I bought the game during homestay time and made a character called Mayuyu. I designed a pattern that looks like the AKB48 logo, which I put on clothes and flags.

Another video game Odaeri played a lot was **Splatoon**. In her **SHOWROOM** from January 3rd, 2023, she had a small play session with it on her Nintendo Switch. She told us: "I've been playing

Splatoon for a long time, but I'm not good. I want to get better... but I don't know how to get better at it." She was going through the motions, with some small bragging to light swearing over how she failed. "This is so bad, I'm going to lose," followed by "It's so bad, hey hey" and when she lost she apologized for her bad language. As a representative member from AKB she has to be careful while broadcasting she said, while doing her adorable chuckle and looking at the camera with a big smile. A commenter on the live stream said they didn't want to see her in a bad mood. "So eh, I'm not in a bad mood. This is how games are, maybe it's the nature of it. Isn't it fun to play a game where you don't feel disappointed that you lose?" Maybe it's best to stick to the more lighthearted Animal Crossing franchise then, where everybody is a winner for the most part, at least if Tom Nook doesn't decide to take all your hard-earned bells at the least fitting moment in the game. There are a lot of members from AKB and its sister groups that are video game otakus, and I just wanted to tell a short story of the graduated member with the big smile and cute chuckling. Now she can probably swear all she wants while playing. Eri Eri Ooooo!

theamazingdaveman



Tokusatsu fan Manaka

Manaka Taguchi's lead role in the tokusatsu web show *Sentika F8ABA6 Jisariz* must be far from a surprise for anyone who follows her.

On top of idols regularly working on tokusatsu movies and shows, she is an outspoken fan of the genre, specially of the long running franchise **Kamen Rider**, that recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. She has shown her love for the masked bike-riding superheroes, sharing pictures in her SNS with toys from **Kamen Rider Zi-O**, the twentieth and final installment of the Heisei era, and doing the transformation sequence of the main character for a group of children on the TV program Nemousu. She also visited the Kamen Rider Exhibition at Ishinomori Art Museum, where she took a picture with Kamen Rider Zi-O. I single this show in particular, because it's what comes up when you go looking for Manaka Taguchi and Kamen Rider, and the fact that Masahiro Inoue, the co-lead of ***Sentika F8ABA6 Jisariz***, returned to the franchise to play his iconic character Kamen Rider Decade. Working with him must have been a dream come true for Manaka. In the lapse of less than five years, she has gone from being a fan



of tokusatsu, watching the shows and buying their merchandise, to now also being a tokusatsu actress working on one of them, appearing in the *Sentika* merchandise. As a fan of both Japanese idols (AKB48, Gokigen Teikoku, Elaiza Ikeda) and tokusatsu (Kamen Rider, Super Sentai, GARO), I wish her the best of luck in both of her careers. You can read more about *Jisariz* in the review I wrote of its first season.

Adolfo Rodríguez



COSPLAYING IDOLS

Cosplay pictures posted on Halloween.

It's no news that Ayane Takahashi is a big anime and manga otaku, but she's also very fond of the famous vocaloid **Hatsune Miku** – a character that inspired her when she had the very long hair in twin tails back in the day. These beautiful pics from a photoshoot were posted on her accounts on Instagram (@aayyaanee811) and X (@_ayn1230_) on October 31st. She also posted pictures of her cosplaying as **Kaname Madoka** from the anime series **Puella Magi Madoka Magica** (2011–2012).

The **AKB48 Kenkyuusei** member Sarili had her cosplay moment on her SHOWROOM where she was dressed as Kiki, which how she is depicted in the anime movie **Kiki's Delivery Service** (1989) from Studio Ghibli.

theamazingdaveman







THE YOUTUBE TOKUSATSU DRAMA

STARRING

MANAKA

華衛士F8ABA6ジサリス

SENTIKA F8ABA6 JISARIZ



With the realease of the second season near, I think this is the right moment to review the first one.

Sentika F8ABA6 Jisariz is a tokusatsu show part of the project PINK no Tokusatsu, created by Masahiro Inoue, an actor best known for his roles in the franchises of Kamen Rider and GARO. For those unfamiliar with the term, tokusatsu refers to shows that use heavily special effects, that goes from monsters (kaiju) such as Godzilla to superheroes like **Kamen Rider** and **Super Sentai**, known also by their American version, **Power Rangers**. AKB48 idols are no strangers to tokusatsu. There are many examples of them working on shows and movies such as the following, to name a few examples from three different franchises: Tomomi Itano and Tomomi Kasai in **Kamen Rider W**, Sayaka Akimoto in **Garo: Makai no Hana** and Sae Miyazawa in **Ultraman Decker**.

Although it's a new franchise, it helps to be familiar with the genre, especially with the role that made Masahiro Inoue famous, **Kamen Rider Decade** as there are many things that are call backs to that show, starting with the title. Decade's costume color has been a source for memes as the character likes to point out that it's not pink but magenta every time that someone says the opposite. #F8ABA6 is the RGB code of the main character's costume color, which plays with the meme/discussion between pink and magenta. Another thing they share is travelling through different Earths, as both shows use the concept of Multiverse.

Manaka Taguchi and **Masahiro Inoue** are the main leads of the show. The AKB48 idol plays Ayuka, an ordinary high school girl

SEASON 1 REVIEW



QR CODE FOR EPISODE 1 - SEASON 1



who finds herself in a multiverse adventure without any idea of how and why. The tokusatsu star plays Jisariz, a mysterious man that pursues her with motivations we will learn about over the course of the first season. They form a very distinctive duo. On one hand we have a regular person thrown in a series of crazy settings that push her sanity while on the other, Innoue is the bigger than life character that knows what's going on. His scene chewing is his trademark and why we are here in the first place. The relationship between them is the backbone of the show, and both actors make it work. Manaka Taguchi, who is fan a of Kamen Rider, proves to be a great tokusatsu actress getting to share screen with costumed heroes/villains and all sort of creatures.

The best part of this show being a brand new franchise is that it gives the viewer this feeling of entering unexplored territory, where there isn't an established canon the show must follow. Everything is new and all viewers are at the same point. No veterans and newbies. There are familiar faces for the tokusatsu

fans besides the main lead as Toshiki Kashu (Shoichi Tsugami /**Kamen Rider Agito**) and Satoshi Matsuda (Ren Akiyama/**Kamen Rider Knight in Kamen Rider Ryuki**) The costumes reminds me of Kamen Rider, with their transformation sequences but I see more of the GARO horror vibes in the usually creepy worlds they visit.

The first season consists of 12 episodes of 15 minutes each, that are available for free on YouTube. There are subtitles in English and other languages. The first episode is an introduction, after the second, episodes are built in arcs of 2 episodes that give their own twist to classic concepts like time loops or telepathy.

In my opinion Sentika F8ABA6 Jisariz works both for longtime fans of tokusatsu as well as people who are unfamiliar with the genre. The short duration of the episodes coupled with being free on YouTube makes it easy to binge watch. It uses wisely a budget I presume to be modest with nice designs and clever camera work. The costumes, the settings and creatures are great. The concepts are well developed and every episode works like a piece of a puzzle, allowing us to know more about the leads and their worlds.

TEASER TRAILER FOR SEASON 2

I am looking forward to season 2, where Masahiro Inoue will be reunited with her colleague Miyavi Matsunoi., from the tokusatsu GARO.

Adolfo Rodríguez





HARE-KON REVIEW

Why so annoyed, sad face?

Have you asked yourself how it would be to be in a marriage? How about a marriage with 3 spouses?

This nine episode drama series from 2022 is based on the seinen manga **Hare-kon** (Harem Marriage), written and illustrated by NON, that was published in Weekly Young Magazine between 2014–2019 and collected in 19 tankobons.

Koharu (Haruka Shimazaki) would have never dreamed of being in a polygamous marriage when she left Tokyo and moved back to her hometown. She was moving back because she found out that her boyfriend cheated on her. And on top of that – he was already married. A simpler life without marriage was all she was hoping for. But – her parents were heavily in debt and had to close their café. When Koharu was out for a walk a creepy stalker came up to her. This man, Ryunosuke Date (Yu Inaba), offered to pay off her parents' debt if she would marry him.

What Koharu found out was that she would be his third wife, as Date was already married to Yuzu (Yurina Yanagi) and Madoka (Nana Asakawa). The mayor (Ryunosuke's dad) said on TV that the birth rate was declining, and polygamous marriages had been legalized in Koharu's hometown.

At first I thought it would be a pretty stupid, lighthearted and funny story, with the first episodes slapstick comedy and over-the-top acting from Paruru and foremost the mayor. But soon I realized that it was deeper than that; how can you tell a story like this without the seriousness and drama revolving around them?

It's an odd cast of people living together. Koharu easily gets annoyed and is short tempered, and has a very very hard time with her new life where she has to fulfill Ryunosuke's selfish wishes. And how would she ever be accepted by the other wives? The story takes a darker turn at some parts, and it really gripped me as I wanted to watch the next episode at once, even though this was my second time watching the drama (now with a friend).

Hare-kon's story might have been hard to tell in only nine 25 min episodes, and some people would probably be offended by the drama. It's easy to both love and hate the characters sometimes. But learning about their backstories, thoughts and values, and why they wanted to be in a polygamous marriage made me understand them. In the end I came to really love all the charming characters with all their good and bad sides, which they all have.



GYARU YUZU, MAJIME MADOKA AND TSUNDERE KOHARU

The director Takashi Ninomiya (who directed the fantastic live-action version of **Laid-Back Camp**) and co-director/writer Kana Yamada (**The Naked Director**, fantastic drama as well) worked on the script based on NON's manga, and even though I have not read the much longer manga it feels like they have succeeded in telling the story perfectly.

theamazingdaveman

DTD COMICS

NO. 01

THE GUARDIANS OF THE CLOCK

AN AKB48 FANFICTION
BY HOELLENMEISTER
BASED ON THE MV FOR

僕たちは戦わない
WE WON'T FIGHT





"DO YOU KNOW THE FEELING WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS PEACE, BUT THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE IT IS THROUGH FORCE?"



THE STORY BEGINS IN THE WASTELANDS, A PLACE FAR AWAY FROM ANY MAJOR CITY.



SOMETIMES A LONELY STRANGER PASSES A CAMP WHERE A COUPLE OF GIRLS LIVE IN SECLUSION.



BUT IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN SHELTERS OUTSIDE OF THE SOCIETY SINCE A PARAMILITARY GROUP FROM SPACE HAS SEIZED POWER IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.



THE REASON WHY THIS MILITARY UNIT HAS COME TO EARTH SOON BECAME CLEAR ON ARRIVAL:



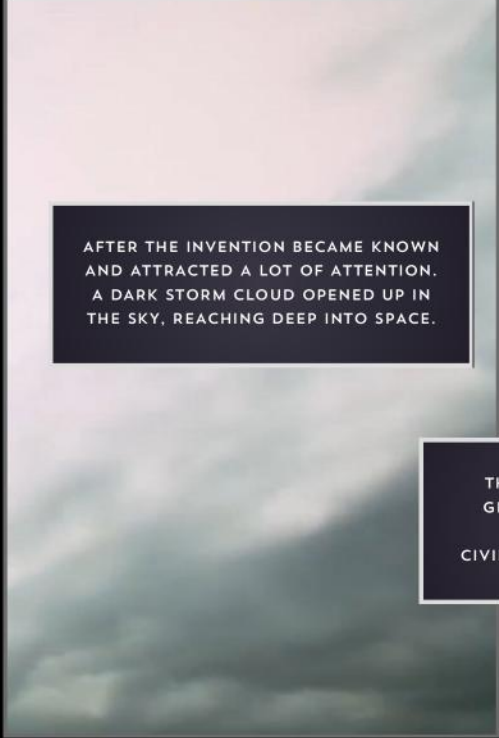
SCIENTISTS HAVE DEVELOPED A TIME MACHINE THAT CAN BE USED TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME.



A POWERFUL MACHINE WITH WHICH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTIRE CIVILISATIONS CAN BE LEARNED AND CORRECTED.



HOWEVER, IT IS MUCH MORE A GOLDEN SUIT AND A POCKET WATCH THAN JUST A MACHINE.



AFTER THE INVENTION BECAME KNOWN AND ATTRACTED A LOT OF ATTENTION. A DARK STORM CLOUD OPENED UP IN THE SKY, REACHING DEEP INTO SPACE.



THE DISCOVERY WAS SO GROUNDBREAKING THAT EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILISATIONS TOOK NOTICE.

AMONG THEM WAS A PARAMILITARY UNIT THAT HAD BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GALAXY FOR YEARS AND NOW WANTED TO SNATCH THE TIME MACHINE.



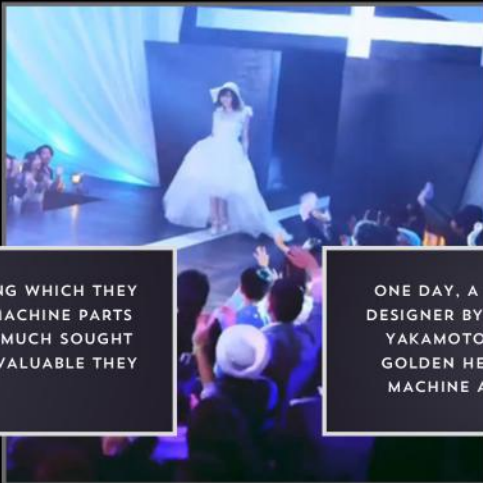
WHEN THE SCIENTISTS BECAME AWARE OF THIS, THEY GAVE THE TIME MACHINE TO VARIOUS PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD:

THE GLOVES WENT TO THE US GOVERNMENT, WHO KEPT THEM IN A SECRET LOCATION, AND SOME PARTS WERE GIVEN TO RANDOM CITIZENS TO HIDE.

THE MILITARY UNIT HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE PARTS AND THE WATCH EVER SINCE.



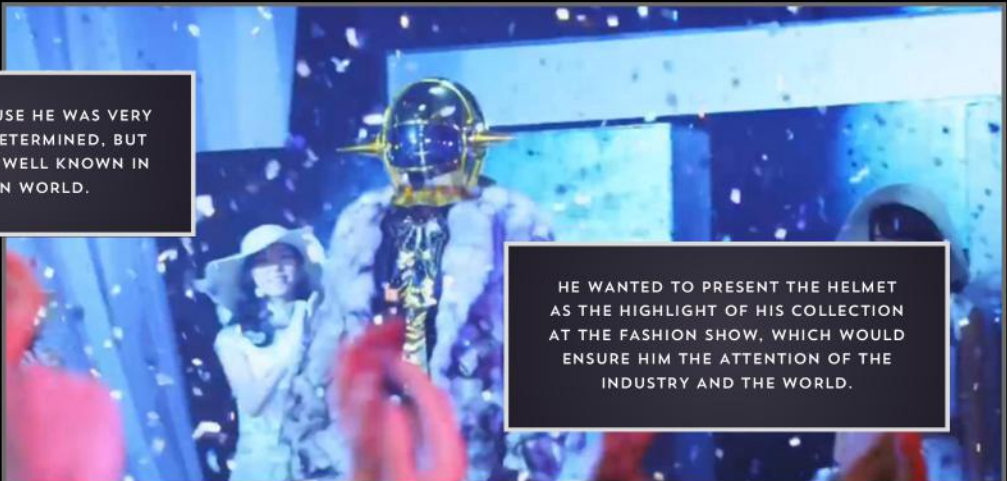
THE UNIT'S SEARCH WENT ON FOR YEARS DURING WHICH THEY TERRORISED THE POPULATION AND THE TIME MACHINE PARTS CHANGED HANDS ON THE BLACK MARKET AS A MUCH SOUGHT AFTER COMMODITY, AS EVERYONE KNEW HOW VALUABLE THEY WERE.



ONE DAY, A JAPANESE FASHION DESIGNER BY THE NAME OF YUTO YAKAMOTO DISCOVERED THE GOLDEN HELMET OF THE TIME MACHINE AND SNATCHED IT.



HE DID THIS BECAUSE HE WAS VERY AMBITIOUS AND DETERMINED, BUT HAD NOT BECOME WELL KNOWN IN THE FASHION WORLD.



HE WANTED TO PRESENT THE HELMET AS THE HIGHLIGHT OF HIS COLLECTION AT THE FASHION SHOW, WHICH WOULD ENSURE HIM THE ATTENTION OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE WORLD.



SO IT HAPPENED THAT OUR PROTAGONISTS - THE MODELS OF THE BRAND 'YAKAMOTO FASHIONS' HAD A FASHION SHOW ON THAT FATEFUL DAY.



IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DAY, AS YAKAMOTO WAS PRESENTING HIS LATEST COLLECTION, WHICH HE SAID WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR HIM TO JOIN THE BIG NAMES IN THE INDUSTRY.



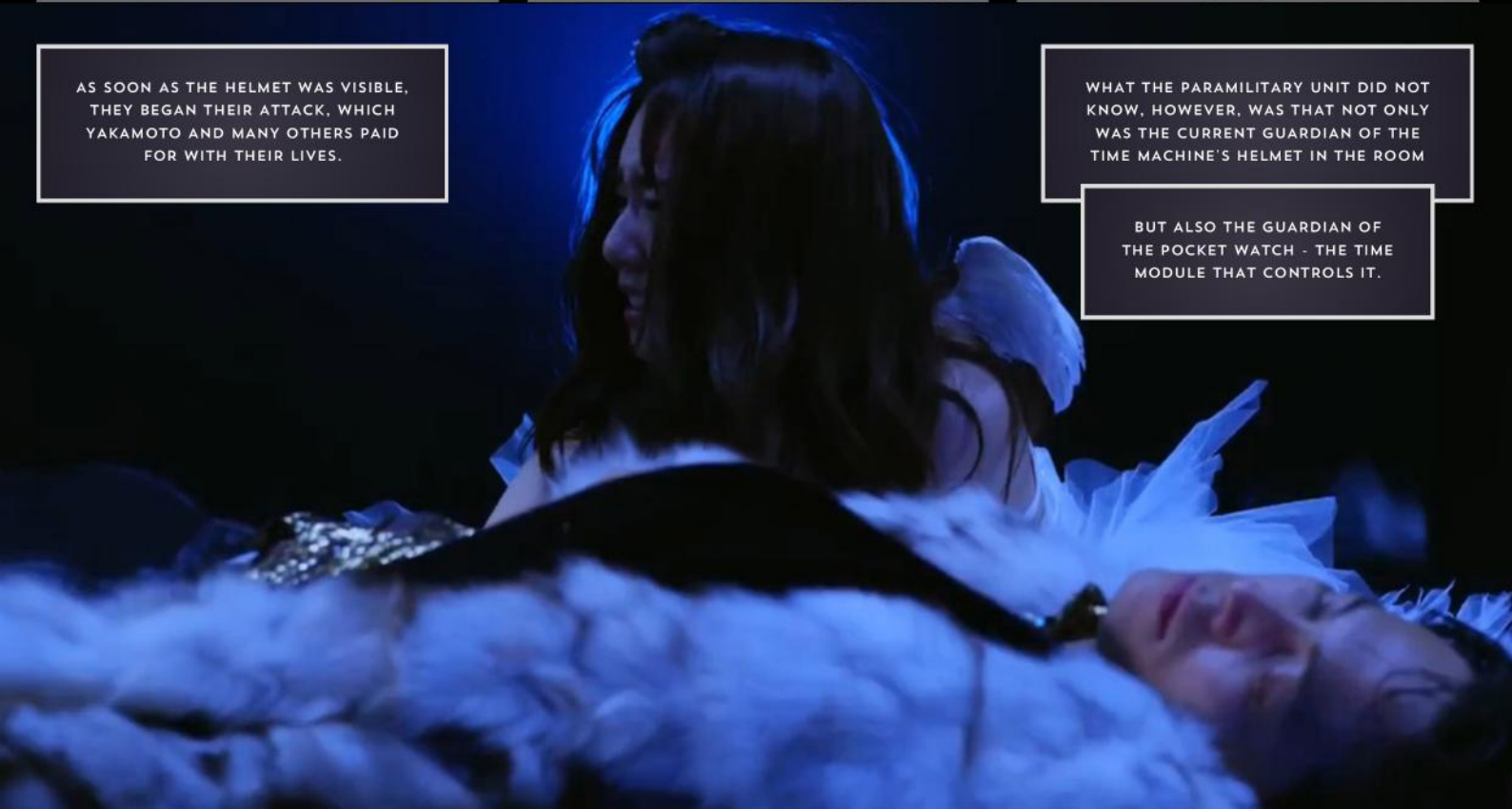
BUT THEN THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED: IT DID NOT GO UNNOTICED THAT YAKAMOTO HAD THE COVETED HELMET AND SO THE MILITARY UNIT BEGAN THEIR HUNT.



AS SOON AS THE HELMET WAS VISIBLE, THEY BEGAN THEIR ATTACK, WHICH YAKAMOTO AND MANY OTHERS PAID FOR WITH THEIR LIVES.

WHAT THE PARAMILITARY UNIT DID NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, WAS THAT NOT ONLY WAS THE CURRENT GUARDIAN OF THE TIME MACHINE'S HELMET IN THE ROOM

BUT ALSO THE GUARDIAN OF THE POCKET WATCH - THE TIME MODULE THAT CONTROLS IT.





AFTER THIS EXPERIENCE, THE MODELS TALKED WITH EACH OTHER'S AND THE GUARDIAN - PARURU - TOLD THE OTHER GIRLS WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND WHY THE GROUP HAD CARRIED OUT THIS ATTACK.

PARURU TELLS JURINA AND SAKURA ABOUT THE POWER OF THE WATCH.



HE PUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON A YOUNG GIRL?

WHEN I RECEIVED IT FROM MY FATHER, A SCIENTIST, I DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT TASK HE HAD IN MIND FOR ME.

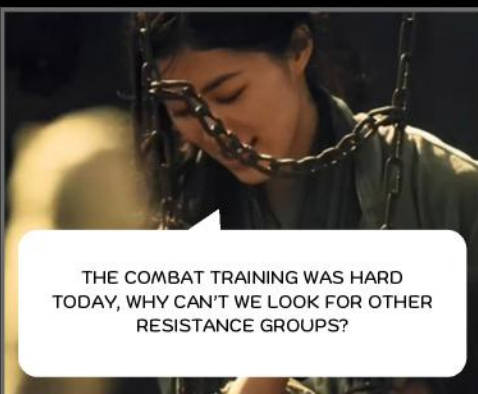
HE TOLD ME THAT DAY NOT TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT AND TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT, NO ONE WOULD THINK THAT THE GUARDIAN OF THE CLOCK WAS A YOUNG GIRL, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS NOT TO TELL ANYONE... BESIDES, THERE WAS A PROPHECY ABOUT A FEATHER GIRL.



THEY IMMEDIATELY REALIZED THAT THEY HAD TO GO UNDERGROUND AND HIDE.

SO THE SURVIVING MODELS MADE THEIR WAY TO A DISTANT HIDEOUT IN THE WASTELAND.

HE'S ALWAYS SEEN SOMETHING SPECIAL IN ME.



THE COMBAT TRAINING WAS HARD TODAY, WHY CAN'T WE LOOK FOR OTHER RESISTANCE GROUPS?



THAT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS, THE MILITARY UNIT CONTROLS ALL COMMUNICATION.



WE CAN ONLY LIVE HERE WITHOUT ANY ELECTRICITY, THEY WOULD DISCOVER US IMMEDIATELY.



WE NEED TO START PREPARING FOR THE FINAL BATTLE, I'M KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD TO KICKING THESE GUYS' ARSES.

HOWEVER, THEY REALIZED THAT THE UNIT WOULD HUNT THEM DOWN AS SOON AS THEY KNEW THEY WERE...

THE GUARDIANS OF THE CLOCK

LATER...

LUCKILY FOR THEM, THEY MET A RESIDENT OF THE WASTELAND WHO TRAINED THEM IN VARIOUS MARTIAL ARTS.

INFLUENCED BY THE INCIDENT AT THE FASHION SHOW AND NOW TRAINED, THEY DECIDED NOT ONLY TO TAKE REVENGE, BUT TO FREE HUMANITY FROM THE TYRANTS.

THE BEST SCIENTISTS HAVE TRIED TO RECREATE THE CLOCKWORK IN OVERSIZE, BUT RECREATING THE CLOCK IS IMPOSSIBLE.

TOMORROW IS THE DAY, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS THE STORAGE PLACE OF THE SUIT ITEMS THE MILITARY UNIT HAS CREATED. LET'S STORM THIS PLACE TOMORROW!

PARURU, YOU NEVER TOLD US WHY THE CLOCK IS SO UNIQUE.

IT'S THE MATERIAL, THE POWER OF THE CLOCK LITERALLY FELL FROM THE STARS, THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE CLOCK CAME TO US WITH A METEORITE AS A SHOOTING STAR.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED HERE AND THE METEORITE ALMOST BURNED UP, THE REST IS SMALLER THAN A PEBBLE.

BUT HOW DID THEY FIND IT?

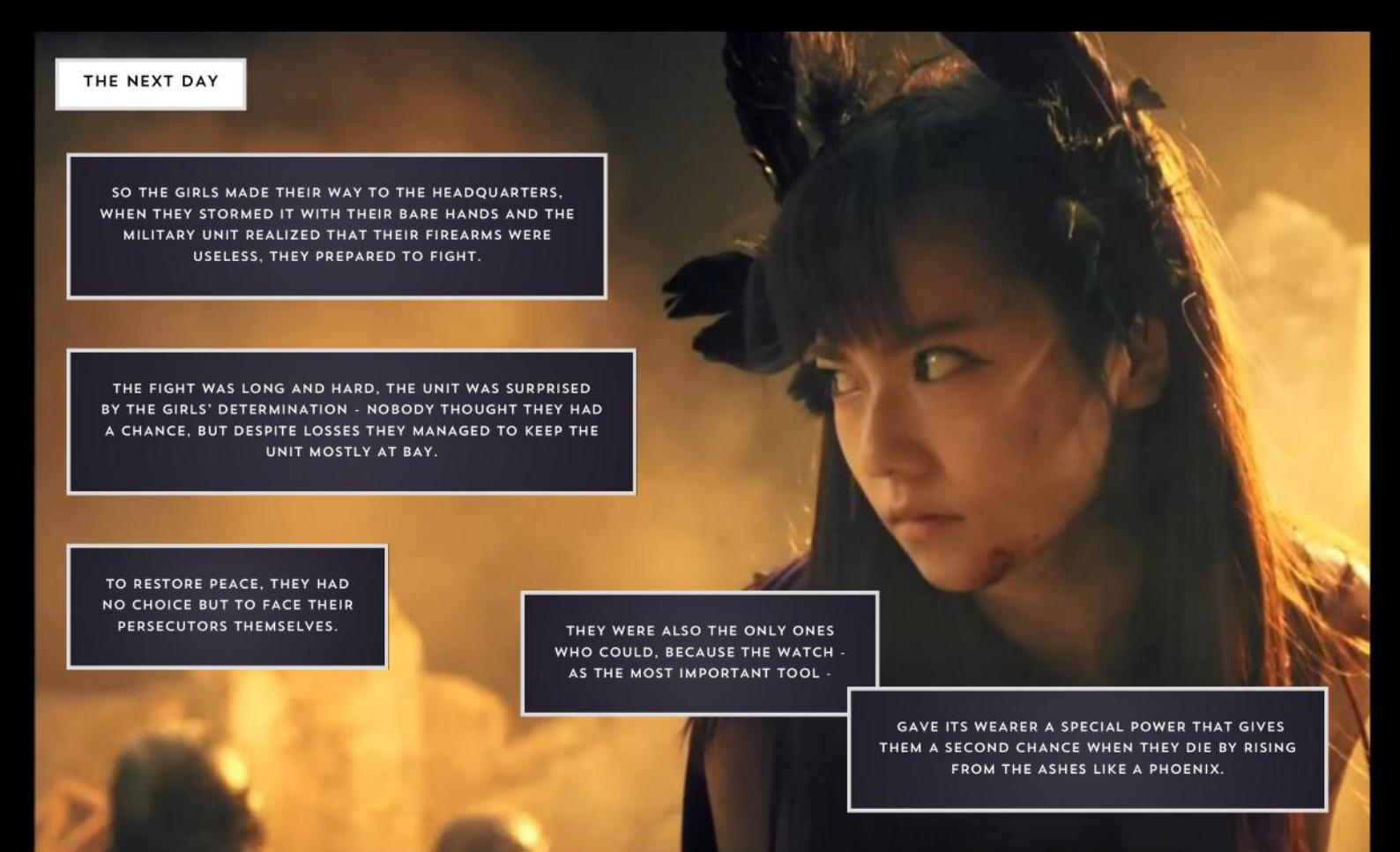
WHenever someone passed the crash site, time slowed down, so scientists like my father were sent to the crash site to investigate, and they found this small meteorite remnant together with many white birds circling around it.

THAT'S HOW THE LEGEND CAME ABOUT.

SUPPOSEDLY THE BIRDS WERE ALL NEWLY HATCHED, THEY REMINDED PEOPLE OF SOMETHING PEACEFUL, WHICH IS WHY THEY THOUGHT THE BIRDS AND THE METEORITE SHARD BROUGHT PEACE - BUT THAT'S CRAZY.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I RAISED A SMALL INJURED PIGEON MYSELF AND LOOKED AFTER IT FOR A LONG TIME, I STILL HAVE FEATHERS FROM IT IN MY ROOM. MY FATHER PROBABLY REMEMBERED IT AND AS THE MILITARY UNIT CAME, MY FATHER PROBABLY REMEMBERED IT AND GAVE ME THE WATCH BECAUSE HE KIND OF SAW THIS YOUNG WHITE BIRD IN ME.

THE FEATHERS ARE A SYMBOL, THEY ARE TO REMIND US OF THE PROPHECY - AND THEY ARE BLACK BECAUSE WHITE IS THE COLOR OF PEACE - AND WE ARE AT WAR, BUT NOW WE HAVE TO REST, TOMORROW WE HAVE A BIG DAY AHEAD OF US.



THE NEXT DAY

SO THE GIRLS MADE THEIR WAY TO THE HEADQUARTERS. WHEN THEY STORMED IT WITH THEIR BARE HANDS AND THE MILITARY UNIT REALIZED THAT THEIR FIREARMS WERE USELESS, THEY PREPARED TO FIGHT.

THE FIGHT WAS LONG AND HARD, THE UNIT WAS SURPRISED BY THE GIRLS' DETERMINATION - NOBODY THOUGHT THEY HAD A CHANCE, BUT DESPITE LOSSES THEY MANAGED TO KEEP THE UNIT MOSTLY AT BAY.

TO RESTORE PEACE, THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE THEIR PERSECUTORS THEMSELVES.

THEY WERE ALSO THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD, BECAUSE THE WATCH - AS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL -

GAVE ITS WEARER A SPECIAL POWER THAT GIVES THEM A SECOND CHANCE WHEN THEY DIE BY RISING FROM THE ASHES LIKE A PHOENIX.



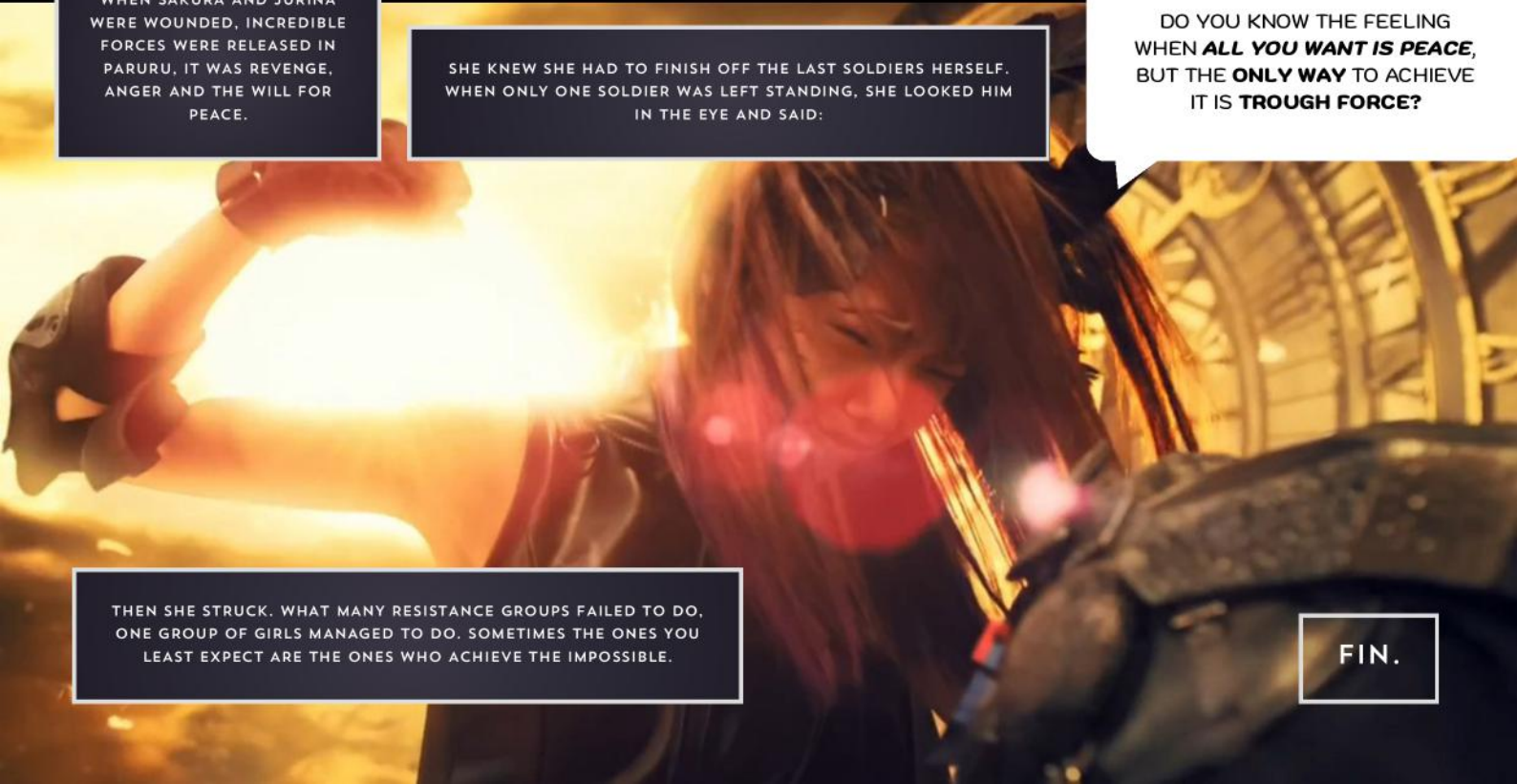
WHEN SAKURA AND JURINA WERE WOUNDED, INCREDIBLE FORCES WERE RELEASED IN PARURU, IT WAS REVENGE, ANGER AND THE WILL FOR PEACE.



SHE KNEW SHE HAD TO FINISH OFF THE LAST SOLDIERS HERSELF. WHEN ONLY ONE SOLDIER WAS LEFT STANDING, SHE LOOKED HIM IN THE EYE AND SAID:



DO YOU KNOW THE FEELING WHEN **ALL YOU WANT IS PEACE**, BUT THE **ONLY WAY** TO ACHIEVE IT IS **TROUGH FORCE?**



THEN SHE STRUCK. WHAT MANY RESISTANCE GROUPS FAILED TO DO, ONE GROUP OF GIRLS MANAGED TO DO. SOMETIMES THE ONES YOU LEAST EXPECT ARE THE ONES WHO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE.

FIN.

DAVID 61 48 Group 2-Shot Event

Thumbnail 48 Group 2-Shot Event, Makuhari
Messe, March 20th, 2017.

Almost one year after my first event it was time for me to meet
members once again.



Minegishi **Minami**

My first meeting of the day and when Miichan saw a foreigner enter her booth her face dropped. As it was only 4 years after that video maybe some gaijins had been meeting her simply after having seen it? But when I greeted her with "Ohayo gozaimasu Miichan" she looked much happier and I had a nice photo with her.



Komiyama **Haruka**

My first meeting with my future oshimen! She was very lovely, sweet and friendly so it was to come as no surprise that she would become my favourite.



Mukaichi **Mion**

Mion though was definitely happy to meet me and again I had a nice photo.



Yokoyama **Yui (Team A)**

Yuihan was also very sweet and lovely and I think her beret suited her and made a nice photo.

みくりん



Tanaka Miku

Mikurin was wearing a very pretty long skirt. For some reason I greeted her in English and Nako (who was in the next booth) briefly looked round the partition to see who the foreigner was!

はなちゃん



Matsuoka Hana

At the time there was a lot of 'buzz' around Hana who was being pushed both in HKT and AKB so I was curious to meet her. She was very lovely and she seemed to be very grown-up and confident for her age as she was then only 17.

まゆゆ



Watanabe Mayu

Now for my second meeting with my first oshimen. She seemed to be in a rather happier mood than she was a year earlier – was it because of her impending graduation which she would announce some weeks later?

しゅう



Yabushita Shu

I was happy that I was able to meet Shuu just a couple of weeks before her graduation. When I introduced myself as English she said "Ah! Oasis!" so she must have been a fan of the group!

かおたん



Matsumura Kaori

Kaotan's table had a very big flower decoration! After the photo she then asked me several questions about myself in very good English and staff-san seemed happy for her to do that to even though time was up.

みお



Tomonaga Mio

Another very lovely HKT48 member and another nice photo although she seemed to be a little shy and quiet.

Another very nice day and little did I know that my meeting with Komi would be the first of 9 in-person ones with her over the next 7 years!

David61

THIS IS TEAMWORK

THE MILITARY TRAINING CAMPS IN AKB48 NEMOUSU TV



I'M HAVING MY
REVENGE!

これが
チムワクだ

18.11.18 - 18.12.02 (SOUTH KOREA)

The Marine Corps of Korea taught the members to get stronger both physically and psychologically.

Yasuda Kana, Nakanishi Chiyori, Kato Rena, Kubo Satone, Chiba Erii and Taguchi Manaka were visited by a staff member from the variety show and were asked to participate in the 2018 training camp. It was not something they HAD to do if they didn't wanted to – but they had to decide within a weeks time. The bus from the Korean airport left the girls at the hotel confused, excited and cold. They had the usual greetings from the instructors the next day, and had to tell them why they were there, and show their motivation through a speech. The one who stood out the most for me was Erii who told them she failed Produce 48, which she recently participated in but had been knocked out from – a revenge from Erii in Korea, as she said herself! Following this they did some cardio training and couldn't really help themselves from laughing. Renacchi did a sigh, and was asked why; "My legs are tired!" was her answer. The instructor said the next person would be even tougher! Akimoto Sayaka who graduated from the group five years earlier (in 2013) was asked to be one of the instructors. Known as the sporty and tough type since her days in AKB, she had now become even tougher physically and was at her peak, since she had auditioned and done some action drama roles.

The members could not believe their eyes when they saw Akimoto walking out to them as the instructor introduced their "new" acquaintance. They didn't know for real if it was really her at first, even though they said it looked like her. After she introduced herself as their instructor they finally heard her say her name. Afterwards the 6 girls got some free time, and Renacchi said that she never had spoken with Akimoto, because she was afraid to

talk to her senpais, even though they had been members for four years together.

Before bedtime Akimoto visited the members



and had a wholesome chat with them. She even repeated her goddess of fire skit she did on the actual camping episode several years earlier. Next day they had to do a ropeway glide from a height of 25 meters. As Kubo was afraid to do it the others got punished and had to do sit-ups until she did it, and at the same time they were encouraging her by shouting her name. And she finally did it to all the girls' and Sayaka's relief. It was pretty sad to watch Kubo in the interview segment where she said that she didn't like herself, and that she felt that she hadn't contributed anything to AKB48. But now she proved herself! After some more frog walk and lifting of a lifeboat over their heads, they had to crawl on the beach having the trainer splash mud and water on them. I felt like the trainers were more humane in Korea than in previous places, and mostly said they had to answer more loudly to him. He was even nice and told them to keep "Fighting!" – to not give up and give it their all! A great and fun training camp, and it was really nice to see Akimoto meet the newer members! And of course she could not keep herself from crying while watching the girls work hard and sob – that was beautiful to see! Salute, and PISU!

theamazingdaveman

SIGNED CHEKIS

My STU48 Signed Chekis collection #01.

Starting with the 5th single **Omoidaseru Koi wo Shiyoubi** in 2020, STU48 has been selling member-signed chekis via HMV JP as a FCFS sale. It started when HS events couldn't take place due to the pandemic but it's continued ever since. The live online sign-

kais take place on the members' SHOWROOMS and fans set up nicknames in their HMV accounts for the members to use. The chekis each come with 3 CDs and are priced accordingly. These are some of the signed chekis I've obtained.

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7th single

Kimi wa Nani wo Kokai Suru no ka?

Okada Nana

Naachan was always included in the cheki sign-kais even though she was in a kennin position with the group. However due to her popularity her chekis would sell out within 30 minutes of the sale starting. Fortunately I was quick off the mark!



8th single

Hana wa Dare no Mono?

Iwata Hina

Hinachan was the first member I noticed when STU was launched and although she didn't become my group oshimen she remained a favourite of mine. Her fan-service was always good and her sign-kais were always fun to watch!



6th single

Hitorigoto de Kataru Kurainara

Otani Marina

It was actually Marina who became my first STU oshimen, I loved her quiet, shy personality but she always looked very beautiful and I was very happy to meet her at a HS event in 2019 where she was wearing a very cute maid costume!



6th single

Hitorigoto de Kataru Kurainara

Ishida Chiho

Chiho soon became my second-favourite member and since Marina's graduation she's been my STU oshimen. I also met her at a HS event in 2019. Thanks to these sign-kais I have quite a few signed chekis of hers!



7th single

Kimi wa Nani wo Kokai Suru no ka?

Takino Yumiko

Yumirin was another member who sold out very quickly, not surprising as she was the ace of the group. She was also famed for her talent with playing the saxophone so it's nice that she's holding one in the cheki.



7th single

Kimi wa Nani wo Kokai Suru no ka?

Okii Yuka

In 2021 Okichan became my second-favourite member of the group when I fell in love with her cute smile. She's another member of the group who I've met in person but at a PB signing event in 2023 in Tokyo.





KLP48 × GINTAMA



Here we present some awesome KLP48 fanart in the Hideaki Sorachi art style, famous for the manga and anime Gintama.

Why did you decide to do it in the art style of Gintama?

mfikrisabri_: "I've been Gintama fan since 2015, and I already attracted to their artstyle in which I find it hard to switch to another style. Also, since Gintama already roasted AKB48 in their episodes, in which in HDZ48 Arc, so I decided to draw KLP48 members in Gintama artstyle, and make something like 'cross-over/collaboration that will never happen' thing. I guess it's the best choice."

In the top picture to the right you can see Kagura and Otsu, two of the members from the AKB parody unit HDZ48 which appeared in volume 50 and 52 of the manga back in 2013. Under it, the fanart of Gintama characters dressed in cute KLP48 outfits. You can find more awesome artwork and fanart on the Instagram account: [@mfikrisabri_](https://www.instagram.com/mfikrisabri_).

[theamazingdaveman](https://www.instagram.com/theamazingdaveman)



[mfikrisabri_](https://www.instagram.com/mfikrisabri_)

©KLP48 Fan Illustration by FIKRI



Sweet Cocoa!

Hiroshima born Kai Kokoa's adventure in KLP48!

The 20 year old was the first Japanese member to be transferred to the sister group in Malaysia, coming from STU48, which she joined as a first generation member in 2017. Here I wanted to share some of the cute and sweet pictures from her Instagram account @k_cocoa1128. The pics were posted after the release of KLP48's first single 'Heavy Rotation' (their take on the classic AKB48 song) in August.

theamazingdaveman

 k_cocoa1128



AKB48GroupLIVE in KL2024 First Cry
August 22nd



I visited AKB48theater yesterday!! Im so Happy~
August 28



REINYA HATES LOSING

Idol by Day, Skater by Heart.

It's a story you don't hear every day: an idol group member, especially one from the prestigious 48 Group franchise, mastering the art of skateboarding while balancing a packed schedule of performances, fan interactions, and media appearances. But that's exactly what Seiji Reina, aka "Reinya," NGT48's one-and-only skater idol, has done. This isn't your regular "idol-with-a-side-hustle" story; this is the tale of a shredder who flipped her world on its grip tape and showed us all what it means to carve out your own path. Let's deepdive — er... or rather, let's bomb this hill and roll right into how Reinya turned her stoke for skating into a whole new chapter in her life!

“THESE PEOPLE
ARE INSANE
- AND I WANT IN!”

ヤ負けず嫌い



PHOTOS BY @OMI_HIRORIN ON X



The Olympics Spark That Lit the Fire

Summer 2021 was a banger year for skateboarding – **Tokyo Olympics**, baby! Skateboarding’s big debut on the world stage had everyone hyped. You had superstars like Horigome Yuto stomping NBDs (never-been-dones) preludes to the “Yu-Tornado” and Yosozumi Sakura floating around like a human cheat code. Reinya? She was glued to her screen, watching every flip, grind, and bail. *“These people are insane – and I want in!”* she thought.



Nollie Backside 270
Noselide aka the Yu-Tornado
by Horigome Yuto on SLS

At the time, things weren’t exactly smooth pavement for Reinya. Idoling was harsh, with schedules tighter than a primo slide and the pressure to stay picture-perfect weighing heavy. Constant pressure, endless schedules, and feeling like an “unpopular idol” had her ready to hang up her mic and leave NGT48. Then she saw it: Okamoto Misugu, bailing her big final trick in the women’s park event, landing hard but still embraced by her rivals. That moment hit her like a rogue board to the shin. *“It wasn’t just the tricks,”* she later said. *“It was the spirit of resilience, the idea that failing wasn’t the end but part of the process.”*

This realization planted a seed. She found herself in a similar situation. What if she tried skateboarding? Could it be the spark she needed to rediscover herself?

First Falls and First Victories

So, what do you do when the skate bug bites? You grab a deck and hit the park, duh! Reinya rolled into **Murakami City Skate Park**, a slice of shred heaven in Niigata and a proving ground to Niigata's pride, Hirano Ayumu. She's ready to shred – or at least learn how to stand on a board. *"I think I spent more time sitting on the ground than standing on the board,"* she joked later on Fuji TV's **Sweet Eden of Premier**. Decked out in full pads and a helmet (safety first, kids!), she became a regular sight among the skaters, little kids ollied circles around her. Her early days were all about perseverance. She had to eat dirt before she could taste success.

But here's the thing about Reinya – she's got major guts. She kept pushing, kept bailing, until one day, bam! She landed her first ollie. *"The first time I landed it, I screamed so loud I scared the kids at the park,"* she said. From that moment, her confidence was off the rails. She started practicing every chance she got, squeezing in skate sessions between idol rehearsals and theater performances. Whether it was at **Airman Skate Park** or sneaking around **Hard-Off Eco Stadium's** parking lot, Reinya was all in.



THERAPY ON WHEELS

Idol life is hectic, like skating sketchy DIY spots without knowing if the ramp's gonna hold. Full of flashing lights, endless rehearsals, and the constant hustle to meet fan expectations. But skateboarding? That was her zen zone. Out on her board, it didn't matter if the world was watching or not. She could just vibe with the flow.

"Skateboarding is where I can be myself, no makeup, no frills," she shared. The act of skating – feeling the wind, mastering tricks, and even embracing the inevitable falls – helped Reinya reconnect with herself. It was her version of therapy – a way to quiet the noise and reconnect with who she was beyond the idol persona.



The Skateboarding Community

The skatepark culture was a whole new world for Reinya. Forget the polished, competitive vibe of idol life – this was raw, real, and chill. At the park, everyone had each other's back, from the kid hitting his first drop-in to the local legend throwing down tre flips like they were nothing. These friends that she made weren't anybody special. They were just students, part-time workers around the same age as her and older, some even younger than her, who just wanted to skate. If Horigome Yuto is basically the Ohtani Shohei of the Japanese skateboarding world, then these guys would be your Wiffleball players equivalent.

At Murakami Skate Park, she wasn't Seiji Reina the idol. She was just Reina, the girl learning to land a kickflip. The locals didn't care about her fame. They cared about her stoke. She quickly made friends who became her support system, offering tips, encouragement, and cheering her on like she was in the **X Games**. Whether it was a chill dude from the streets of Niigata, rising sensation 16 year old Uemura Aoi or a traveling skater from Australia like Chloe Covell, they were her people. *"They didn't care about my idol status. They cared about my kickflip,"* she said with a grin.

This newfound sense of belonging played a huge role in her decision to stay with NGT48. The skateboarding community gave her the strength and perspective she needed to face the challenges of idol life head-on, unfiltered by fame or expectations.

AIRMAN
ストリートパーク

Skateboarding Meets

Idol Life

It didn't take long for skateboarding to start influencing Reinya's idol career. The discipline and resilience she developed while learning tricks began to show in her performances. The confidence and grit she picked up at the park flowed right onto the stage. By the time I hit up the NGT48 Theater in 2023, there was a new energy in her moves, like she was channeling the freedom of cruising a smooth downhill street. She was giving off confidence that Tony Hawk had in his legendary skateboarding tapes!

Her skateboarding adventures also turned into content gold. She launched a column in Yomiuri Shimbun – **Seiji Reina's #SkateLife~continuity180°~** – where she dropped tales from her sessions, her struggles, and her stoke. Insta (@reinaseiji) became her highlight reel: snowboarding in Niigata, skating Hawaii's smooth parks, even awkwardly trying to chat with skaters in English. It was raw, it was legit, and it was awesome. As her skateboarding skills leveled up, so did her career opportunities. Reinya became a go-to personality on skateboarding programs, reporting live from competitions like the **2023 WST Street World Championship** in Tokyo, and the recently concluded **2024 SLS Championship Tour**. Watching her hype up, meet and befriend various pros and share her own progress was like seeing a skater girl living the dream. She even hosted a segment on **Sweet Eden of Premier**, teaching the show's hosts how to ride. *"Watching them fall was hilarious – but hey, that's part of the fun!"* ►



PHOTOS BY @UUYA6N26E ON X

2024.11.10

アーバンスポーツフェス
@ **AIRMAN**スケートパーク



Reinya also caught the eye of big-name brands. Collaborating with **X-girl** and **SHEIN**, she became the face of skate-inspired gears for both brands. She's even the ambassador for the National Skateboarding Facility Liaison Council, promoting skateboarding in rural areas across Japan.

But what's this article without it being related to NGT48? Of course you can't take her out of NGT48! In their **1st Album National tour** back in 2022, she would often have segments for herself where she performs various skateboarding tricks on a make-shift ramp that she and her "skateboarding sisters" made! It was such a rad moment to see Reinya blend her two worlds as one. Reinya became the winner for **48 Group's Unit Singing Competition** in 2023, which scored her and fellow member Mimura Hino and ex-member Arai Ririno a trip to Hawaii (which is why she's skating there in the first place!), and she was able to participate and reach the finals of the main competition this year as well. It's not too far-fetched to say that skateboarding put her on the radar there, but it definitely shed light on her supreme singing skills! In their 2022 variety show **Lotti x NGT48: What's an Idol?** most of Reinya's scenes involve her attempting to skate or landing a trick that she's been practicing for, which led to a lot of hilarious moments, and one that I heavily recommend checking out! I've made a compilation of her best moments from the show, and you can check them out in the QR code available!

Reinya was also recently featured in the preliminary stages of **SASUKE**, a Japanese obstacle course show equivalent of the **American Ninja Warrior**. She admittedly said that she was more of an athletics girl than an academic one in highschool, so this was the perfect job for her! Our sporty and multi-talented sk8r girl definitely got some shine from her skateboarding videos that it's a no-brainer!

Trailblazer on Wheels

What's next for our resident sk8r girl, Seiji Reina? She's hinted at plans to create skateboarding workshop "How-to" videos for her fans and fellow skaters alike, participate in the top skateboarding competitions in Japan, and dreams of creating a skate-themed music video with NGT48. Whether she's grinding the rails, banking against the pavement, or nailing a sick heelflip, one thing is certain: Seiji will continue to roll forward, embracing every challenge with the same fearless spirit that brought her this far. If her track record is anything to go by, the sky – or maybe the half-pipe – is the limit for Reinya.



x-girl **SHEIN**



Reinya's story is one of courage, growth, and breaking boundaries. She isn't just an idol; she's a trailblazer, a skater, and an inspiration to many who's seeking to break their individual shells. By stepping into the world of skateboarding, she not only rediscovered herself but also redefined what it means to be an idol. Her journey proves that passion and perseverance can lead to incredible opportunities, no matter where they begin. It is also a reminder that idols are human, with dreams and interests beyond the stage. One doesn't have to fit into one box. Whether on stage or on a skateboard, Reinya is an unstoppable force – and her story is far from over. Stay steezy, Reinya. Stay steezy.

far East



THANKS FOR READING! SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

Because some of the contributors to this English fanzine are not native English speakers, including myself, please understand that there may be a few grammatical or other English errors in some places.

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