

# DO THE DANCE!

AKB48 FANZINE

恋 詰んじやった  
KOITSUN  
JATTA  
AKB48'S NEW SINGLE

#01  
SUMMER  
2024

FIRST  
ISSUE 48  
PAGES



HOSHIKUZU  
TELEPATH  
THE NEW AKB DRAMA

ANO  
NATSUNO  
BOHATEI

DAVID61's  
JAPAN TRIP  
+ much more

# WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF DO THE DANCE

To make a fanzine is something I have wanted to do since I was a teenager back in the early 2000's. Back then I started with some punk/hardcore/metal fanzines but I never managed to make more than 5 pages or so before I gave up.

Now with my rediscovery and newfound love for J-pop and especially the 48 groups I started to be a lurker on the Stage48.net forum in 2019. I recognized that a lot of people on that forum spread their love for the groups with passion, longer posts that could almost be read as an article in a magazine. That gave me this idea some years later - why not make a fanzine with their awesome posts? I obviously wanted some exclusive content as well, so I checked with people on Stage48, Reddit and YouTube. I managed to get an amazing article from Matto who I've been watching and subscribed to on YouTube for 2 years now. He wrote about the brand new stage from NMB48. I didn't want the content to be about AKB48 exclusively, but all the 48 groups. Even though AKB is the main focus. So what you can read here is some old/new posts from both Stage48 and Reddit, but also some new content from me and ranapxious.

DO THE DANCE (I had the song stuck in my head when I was thinking about what to name the fanzine) have taken up almost all my free time and a lot of sleep for the past few weeks. It was a big but really fun project to design the pages for, I wanted to at least make around 20 pages from the beginning, but it ended up with exactly 48. In the section I decided to call NEW SHIP you can read some fun stuff about the 17ki, 18ki and 19ki - with a pretty big focus on 19th gen Itomomo. I sincerely want to thank all the contributors that was letting me use their posts as content, and those that wrote new content for this very first issue. I have gotten some great comments from the community that I shared some layouts with. I hope both new fans of AKB and the sister groups as well as older ones (and those who don't even are fans, but hopefully will be) will enjoy the content. Because I sure have. I hope to make more issues in the future with hopefully more exclusives, now I had to write some stuff myself which I'm not too confident in doing, but it was fun anyway.

**theamazingdaveman**



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**DO  
THE  
DANCE!**

AKB48 FANZINE

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# NEWS

THE LATEST IN THE  
48 GROUPS WORLD

# AKB48'S 64TH SINGLE ANNOUNCED



**The recent graduation of Kashiwagi Yuki on the 30th of April 2024 marks a new era for AKB48, and what better to start the new era with the announcement of the next single?**

On the 1st of May 2024, AKB48 announced the release of the 64th single through their official Instagram account. It was announced on the 17th of June that the new single will be given the title 'Koi Tsun Jatta' or 'Stuck in Love'. Furthermore, the Senbatsu members has also been released to the public. The Senbatsu was announced over the course of five days from May 1 to 5, while the center was announced on the sixth day, May 6.

The Senbatsu will consist of Regular Members Omori Maho, Oguri Yui, Kurano Narumi, Sato Airi, Shitao Miu, Taguchi Manaka, Tokunaga Remi, Chiba Erii, Nagatomo Ayami, Hashimoto Eriko, Masai Mayuu, Mizushima Miyuu, Mukaichi Mion, Murayama Yui, Yamauchi Mizuki, Yamazaki Sora and Kenkyuusei Akiyama Yuna and Yagi Azuki. The center position will be given to Regular Member Sato Airi, her first ever center position on her 5th ever Senbatsu appearance. With only being a member for 2 years so far, this would not only mean that she'd be the first ever member of the 17th generation to center in a single, but also among the fastest members to receive a center Senbatsu position.

Apart from her, the 64th single will also see the debut Senbatsu appearances of 17th generation member Masai Mayuu and former team 8 member Tokunaga Remi. Furthermore, this single will also see the return of Hashimoto Eriko and Yamazaki Sora as Senbatsu members since Idol Nanka Janakattara in 2023.

The single is set to be released on July 17, 2024, coincidentally the same date AKB48's fourth single 'BINGO!' was released, which featured Yukirin's debut Senbatsu appearance. The promotional photo for the single has been released, suggesting a 'first love' or 'fresh' theme for the single, similarly to '#SukiNanda'. In the end, we express our high expectations for the 64th single and wish Aichan the best with her debut center.

ranapxious

## YUIYUI'S HASHIRA NIGHT RADIO



**Yuiyui tried talking about the 64th single without spoiling it.**

Starting around 7:00 of the video above from May 26's Hashira Night Radio.



They have done the recording, learned some choreos, but have not finished the MV yet.

In her opinion, the song feels really energetic and new/fresh.

The choreos are also vigorous and easy to channel your energy/feeling into them, and in turn that spirit may be clearly transmitted through the screen to the fans.

Somehow she's pretty sure the MV will be great even though they haven't finish recording it yet.

Goals to achieve: Standing at Tokyo Dome again, also she wants to get Japan Record Award again, because AKB hasn't got it while she is an active member.

donjonn

第62回  
輝く!時以て大賞

The beautiful 'Hanareteitemo' were nominated for Song of the Year in 2020

# AKB48 GROUPS 6TH SINGING CONTEST



The final is going to be held on July 24th in Tachikawa Stage Garden. It will be broadcast live on TBS channel 1.

TBS channel 1 will also broadcast live on June 27th. On that day there will be a lottery that decide in what order the performances will be in.



## FORMER WINNERS AND THE CREATION OF NONA DIAMONDS

HKT48's longtime member Akiyoshi Yuka is one of the contestants that the jury have as a recommendation.

Yukachan is one of the former winners in the third singing contest back in December 2020. The unit Nona Diamonds with the winners was created later in 2021, they released the touching and beautiful single Hajimari no Uta in June the same year. Some of the notable members were the now graduated Okada Nana (AKB48/STU48, who is now a solo artist), Yamauchi Suzuran (SKE48) and Furuhashi Nao (SKE48), both grads. I really hope they will do a renewal of the unit with some of the winners of the upcoming 6th contest that can be replacements. Akiyoshi has an amazing voice so I am almost certain that she will be one of the remaining singers in Nona Diamonds if they now would decide to do this... but it's only a speculation.

[theamazingdaveman](#)



### Finalists (combined result)

- 1 AKB48 Kuranoo Narumi
- 1 AKB48 Murayama Yui
- 3 HKT48 Toyonaga Aki
- 4 STU48 Okmura Rio
- 4 STU48 Sogawa Saki
- 6 HKT48 Sakamoto Erena
- 6 NGT48 Otsuka Nanami
- 6 AKB48 Taguchi Manaka
- 9 SKE48 Kato Satsuki
- 10 STU48 Okada Azumi
- 11 STU48 Shimizu Sara
- 11 NGT48 Seiji Reina
- 11 NGT48 Suzuki Ririka
- 11 AKB48 Narita Kohina
- 15 NGT48 Mimura Hiino

### Jury recommendations

- SKE48 Kuramoto Hana
- BNK48 Mogami Nanaka
- HKT48 Akiyoshi Yuka

### Oversea finalists

- JKT48 Lulu Salsabila
- BNK48 Emmy



Nona Diamonds first single

# さっほーはどこですか?\*

\*WHERE IS SAHO?



**As mentioned before, the Senbatsu members were announced on AKB48's Instagram account over the course of 5 days (May 1-5).**

Throughout these days, a lot of fans were anticipating the appearance of 13th Generation member Iwatate Saho in the 64th single. However, many started to lose hope as the announcement kept coming and in the end it was revealed that Sahoo would not be in the 64th Single, much to the disappointment of many fans.

Sahoo herself shared this disappointment in a tweet on the 5th of May, writing "I personally feel that I was unable to live up to the expectations I received on social media and at handshake events with this latest release, and I am honestly wondering how I should feel about continuing my activities". The exclusion of Sahoo in the 64th single puzzled many fans; After Yukirin's graduation, Sahoo is the oldest AKB48 member in not only age, but also seniority being a member of the 13th generation. Furthermore, her rankings in the Senbatsu Sou-senkyo (while it was still occurring) reached its peak at 22nd place, proving to many that she has a sizable amount of fans.

Former member and genmate Aigasa Moe voiced her disappointment on Twitter, writing "I have nothing to do with it anymore and I haven't had much chance to meet her since I quit, but when I see her tweets I feel so frustrated I could cry".

In the end, Sahoo still not appearing in a Senbatsu after 13 years highlights the reality that sometimes hard work is not rewarded as well, but it also underscores Sahoo's persistence and resilience throughout the years despite being met with disappointment again and again. Sahoo for Senbatsu!

ranapxious

## MAHOPYON IN LARME VOL 61



**Mahopyon will once again grace the pages of Larne Magazine!**

She's back for vol 61 that was released on June 17th. In the announcement, she posted this photo on X: @akb48\_maho.

Omori Maho is meanwhile still working hard on the filming of Stardust Telepath and is becoming close with her juniors and costars Aichan, Sorara and Ito-momo.

Yumenotobiira

## YUIYUI CASTED IN DRAMA

**It's the upcoming Subarashiki Kana, Sensei!**



Nako who graduated from HKT48 last year is also one the cast members. One more 48g related thing with this drama is that the actress Mizuki Kayashima will be in it. She played a pretty big role in the school drama The Greatest Teacher last year alongside Hiichan and Mikurin (OK, she was barely in it). One of my absolute favorite drama's in ages.

Yui will play the part of the 2nd grader Kominato and Yabuki Nako is casted as the gal character Kira who's in 3rd grade. Subarashiki Kana, Sensei! will start airing this August. Perfect for the summer!

theamazingdaveman

## STU48'S 1ST ALBUM AND 8TH ANNIVERSARY



### The group's 8th Anniversary concerts and first album.

The 8th Anniversary concerts is set for Spring next year.

March 20th, 2025

- Tokyo Garden Theater

April 5th and 6th, 2025

- Hiroshima International Conference Center, Phoenix Hall

**STU48 have also just recently updated their profile pictures.** The bright blue background with the transparent silklike texture looks exciting but at the same time soothing, and the costumes look really cute and beautiful in my opinion. I also really loved the groups new MV Ai no Omosa from their first album Natsukashi Ashita. The album was released on June 12th and contains a lot of songs from their first 7 years. I will definitely import it, even though I already own all the physical singles. The album is available in 3 versions: Type A and B comes with the CD and a Blu-ray (finally!) and Theater edition is CD only.

*theamazingdaveman*



## UMECHAN RETURNED TO THE AKB48 THEATER



### Umeda Ayaka was appearing at the theater on June 7th where she performed Saka Agari.

The 2nd generation member who was a captain for Team B in 2012 and transferred to NMB48 in 2014 showed up at the theater this June. The 35 year old graduated from NMB48 in 2016 and this is her first time back in the AKB48 theater for probably over 10 years. Big times coming after the renewal of the theater I guess, with all the returning graduates lately - Yokoyama Yui, Miyazaki Miho, Ichikawa Miori and Kojima Mako.

*theamazingdaveman*

## ...AND ON JUNE 12TH 6TH GEN SUUCHAN RETURNED

### Sato Sumire performed Sobakasu no Kiss at the AKB Theater.

Suuchan was active in AKB48 and SKE48 for 10 years, between 2008-2018. She is now married to the professional wrestler Ryo Aitaka (former kickboxer) who she has a YouTube channel with. She showed up at the theater with their daughter Hinano and took some pictures in the lobby. And of course with the members that seemed very happy and stoked to meet Sato at the stage. I was happy to hear her say "Suu melody!" once more, that was too cute. One of my 12th gen oshis for sure!

*theamazingdaveman*



# ABOUT YUUMIN'S GRADUATION DECISION



**She was appointed as "playing performance shihan" at the team shuffle last year due to her dancing prowess.**

**This role allowed her to be an on-stage choreographer and dance coach for the other members when they need assistance.**

Yuumin was responsible for creating the choreography for the under-girls song "Time bomb" in 2022 which she was center of, and she produced the 9th generation trainee stage "Sedai Koutai Zenya" which will be concluding at the end of July.

**Matto**

## NAKAMURA YUKA IS GRADUATING FROM UNLAME



**Well. I'm not surprised, the group I feel was a real mixed opportunity.**

**Their debut was a attempt at the kpop sound and wasn't that well received. I feel as if they couldn't decide what they wanted to do and just did everything.**

I like it as a apart of AKB48 related ventures but on its own I feel like the group was a failed attempt. I'm a tad bit worried for Quadlips also: they are on a similar path releasing a debut that's obviously targeted more at kpop fans that wasn't the best received and then the follow up is MUCH better but barely anybody streams it.

**Ardie\_BlackWood**

# Graduation

ANNOUNCEMENT  
CORNER



## UNLAME

**Nakamura Yuka** will be leaving UNLAME on 7/23.

**Ishida Yuumi** of NMB48 Team N and one of only two remaining 2nd Gen members has announced graduation.



She'll leave in the autumn. In her comment she doesn't say what she'll do next other than to 'experience a new environment' but she does say that she didn't want to become the 'okaasan' or 'mother' of the group.



## HKT48

**Yamashita Emiri** of HKT48 Team KIV has announced graduation.



Her final Theater performance will be on 7/21.

STU48 3rd Gen KKS member **Iwasaki Kasumi** has announced that she's declining activities and leaving the group.



No reason is given for her withdrawal. Her last day will be 6/30.

Another STU48 3rd Gen KKS member withdrawal has been announced - **Hasegawa Noa**. She's leaving due to health problems from a 'chronic illness'. Her final activity date will be on 6/14.

# JKT48 SCANDALS AND CONTROVERSIES



## 3 Members suspended and 1 Trainee dismissed in recent string of controversies.

Sister group JKT48 has experienced a wave of controversy over the past few months, with all of them relating to the infamous love-ban rule. On the 2nd of May, 2024, 10th Generation members Amanda Sukma and Indira Seruni were suspended from all JKT48 activities until July 25, 2024 after a video of the two hanging out with several boys circulated in social media a few days before. It is said that Amanda herself was seen to be smoking a vape in the video. In a statement made by the two on the 2nd of May, they stated "We are aware that this is an effect of our lack of awareness as members of JKT48. We would like to apologise because we didn't appreciate the support that our fellow members, staff, and fans have given us. 15 days following the suspension, it was announced that fellow 10th Generation member Callista Alifia will be suspended from all JKT48 activities until August 16, 2024 due to a scandal, in which the photos of her and another man were leaked. Callista released a statement similar to Amanda and Indira, apologising for her 'lack of awareness as a JKT48 member'.



Then, on the 22nd of May 2024, JKT48 11th Generation Trainee Jeane Victoria was dismissed from JKT48 after fans found out that she had a boyfriend, which directly violates the 'no-dating' rule of JKT48. While dismissals are almost unheard of in most of 48G, it is a lot more common in JKT48. For instance, 8th Generation member Zahra Nur was dismissed in August 2021 after a double dating scandal involving her, Yessica Tamara, and 2 members from Indonesian Boy group 'UN1TY'. Similarly, 7th Generation Trainee Aiko Harumi was dismissed in 2020 after fans found out about her boyfriend.

# JKT48

The recent suspensions and dismissals carried out by JKT48 underscore the strict nature of JKT48's enforcement of the controversial 'love-ban' rule, which is outlined by JKT48 as one of the group's 'golden rules'. This string of incidents highlights the ongoing tension between the group's management policies and the personal lives of its members. While the love-ban rule is intended to maintain the image of purity and dedication among the idols, it often leads to significant consequences for those who violate it, regardless of the circumstances.

ranapxious

## ADEL JKT48 ANNOUNCES GRADUATION



**On the 6th of June, JKT48 8th Generation member Reva Fidelia announced her graduation.**

In her announcement she stated that she believes her journey in JKT48 has come to an end, being a member from 2019 to 2024, and that she hopes her fans will allow her to start a new journey elsewhere. Semangat Adell!

ranapxious

# SKE48'S YOUNG ACE MIREI WILL LEAVE THE GROUP



**She will graduate at the end of August. This news is definitely very shocking... I didn't expect this at all...**

I noticed that it's been a while since the last time Hayashi Mirei centered a single, and I thought that maybe management is giving her a break but I thought the push would return. Now I'm wondering if management had discussions with her for a while now and that this is why they didn't make her center since maybe her situation in the group wasn't sure... Although she still centered for Team E in the last single, she centered songs in the new Team E stage last year and she had a solo song for units... So yes... This whole thing is just very surprising because Mirei really looked like she had tons of motivation, a lot of maturity, she looked like she was really in control, very serious about being an idol. I'm wondering what happened to make her decide this...

This is such a loss for SKE, they invested a lot in her and it gave good results. The fans like her... Once again, SKE loses one of their young aces at a young age. and it's getting more and more difficult for 48 groups nowadays to make a member get popular. They have to start all over again with other members.

Personally I'm not usually in favor of pushing members at such a young age but Mirei was such a good performer and had a mature personality, she handled everything so well. But again things end like this. The fact that she leaves when she's like 15 years old and it's just now that she could have started doing her best as an idol... Sigh.

This is one of the most surprising graduations of 48G in the recent years. It's been a while since I last thought "this is way too early for her to graduate" about a graduation. It's sad.

Mana

# KLP48

**JURINA WILL BE  
KLP48'S MANAGER**



**The Malaysian sister group was announced January 1st, 2024.**

The former SKE48 and AKB48 ace will join. The first members that were presented were AKB48's Kurosu Haruka, Gyoten Yurina and Yamane Suzuha. In March STU48's Kai Cocoa decided to join. Four members to be exact. It's pretty hard to know what Jurina's involvement will be, if she is gonna help promote the group, or work with them internally like a player manager. It feels pretty strange if she's gonna join a new group in Malaysia some years after graduation. I'm pretty interested anyway since I like the members that have joined so far. It's the first non-Japanese 48 group I have had any interest in.

This is the translation from the groups X account: "This time, it was decided to appoint Matsui Jurina, who was active in AKB48 and SKE48 in the past, as a member and manager of KLP48."

So as I said - it's unclear what it means, when Matsui herself have written something like "Don't worry guys, I'm not leaving Japan.". We should know any day now since the whole first generation will be presented this summer.

theamazingdaveman

# What are they up to now?

A picture from Takamina's Instagram when she met up with Acchan



Takamina and Shiichan were in Singapore one weekend and recorded a segment for Tokai TV's Switch



Tomochin on the cover of Weekly Young Magazine



It looks like Yuihan has taken over from Takamina in 'Ibaraki Oshi' on Ibakira TV - in this trailer she looks at Ibaraki Melon Sweets



Moeka and Mikurin had dinner together at the new Janu Grill in Tokyo



Haruppi's latest YouTube video 'Tips on how to lose 20kg and not regain it'



Moekyun in a YouTube video talking about houses

## NMB'S NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL URANAMBACHAN



NMB recently started a YouTube contents channel called "Ura-Nambachan" with specific content for every day of the week!

Every Monday, there is a video of a series called "Welcome NAMBA!" with Wakapon, Misaki and Michapii!

Together, they walk on the streets, search for foreigners and try to talk to them, help them, and introduce NMB to them.



Here is episode 1! At first, the girls struggled to talk with people which is not very surprising because people were busy walking etc. it's not easy to stop them and start a discussion. Around the end, they managed to find a group of foreigners who looked lost and tried to talk to them. Misaki is actually fluent in english but I think she's not talking too much in general, because the goal is to learn for the other girls, and Misaki seems to be here mostly to help in case they really need it or if they don't understand at all. Wakapon did a good job talking! However, for Michapii... At the end of the video, they talked about how it went and they noted that Michapii did not talk at all, she said that she only said her name and nothing else! She was super cute in this part. She seems all embarrassed and uncomfortable about it. Too cute.



The second episode! The show somehow became focused on making Michapii improve, haha. It's interesting because usually, she's very good at variety. But I already knew that she's the type to get shy and embarrassed... like I noticed this when she's with the senior members sometimes. It just feels like she manages to forget about this when it's variety and she does her best! But outside of it, she is a bit shy yes! And here, she is very very shy, almost scared. So this time, they focused on making her talk to a foreigner. She tried... it was very cute when she tried to approach people and then walked back. She managed to talk to some people a bit, but she was not confident at all, and at some point, she almost cried. Ah... then at the end, the girls took a break and went to eat, they discussed for a better way to approach people and decided to write some text. Michapii was super cute in this, writing some sentences in english and saying them, too cute!

I highly recommend watching this show, first because Michapii is just adorable in it!! She's too cute!! Another reason is that this is good content for international fans since it focuses on talking in english, so we can understand what's going on. And lastly, the videos are actually not very long, it's very easy to watch. It feels very simple and real.

Mana



## ZUNCHAN IS BLOWING ON THE SHAVED ICE?



**Before they were transferring to Malasiya on June 1st, Haachan, Zunchan and Gyoten had their final episodes of AKB48 Saikin Kiita!**

In episode 10 and 11 of AKB48, Saikin Kiita! - issho ni KYOUSOU shimasen ka from June 4th and June 11th the members got to experience Japan before they had to leave for their new adventures in KLP48. I'll tell you about some stuff that happened in episode 10 since I want you to watch the double episodes for yourself.

First off they got onboard the luxury limited express train SPACIA X. The group visited the Cockpit Suite and got very excited over that they had a small refrigerator on the side of the sofa that stored cold water. Following that they visited the Goen Café that sells exclusive drinks and sweets that you can only get on the train. After tasting the spicy and syrupy drink Zunchan got to taste Yubo miso soup for the first time, she really liked it, and the yokan sweets reminded her of her grandmother. Gyoten wanted to give the sweets to Malaysia's highlanders.

The guide wanted the girls to test out working as tour attendants for a steam locomotive. It impressed them with all the steam and the many levers that got them to think about Studio Ghibli. After looking at the coal and presenting themselves to the guests on the steam locomotive it was time for some shaved ice at a café near the Shimoimaichi station. Here they got to watch a videoclip about how they make the ice, and even got to make a serving of it themselves. The natural ice with high transparency, before they made it thin like cotton, looked very beautiful to them. One of the highlights in the episode was when Zunchan was about to eat, and was blowing on the ice before she realized what she did, that was really cute. I really liked this episode and now I feel a bit sad that the KLP members probably won't show up in Saikin Kiita! or any other AKB shows anymore. They have really grown on me through this show over the years.

theamazingdaveman

# On\*channel



## Some of the things Mukaichi Mion said in her first video.

First, she introduced herself. She said that it's been **11 years that she joined AKB**, and that now, after Yukirin's graduation, her generation (15th generation) is the 2nd oldest in the group (after 13th generation), and she said that it's the same with ages. I believe she did this based on school years because she's born in January 1998 but she puts herself in the "1997" year, together with Yui and Ayane (who are born in 1997). So she said Saho is the oldest and then it's the 3 of them who will turn 27 years old (and she was a bit surprised to realize this, lol). This means that for age too, she is among the 2nd oldest.

She talked about all that she experienced; senbatsu, center of a single, ranking in senbatsu for elections... and how she became the 3rd general manager after Takamina and Yuihan, and that it lasted for 5 years, and now Naru took the role.

So now that she doesn't have the role of general manager anymore, she wants to go back to being an AKB fan. She explains that she was an AKB fan since before joining the group, she used to go to the theater, handshake events etc. Her manager asked her what

The single **Heavy Rotation** and the AKB drama **Majisuka Gakuen** were popular in Mion's junior high school

made her want to join AKB, she said that she used to be a child actress but she retired while in elementary school and she thought she would enjoy her life normally after that, then in junior high school, all her friends were fans of AKB, it was the time of Ponytail to Shushu and Heavy Rotation, and Majisuka Gakuen. Before she knew it, she became the #1 AKB fan among her friends. and she started wishing to be like them, then the 15th generation audition happened.



# おし + ちゃんねる

She said that what she loves about AKB is that they represent "youth", and they are hardworking. She thinks that when you see AKB, no matter how old you are, you can feel the youth.

About who's her current oshimen in AKB, she answered Yuiyui, because of her performance skills but also because she finds her funny! Her oshimen in the past was Kojiharu.

She loves both the past and current AKB and she wants to share her feelings on this channel! She's thinking about different things she could talk about like for example songs lyrics, it's something that she enjoys (for example how a song can sound cheerful

but if you read the lyrics, they're actually sad etc.). She said that her main goal is to have fun, and to make more people know AKB and become fans of AKB!

They talked about the new generations and Miion compared AKB to some of her other interests like Harry Potter and One Piece, and she said that AKB has a long history and it might be difficult to learn about them now, so she wants to help people to get to know the group and to learn about the current AKB, in an easy way.

She adds that another reason why she started a channel is because she wants to do video editing, they did that for YNMO, I guess she enjoyed it (lol).

She will try to upload regularly on the channel and she picked the channel's name at the end, she just called it "On-channel" ("on" from Miion).

So far she has almost 10k subscribers, that's nice! I'm glad that she made a channel to promote AKB. Looking forward to her videos! And hopefully more people can learn about AKB and support the group. It would be great if she can invite other members to her channel because most other members don't have YouTube (only 3 have it).

Mana



Past and current oshimen: Kojima Haruna and Oguri Yui



Photoshoot 'behind' for the Yuunamogion 'Last Party' merch



AKB48

The first solo center in the single: Tsubasa wa Iranai

# 天使のユートピア

Osaka's angels return with a brand new stage



## Tenshi no Utopia

**NMB48's first original stage in over a decade leaves a huge impression.**

NMB48 had their first performance of their new stage "Tenshi no Utopia" on May 14, 2024 at their theater in Namba, Osaka. This is their first completely original stage since "Koko ni Datte Tenshi wa Iru" in November 2013.

The stage was originally announced on January 1, 2024 at the group's annual New Year's Day show at the theater. Akimoto Yasushi was listed as the general producer and Carlos K. was listed as the sound producer. Carlos K. has worked with the group in the past including composing the music for their 11th single "Don't look back," their 16th single "Boku Igai no Dar-eka," and other coupling songs.

On the group's official Twitter account it was announced that in addition to the aforementioned producers, NMB's chief choreographer AKIRA would produce the choreography for the stage. Furthermore, NMB48 Project Producer Kenmotsu Yoshikazu would produce the stage.



The new stage features 15 brand new songs that were contributed by a variety of composers and producers including former NMB members Yamamoto Sayaka and Kinoshita Momoka.

13 members perform in this stage, a slight increase from the 10-member cast that the teams currently use. These members included: Abe Wakana, Izumi Ayano, Kamenon Zion, Kawakami Chihiro, Kojima Karin, Sakata Misaki, Sakurada Ayaka, Shiotsuki Keito, Shinzawa

Link to a digest version of the stage on YouTube



# NMB48 3rd Stage



Nao, Jonishi Rei, Deguchi Yuina, Haga Rei, and Yamamoto Mikana. All of them are currently senbatsu members from the group's 29th single "Kore ga Ai na no ka?" with Shiotsuki and Sakata as centers for both the stage and the single. Izumi was announced as captain for this stage and Kameno was announced as vice captain.

According to group producer Kenmotsu, the stage's name "Tenshi no Utopia" is a callback to the group's previous original stage "Koko ni Datte Tenshi wa Iru" in which the idea of an idol group debuting in Osaka was unheard of. Osaka is more commonly known for its comedy scene. Since NMB's debut in 2010, more and more idol groups have become active in the city. NMB has cemented its place as an icon of the city, ha-

ving appeared in local TV shows and events, baseball games, promoting local businesses, and even being involved in government activities including the upcoming World Expo next year which will be taking place in Osaka.

The setlist consists of a range of different styles of songs. Kicking things off is "OUR STORY," an upbeat and uplifting track that hypes you up and sets the tone for the rest of the show. After that is "Aoi Haru yo" a modern song that sounds like a song from one of the Sakamichi groups.

The next song has a costume change where the members remove their typical-looking uniforms and change to red snakeskin two piece outfits with exposed midribs. These costumes go along with the suggestive, mature vibe of the next song "Aidentity." They chose to use faux snakeskin for these costumes because the Osaka World Expo next year will also be "the Year of the Snake." The last song of the opening block is "Route 48," an upbeat, rockabilly, vintage style song reminiscent of 1950s American pop culture.

The next block of songs consists of the units. The first unit song is a typical, cute, idolish song called "Kimi wa Alien" performed by Jonishi Rei, Sakata Misaki, Haga



Rei, and Sakurada Ayaka. They all wear shiny colored maid costumes for this song. The next song is the very eccentric techno bop “Chuute Gyutte Gutto” which was composed by former NMB member Kinoshita Momo. It’s a duet performed by Yamamoto Mikana and Shinzawa Nao. The members wear cute costumes with a bondage-like accents. Both members even wear handcuffs which leads to them handcuffing each other and then a very climatic surprise at the end.



The next unit song is called “SPARK” and is a funky, city pop song performed by Abe Wakana, Izumi Ayan, Kamen Zion, Kawakami Chihiro, Shiotsuki Keito, Deguchi Yuina. The members for this unit wear loose street fashion that complements the groovy vibe of the song. Finally, Kojima Karin sings a solo song called “Utsukushiku Hageshiku Saku.” This is cool and epic that suits the cool ikemen captain of the group.

After the units, there is another costume change where the members repurposed costumes from the group’s 19th single “Boku Datte Naichau yo.” Six of the members perform “Bokura wa Mada” which was composed by former NMB member Yamamoto Sayaka. This song sounds very much like one of Sayanee’s solo songs and each performer gets their own solo sections in the song. Kojima, Shiotsuki, Sakata, and Haga all collaborated with Sayaka when composing the song.

The rest of the members come out and perform “Wakiyaku Gakusei Z.” This is a poppy idol song that leans into gyaru fashion and school delinquent style.

Following that is the titular “Tenshi no Utopia” which has the very classic 48-style sound and vibe. And has a similar upbeat charm as “OUR STORY.” This song also has a callback to the group’s previous stage song “Koko Datte Tenshi ni Iru” with the same angel wing flapping choreography.

The next song “Zenbu Dakishimero” gets crowd hyped again with its upbeat and enthusiastic punk rock style.

The final song of this block is the somber “HOME Zutto Tomodachi” which hits longtime NMB fans with nostalgia. This song is part remix and part reimagining of the classic NMB song “Tomodachi.” The first three-fourths of this song are new with the final fourth being the exact same as the old NMB song. This was the only “original song” that Akimoto Yasushi was credited with in this stage.

The encore of the stage is kicked off by “Tsunagi Uta Sekai no Kuni kara Konnichiwa.” This is a trance-style pop song that incorporates lyrics from the theme song of the 1970 World Expo in Osaka in its chorus which hammers in the group’s slogan “Osaka kara sekai e” (From Osaka to the world).

The members then perform the group’s latest single “Kore ga Ai na no ka?” During the encore, members are wearing loose school uniforms similar to the uniforms they wear for this single.

Following that is a medley of classic NMB songs that were all composed by Carlos K. This medley includes “Koi wo Isoge,” “Boku Dake no Secret Time,” and “Boku Igai no Dareka.”

The final song of the stage is “Eien no Melody.” It’s a hypnotic, soothing song that lingers with you after it ends.

The fan response to the stage has been overwhelmingly positive, many calling it “kami” or “godlike.” At the time of this writing, the stage has only been performed three times. It seems to be performed on a bi-weekly schedule with the current performers consisting solely of members from the 29th single senbatsu. Hopefully more members will be able to perform this stage in the future.

Due to novelty of the original stage, the scarce number of performances, and its positive reception, winning tickets for this show has been extremely difficult. Tickets are currently being sold through a lottery system for NMB48 Mobile fan club subscribers, a general lottery, and general first-come first served sales on the FANY website. Currently, the special inbound tourist tickets are not being sold for this show but hopefully that will change in the future.



## About Naachan's YouTube video

TRIGGER WARNING: DIETING/WEIGHT LOSS/WEIGHT.



I'm not a fan of the above video, and when she talked about these dieting days in real time on her fanclub, I was also put off. You can see in this video she started at 44.5kg and went down to 43.4kg after one day of dieting. At that body weight, +1kg is quite a lot to lose within a single day, but at the same time, this is not actual fat cells or anything like that. It's just water weight.

She then gave in to one of her cravings and the next day, she weight 42.9kg (lost an additional half kilo!) and you can see, as she reads the numbers on the scales, she sighs and says "yappari..." (something like 'after all,' 'of course (it's like this)...'), so as a penalty, she extends the diet. I remember when she mentioned on the FC that she messed up her diet and

would't implement a penalty, everyone was freaking out what this penalty could be. She only told us the next day that it means adding another day to the diet - I, for one, was worried it would be the most extreme (i.e. purging), some others wondered if she would work out really hard.

After an additional day of dieting, she was at 42kg. That's -2.5kg in just 3 days, that's over 5.6% in 3 days. The recommended weight loss is about 1% body weight per week, so basically at least twice as long. That amount of weight should have taken her at least 5 weeks if it were healthy weight loss - and additionally, as I said, it's not even body fat she's losing, it's just water weight that's gonna be back by tomorrow.

Naachan herself has said she doesn't have an eating disorder anymore and she's also currently not taking any medication for any of her other conditions. She's talked about being better, feeling better, sleeping better (but feeling sleepy a lot), and she does go out for meals with friends and family, but this video is showing that she clearly still has a lot of problems with her weight, the number itself, and is still rather obsessed with it all. I still continue to pray for her improvement.

*bonjourmarlene*

## Exploring the world of AKB48's Janken Tournaments



AKB48, renowned for being a girl group with over 100 members, has a penchant for coming up with creative, but eyebrow raisingly strange events.

From general elections for every member to sports tournaments that could give the Olympics a run for their money, AKB48 is a prime example of Japanese modern culture's love for leaving foreigners at a loss of words by its strange nature. Additionally, the game of rock-paper-scissors - a game played collectively by everyone in the world is seen as a settler of petty disputes, and could even be perceived as a gambling strategy, but let's stick with settler for disputes for now.

Hypothetically, if AKB48 had a lovechild with rock-paper-scissors, it would be AKB48's Janken tournaments. AKB48's じゃんけん大会 (Janken Takai) is a large-scale rock-paper-scissors tournament where selected members are randomly shuffled to different battles where they fight each other in a game of rock-paper-scissors with the winner advancing to the next round. Naturally, the winner of the tournament will get to receive a prize, whether it's a solo debut, a center position in a single, or even the formation of a new unit.

The first ever Janken Takai held was in 2010, where it was announced that the 16 members for the 19th AKB48 single will be selected through the Janken Tou-



Mayuchi's center single  
Chance no Junban

rnament, with the winner getting to be the center of the single and the top 16 members getting to feature in the A-side of the single.

Relatively-unknown member Mayumi Uchida appears victorious in the end, being given the center position for the single 'Chance no Junban'. However, by having a relatively unknown member featuring as the center of the single, the Janken tournament came with a cost, with the single not selling as much as anticipated.

Due to this, many people started to suspect that AKB48 was starting to rig the next tournaments after, with popular member Matsui Jurina winning by only using paper the entire tournament. It was not only the fourth Janken tournament when AKB48 stopped giving out a spot in the single as a prize and opted for much smaller scale prizes, such as the formation of a unit, solo debut, etc.

Rigged or not rigged, at the end of the day, there is only one way to settle it; じゃんけんぽん!!

Some winners from AKB48  
Janken Tournament 2017  
and their sub-units

# WHERE ARE THE ANGELS ON OUR EARTH?

僕たちの地球、天使はどこにいる？

GRADUATED  
MEMBERS



Here I want to tell you about the smaller sub-units that came out of the 48 groups and only have one single.



## KISS NO TENPURA - BOKUTACHI NO CHIKYUU

This is probably my favorite song from a sub-unit winner. The fictional band Kiss no Tenpura really shows the girls singing abilities and cuteness in this colorful poprock song from writer Fukuta Takanori and arranger "Masa".

The unit with Miyazaki Miho, Kitahara Rie and Oya Shizuka fits the members extremely well. All the girls get to shine, and especially Myao as the lead singer and "guitarist". She has such a nice voice in some solo parts of the song (and I really understand how she came that long in Produce 48). Oya's and Kitahara's unique voices really fit well together alongside Miyazaki's and the male voice choir in the refrain.

I love how the MV shows a story, and it really feels like it could have been a real Japanese girl rock group in the veins of SCANDAL and Elfriede. To see the girls in these outfits feels so refreshing and cool, all the members got great gear on them. The MV really rem-



minds me of music videos from the 90's with Green Day and Millencolin. That bright neon color mixed with story scenes in black and white with a lot of goofing off and laughter. And of course the fisheye lens! I don't know why, but 2:37 min in the video have the most cute one second scene I have seen of Kitarie.

I still dream of a movie or tv drama with this unit, it would have fitted them so well. The band struggling to get gigs and such, I can vision Shiichan getting trouble to get the keyboard to work and Myao buying a new bike... But yeah at least we got this cute song and video that I feel nostalgic and melancholic about. ►



## FAIRY W!NK - TENSHI WA DOKO NI IRU?

Equally great but in a different way are Unjo Hirona's and Aramaki Misaki's Tenshi wa Doko ni Iru? from the sub-unit fairy w!nk. The song and unit flirts with the real J-pop idol duo Wink from the late 80's with two karaoke albums with the names Fairy Tone and Fairy Tone II. This is a true 80's pop song but with a more modern touch in sound. The visuals look really cool.



HKT48's 3rd gen Mirun who is still going strong after 10+ years and Nappi are also a perfect fit for the song and stylish, cute MV. They show their cute idol sides as well as a more serious and dark side of themselves. The melancholic tone and 80's sound fit their soft voices very well. This is a song I play pretty frequently and always seem to come back to. I love the catchy refrain and arrangement by APAZZI and composer Toyama Daisuke. It was really nice to see this song being performed on Nappi's graduation concert last October. Not that I was there, but I saw the grad concert video.

*theamazingdaveman*

## THE IMAGE OF AKB48

**Out of all the groups I follow, AKB probably has the least cohesive concept.**



**What exactly is their image?**

**They're idols you can meet,**

but they're not the only ones by far anymore, many idols offer handshake meetings.

What do Yuri and Yuiyui have in common? I feel like they're very different personalities from one another, although they're both pretty, the interesting thing about Yuri is more performance based and Yuiyui is more about building relationships with her fans. Even historically, Acchan and Sasshi, the eternal ace and the sousenkyo queen, couldn't be more different from one another. Also Yuko and Acchan were quite different from each other, and so were Sasshi and Mayuyu from one another. Isn't the appeal of AKB to have a really huge group with lots of different kinds of idols? If they're all the same, what's the point?

AKB48 has done songs with all kinds of concepts. We've had choir songs like Sakura no Shiori or Negai-goto no Mochigusare (the latter I really love as well),

70's disco vibe (Halloween Night, Jabaja), poprock (GIVE ME FIVE), the sex appeal that made them famous (bikini singles like PonyShushu, Sayonara Crawl, Labrador Retriever, etc.) is completely gone now; we've had "noise music" like UZA, we've had songs with really dark and serious lyrics (Keibetsu Shiteita Aijou) and also cute, upbeat love songs (Hebirote, KFC).

Even outside of that, AKB48 hasn't been consistent. Some members have been kicked out or graduated because of dating scandals, other members were asked to stay and just ignore it. The Soukantoku says AKB doesn't have a dating ban, but the traditional fans still want the girls to uphold a dating ban and get mad when that "rule" is broken. Are they traditional or not?

Even since the new era they haven't been consistent. They did two dance heavy singles (NmHmR and MKd), then super cute old school with HisaLip, DouSuki and AiNanka were more "royal" and less bubblegum again.

Personally, with the recent promotional image and looking back at the previous singles (especially DouSuki), I think AKB is gearing towards a school girl concept again, which I think is good. The group doesn't have an actual image or concept right now, and I'm not sure they ever did (at least not a long-term one).

*bonjourmarlene*



# Just something I noticed...

## You know it's kinda interesting that 13th Gen member Iwatate Saho...

is pretty much the same age as former 1st Gen member Masuyama Kayano.

They're both born in the year 1994 and everything. To think that Saho-chan would've been old enough to audition for the 1st generation of AKB48 if she wanted to. Kayano-san was only ten at the time when she auditioned and made it into the group. So Saho-chan would've definitely been old enough to audition back then. And that's just mind-boggling to me. It's also funny how Kayano-san is the youngest 1st Gen member (and the youngest girl that ever auditioned at the time pre Oku Manami and Jurina-san) but Saho-chan is now currently the oldest member in AKB48 after Yukirin's graduation.

It's interesting to think that if Kayano-san ended up staying in the group to this day then she would've been like Yukirin in the sense that she's now the oldest member of them all. And she would've already been technically the "oldest" generation wise like how Mii-chan (1st Gen) was. Oh!! And Saho-chan is also one of Mii-chan's Team 4 children. It's just... the parallels of all this is honestly kind of insane... And it's crazy to think that in another universe entirely Saho-chan could've been a 1st Gen member instead.

Distinct\_Dot9717





GUIDE

# OFFLINE (IN-PERSON) TALKS

全員を選択する

This is based on the official guide at the following URL you can find in the QR code:



However this is also based on my own experiences at the event at Pacifico Yokohama on 2023/05/06 which was the first time the system was used (it might possibly get tweaked and be slightly different for future events).

## GETTING YOUR TICKETS

Tickets for the offline talks can be ordered in exactly the same way as for online ones at the AKB48 Official Shop: <https://shop.akb48.co.jp>

The differences start 9 days before the event when it's time to download your tickets to the WithLive website. Although you connect to the external Official Shop site in the same way as for online events (you go to <https://mg.withlive-app.com/external/entry> and enter your AKB48 Group ID and the telephone number on your account), in order to see your tickets you'll then need to select the menu option '電子チケット一覧' ('Electronic Ticket List') which takes you to [https://mg.withlive-app.com/offline\\_events](https://mg.withlive-app.com/offline_events).

For confirmation, you do not use the WithLive app for offline talks as you do with online ones, you use the Electronic Ticket List page in a web browser on your phone.

There you will see your ticket list which will look rather different to an online one - here's an example ticket:



The button on the left should be pressed to display a QR code to show to staff on arrival at the member's lane. However before that the red button can be pressed for some options to make some changes to your ticket(s) for that member at that slot. Three blue-bordered buttons will appear - in order from top to bottom these are as follows:

### 1. 'Divide'

If you have many tickets for a member you can split them into 2 or 3 lots so that you can meet her multiple times in a slot. For example, if you have 10 tickets you could split them

into 2 slots of 3 each and one of 4. Note that you can't use more than 3 tickets together for a member in the first 30 minutes of a slot so this could be used as a way around that restriction.

### 2. 'Put Together'

Let's say you bought 3 tickets for a member in one slot in one sales round, and then a couple or so weeks later you bought another 3 in a later round. These will appear as two separate tickets but you can use this option to combine them and use all 6 together in one visit (after the first 30 minutes of the slot).

### 3. 'Increase'

This is the option you would use to 'oshimashi' or transfer tickets to another member. Pressing on this gives a screen where you can select the number of tickets you wish to transfer and then the number of the slot in which you want to make the change in order to display a list of available members. Here's a couple of example screenshots taken from the official guide:



In the first picture the user has selected 5 tickets for Miion to be transferred (you can transfer all or part of your ticket allocation for the member, doing the latter allows you to transfer to more than one member if desired). A list of available members for the 5th slot (in this case) is shown.



AKB48 Official Shop

# - How to use the new WithLive e-ticketing system



Note that members who are sold out or nearly so are not available to transfer to - if in doubt and you're at the venue look to see which members have a red star on their lane signs, this shows availability for transfer. In the second picture the user has transferred 5 tickets to Manaka and would then press the green button to confirm. A new e-ticket for her would then appear in the user's list.

Note that if a member for whom you have tickets is absent on the day, an alert message with red text will appear on the relevant e-ticket.

## AT THE LANE

When it's time to meet a member, go to the start of their lane and present your phone to the staff member with the relevant QR code displayed (and also show your passport or other ID). He or she will scan the code with their iPad and assuming all is well they will press a green button on it which should make the code disappear on your phone and your e-ticket appear with a green button. (N.B. if this doesn't happen make the staff member aware but it should simply require a refresh of the browser screen.)

You then move forward to the member's booth. There you show your phone again to another staff member who will press the green button to display two consecutive messages for his or her use, one of which confirms the number of tickets to be used. This will leave the e-ticket with a bar saying '利用済み' ('used') as in the example below:



You will then quickly need to hide your phone in a pocket (but not a shirt one) or in your bag which you must leave on a table outside the booth (it's all perfectly safe!) and then when called forward by the staff member it's finally time to enjoy talking to your oshi. (Afterwards you just exit and find your next member's lane to repeat the process.)

Good Luck and Enjoy!

David61



NOT  
A

ばば

There was a major double standard when it came to the legendary former member Ohori Megumi.

She was completely treated like crap during her time and constantly got called "Baba" (ばば) or "Oba-san" (おばさん) which means Old Woman/Grandma in Japanese even though she was only 25. She was just always the butt of every joke much like how Akimoto Sayaka and even Takamina were treated. Then she was threatened by Mr. Akimoto-san that if she didn't sell a total of 10,000 copies of her new single she would pretty much be fired from the group. And on top of that she was forced to wear the same revealing lingerie outfit that she wore in an MV while promoting, performing, and selling physical copies of her CD in public. And this was all documented and filmed on camera for the entire world to see. I swear her overall entire arc as an idol but especially during that time is truly inspiring and I really admire and respect Ms. Ohori's drive and hardworking spirit. Despite all the shit that was thrown towards her she never once gave up and kept on going and succeeded. I have so much utter respect for her and frankly she's one of my beloved oshi's too.

Also, I think this might've been one of the very first "emotional/impactful journey type of moments" to ever come out of AKB48 that was documented in this fashion if that makes any sense. And this was during the beginning stages and way before the abundance of



新聞に載せる写真撮影!!



10月で10年経つだけじゃ AKB48の道



アンタが言うなよ



documentaries that AKB48 had a few years down the line. But yeah it just goes to show that many of these idols, celebs, and influencers out here go through hell just for our entertainment and enjoyment. All while being in an intense cutthroat industry with so much competition all around.

When other members such as Yukirin-san and many others were able to continue their time within AKB48 even well past the age of 25 they were not treated in the way Ohori-san was treated. They weren't constantly getting bombarded with ageism and misogynistic comments/treatment. In fact, I'd argue that if it weren't for Ohori-san Yukirin probably wouldn't have been able to stay as long she did. It's just that Ohori mainly took all the slaps and punches because she was one of the first and she paved the way for other "otona" type of idols/members. And that members are allowed to still be members even when they're pushing 30 or 40. Ohori Megumi definitely broke down a huge barrier during her time within the 48 world whether she knew it or not.

She's a living iconic legend in her own right and she truly paved her way for so many to come through. Just my humble opinion.

Distinct\_Dot9717



# FORMER IDOLS AND AGENCIES



GRADUATED MEMBERS

**Long ago, I used to think that signing with an agency is the best thing that could happen to a member.**

Because during AKB's peak, members who signed to agencies would get more jobs, subunits, solo careers, solo works, acting, more TV appearances etc. but I realized after some years that it's not always like this... and probably AKB being at their peak was the reason why all the girls would get so much back then. The truth is, signing with an agency doesn't always make a difference... and I think that's what might have happened to Matsui Jurina.

There's also the fact that Jurina signed with an agency that is not very known, it seems. I mean, compared to other top members back then who all signed with popular agencies, Irving (which she left in December 31st, 2023) seemed kinda random... looking at their list of artists, it's not very long and it seems to be in majority Korean artists, with a few Japanese ones but I don't recognize any name.

Now something I also learned with time is that the type of agency (big agency or unknown agency) doesn't always give the result that was expected. For example, a lot of 48G girls signed with popular agencies and got tons of work, yes, but I've also seen some girls, like ex-AKB members, who signed to those same big agencies and pretty much did nothing and then quit... and it's the same for small agencies, of course, it often happens that if someone signs with an unknown agency, it doesn't go anywhere because the agency just doesn't have the power to really promote someone. but it also sometimes happens that a small agency has good connections in the industry or that they decide to focus everything on the artists that they have, so things go well...

In Jurina's case, it feels like she signed to an agency that is not very known, and that they also didn't do

much for her. I'm not sure if it's completely their fault, or maybe there is something about Jurina, she wanted to have a break, or maybe they didn't get along on some things, who knows... but the result is that she wasn't really active. I don't follow her closely, but from what I see, she didn't do a lot of work in recent years, and she did have some period of hiatus.

A similar thing happened to Maeda Atsuko and I think it might be comparable to Jurina. So Acchan was signed with Ohta Pro since the times when she was in AKB. Everything was perfect back then of course, she got acting jobs, solo singing career etc. then she graduated and this all continued very well. But a few years later, there was a period of time where she didn't get many jobs. She talked about it in an interview later and explained that she had to change her mindset and go audition for small roles and basically revive her career. and that worked for her, I guess she managed to build a good reputation in the industry for accepting roles and not being demanding etc. And so, she started being extremely busy. Suddenly around 3 years ago, she left Ohta Pro after more than 10 years being with them... I was a little worried for her because I was wondering if she could continue being this active and getting this many jobs on her own. Well I underestimated her because yes she continued being as busy as ever! When I think about it, at the period of time where she didn't get a lot of jobs, it was from her own will and her own determination that she got out of it. So of course she can do it on her own, without the help of an agency.

I think something similar might be happening for Jurina now. But unlike Acchan, she wasn't busy in her agency... and it won't be hard to do better. She can definitely do better and that's probably what she's doing right now. People know her, so if she works hard and accept jobs here and there, it will revive her career and she can then be active in the industry. I'm glad for her that she seems to be doing better these days!

Mana

# JUST IDOLS LOOKING OUT FOR OTHER IDOLS

I love how there are so many former legendary 48 members that have now...

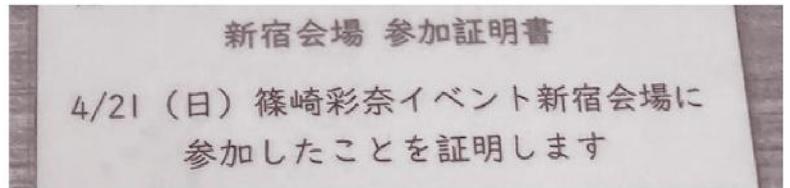
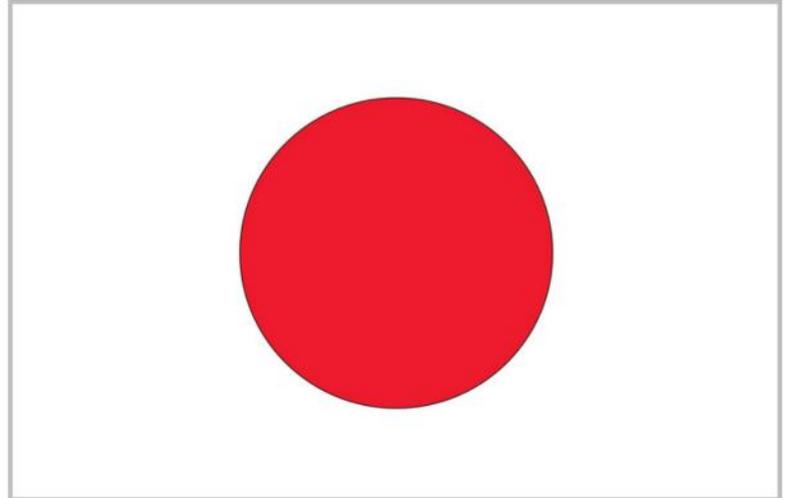
entered certain positions of mentorship or started their own mentoring businesses/workshops for upcoming/aspiring idols. With Juri-san's Consultation for aspiring K-Pop idols, Tomochin's Idol School for aspiring idols, Ms. Melody Nurramdhani Laksani becoming the General Theater Manager for JKT48, Matsui Jurina-san becoming the Playing Manager and member of the newest sister group KLP48, Sasshi-san operating her very own successful idol group called =LOVE, Mii-chan hosting for "Sayonara Mouri-san" and teaching members how to actually be funny and deliver a good laugh from the audience, and Uchida Mayumi-san opening up her own restaurant for these idols to chill and let loose after a hard days work as they drink the night away, LOL just kidding.

But seriously, I find it so cool and beautiful that a lot of these former idols have now become mentors and teachers for the next generation of idols/entertainers. And it proves that these idols are more than just two-dimensional idols and that they have so much to teach and learn from. They're putting all their experiences and what they've learned throughout the years to good use and I find that very admirable and commendable. Just idols looking out for other idols.

Distinct\_Dot9717



# DAVIDD61's JAPANTRIP



# Shinozaki Ayana

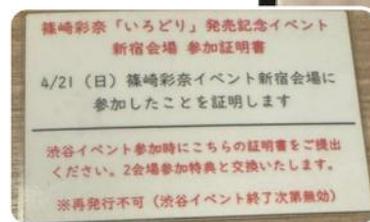
## PB handover at Book 1st Shinjuku

April 21st

### The first day of my latest trip to Japan and straight down to business.

When it was my turn I introduced myself from England and I told her that I had an online talk with her two years ago which not suprisingly she didn't remember (lol). I then congratulated her on her graduation from AKB, thanked her for the book and waved goodbye. She was very friendly and definitely very pretty, even more so than in photos and videos. Here's my copy of the book and a souvenir card which everyone received.

Then I headed for Shimbashi for the second event of the day:



# Taniguchi Megu

## 10th Anniversary Fan Meeting

This event was for her FC members only and was held in a small venue called Zeal Theater which I'd guess held about 100 people in the audience. On entry everyone was given a souvenir card and a chance to take a picture of her 10th Anniversary bouquet in the foyer.

The event itself was really a one-man Theater show which mostly consisted of Megu performing songs such as Shonichi, Namida no Hyomen Choryoku and Heart Gata Virus as well as Oogoe Diamond. She announced that she'd started to learn the guitar and although she'd only been learning it for a month she was able to accompany herself on an acoustic performance of Give Me Five.

There was an MC in which she talked about her career and then later on she walked through the audience so we could take photos.

As can be seen I attracted quite a lot of attention from her (I appeared to be the only foreigner there) and I got more attention at the end as everyone filed past her at her send-off! Although it was supposed to be just a quick wave she said to me in English "Have a



nice day!" and I replied that I'd see her next weekend at the in-person talks which made her wave at me even more while staff-san tried to push me on but I wasn't going anywhere while I was getting this from her (lol). Anyway after a couple more seconds I relented and moved on.

So that was huge fun and a great start to my trip!

April 27th



## 63rd Single Offline Talk/HS Event, Pacifico Yokohama

This is a report of the first of two long days this weekend so I'll try and keep it as brief as possible.

Just to say that all booths still had clear partitions separating members from fans but this time it was possible to shake hands through a gap at the bottom, however all members wore disposable gloves.



### Akiyama Yuna

First up was Yunachan who was wearing cute pink bunny ears and she was very happy for me to congratulate her on her first A-side senbatsu.



### Sato Airi

As with last year when I met Aichan she was very sweet and wore a pretty white ribbon in her hair.



### Omori Maho

Last year when I met Maho she seemed quiet but this time she was much livelier and asked me about travelling from the UK.



### Mizushima Miyuu

Mizumin was also very sweet and held tightly onto my hand when it was time to finish.



### Komiyama Haruka

My oshimen called out my name as I entered her booth and held both my hands. I congratulated her on starring in the Snow White drama and as usual she was very lovely and pretty.



### Taguchi Manaka

Manaka is very easy to talk with and I'm sure that's helped her popularity. I also complimented her on being chosen for 'Colorcon Wink'.



**Arai Sae**

Saechan was wearing a business suit which together with her gloves made her look like a croupier! I told her that I had a ticket for HADO Day 10 on Friday and that I'd support her team if she pushed the ball net in my direction.



**Hirata Yuki**

Yukinee really is stunningly beautiful when you're close up to her but as with last time I met her she seemed rather quiet and not the best talker, however she did have a very long line of fans..



**Oguri Yui**

OMG YuiYui remembered me from previous online talks! I was surprised but so was she when I told her I'd seen Girl's Drive and I enjoyed the movie!



**Hashimoto Eriko**

Erichan was wearing a school uniform type costume. I suddenly remembered that I hadn't prepared anything to say to her and instead we had a rather random but funny chat about Harry Potter.



**Kashiwagi Yuki**

Time for my last-ever talk with Yukirin who was looking very elegant. I congratulated her on her graduation, I said that she'd been an amazing member of the group and wished her very Good Luck for the future.

I was then about to leave but I suddenly realised I had one more slot with two ex-Eitos!



**Kurano Narumi**

Naru as always looked very pretty and cute. I congratulated her on becoming Soukantoku and she congratulated me on pronouncing it correctly!



**Hashimoto Haruna**

My liveliest meeting with a member came at the end of today! I told her that I always watched her Pyonmovies and we had a great chat which meant I could finish the day on a very high note.

So a very long and tiring day but amazing fun which was helped by a few promotion ceremonies for 17ki members but also by the presence in the main hall of a food truck selling large cone waffle ice creams which various members visited by walking past fans. Now I'll do it all again tomorrow, but with different members this time (apart from the 19ki again and also Komi once more.



The cover art of the Colorcon Wink Type A

April 28th

## 63rd Single Offline Talk/HS Event, Pacifico Yokohama

### My second day at the event:



#### Kohama Kokone

So beautiful but so quiet, yet she was sweet and friendly.



#### Nagatomo Ayami

Ayamin couldn't have been more different than Kokko! Very lively and very interested in my coming from the UK.



#### Fukuoka Seina

Seichan was indeed very beautiful to admire and certainly pleasant but we had a fairly ordinary chat.



#### Komiyama Haruka

More talk with my oshimen who was waving at me before I'd even entered her booth! I asked her about buying gifts at her sister's cafe and then I told her that I'd be at her FC meeting on Saturday which resulted in a lovely big smile from her.



#### Iwatate Saho

Sahho greeted me with 'yahho' so I think she's very used to people greeting her like that! Another fairly ordinary chat, mostly about her past B-sides.



#### Taniguchi Megu

The last of seven HS meetings I've had with her since 2016. Of course she remembered me from last week's FC meeting and I complimented her on her guitar playing there which she's learning. As she did at that event she said to me "Have a nice day" as I was leaving which is something I'll always remember.



#### Narita Kohina

Kohi is not only very pretty to see close-up but we had a very nice talk, she was very friendly and keen to ask about me.



#### Mukaichi Mion

Sadly my least good meeting of the day, she seemed to be unhappy about something and somehow I found myself struggling with speaking Japanese with her.



#### Suzuki Kurumi

I wondered if I should talk about her gravure? But when I said I liked her photos in 'Shupure' she gave me a very happy reaction and we had a very nice end to the talk.



#### Chiba Erii

My past online and offline talks hadn't gone so well with Erii so this time I thought I'd talk about her center A-side 'Hisashiburi no Lip Gloss' and she was definitely very happy that I liked it.



#### Takahashi Ayane

As expected I found Ayane to be very sweet and pretty and definitely looking much younger than 26!



#### Murayama Yui

Yui asked how I pronounce my name but we spent a little too much time talking about that and not enough about her new stage but I told her I enjoyed watching it online.



#### Sakagawa Hiyuka

Hiyuka was looking very pretty with a high ponytail. I told her that I watched her Shinkansen videos from her home prefecture of Fukui and we did her train dispatch salute together.



#### Yamauchi Mizuki

I've also had some mixed results with talks in the past with Zukkii but this time I talked with her about 'Girl's Drive'. She was very pleased that I'd seen it and we finished by doing gunshot gestures together.



#### Hotei Moka

Definitely the cutest member of 17ki and so lovely to talk to.

So to today's final slot and I found myself with two strong fishers!



**Masai Mayuu**

She held both my hands as I entered her booth and while I was telling her that I was a fan of 17ki I found that she was rubbing my hands and giving me very strong eye-contact! Also she's very surprisingly pretty when seen close up.



**Tokunaga Remi**

And finally to Remi who also gave me very strong eye-contact while saying "ah you're English" in a very nice voice.

That wasn't quite the end of the day as I stayed on for Yukirin's HS graduation ceremony. After her final slot finished she reappeared holding a bouquet and while some of the other members who were at today's final session looked on she made a short speech and then there was a series of photos as she moved along the crowd of fans with her manager taking photos and Miion taking a video. The other members then took photos of her, then they all gathered with her for more pics. Finally she left the event hall to chants of her name.

So ended two long but very happy days for me - and just to add that that for me there was the very rare event that everyone who I had tickets for were present and I didn't have to 'oshimashi'.



Pacifico Yokohama

**Tadaima Renaichuu**  
AKB48 Theater

**My AKB entertainment continued today with winning a ticket for this performance.**

To add to my luck I was in one of the first ticket groups to be called out in the lottery which meant I got a second row seat although over to the left side so I couldn't quite see the full stage because of the pillar, however I did get really excellent close-up views of the members as they moved around during the performance and came over to my side.

All of the members seemed to be having a lot of fun and their mood is captured in this official cast photo (@akb\_trainee48 on X) from today.



Cast: Mizumin, Erichan, Yuichi, Yukitan, Nonchan, Kasumin, Chanhina and Hotechan

Mizumin had her hair in cute twin side buns as can be seen in the photos.

My favourite performance was Junai no Crescendo with Mizumin, Yuichi and Chanhina which was preceded by Haru ga Kuru Made with Nonchan and Yukitan in very pretty flowery yellow dresses.

All 8 members performed well but if I had to give a vote to the best one I think it would be Kasumin, she looked to me to be the most confident on stage. ▶

► My personal favourites were Mizumin and Hotechan who seemed to be more often over on my side of the stage, and yes they seemed to remember me from the weekend's HS and I got smiles in my direction from both of them. I also got recognised by Erichan but she seemed to be more over to the other side of the stage. Also Nonchan showed interest in me and I'm sorry now that I didn't have HS tickets for her this weekend.

At the send-off all 8 members stood in a line on the stage waving at the fans as they left with Hotechan saying 'arigatou gozaimasu' over and over again which was sweet and also quite funny! When it was my turn to walk past, Chanhina shouted out 'thank you' to me in English and although everyone is only meant to have 1-2 seconds with each member, Mizumin spent a little longer with me and we exchanged 'hearto' signs. A very nice end to a marvellous show.

Finally here's a couple of photos from the Theater lobby from today.



And a member photo which sadly will be disappearing in just 24 hours from now

May 3rd

## AKB48 Chou Tenkaichi HADO-kai - Soshite Densetsu he DAY 10



**I was very surprised and delighted to win a ticket for this event...**

...so this evening I found myself heading for the HADO Arena in Odaiba. On arrival after showing my ticket I was given a bag of plastic balls to put in the members' nets as they came round between games. At the time I applied for a ticket I wasn't sure who to support so I chose the neutral 'DD' seats but last Saturday at HS I found myself promising Saechan that I'd support Team Believe.

And I'm pleased that I did as they beat Pokkemuri in the first round with a 5-3 victory. In the other first round game there was a very close 5-4 win for HoteiSokudo who were able to maintain their shields until the end of their last game against Akirametara with Kasumin being very emotional in victory at the end.



The final was therefore between Believe and Hotei-Sokudo which came to a thrilling climax in the last game. HoteiSokudo were 3-2 ahead after the second game but the third one was tied at 2-2 with 7 seconds left when Mayuu scored 2 late points to make the final score 4-2 and the overall points total 6-5 to Believe who claimed the trophy.





## Kitchen Car

### Daisakusen Event at LUMINE Yurakucho with Naru and Erii

**Today's big event for me was Komi's FC meeting but before that a little detour:**

Thanks to a post on Discord from [@xabizalla96](#) I discovered that Naru and Erii would be attending a special event for TV Asahi's show 'Kitchen Car Daisakusen' at the LUMINE Yurakucho store at 11am this morning which would involve them giving free meals to the first 150 people who lined up. I got there at about 10.45 and there was already a long line of people waiting in the 26C heat so I decided to wait across the street in the shade in the hope of at least seeing the activity.

What actually happened was that the food bowls were handed out from the food truck to the two members who then gave them to each person in the line as they came forward in front of the TV cameras. However not only was fan photography banned at the event but the main activity at the food truck was largely hidden from sight anyway.



About halfway through both members sat and took a rest, and this time I had a clearer view of them so I waved at Erii who spotted me and seemed to recognise me from last weekend's HS as she looked surprised to see me! She then smiled and waved back.

Time now for a short hop on the Yamanote Line for today's main event.

I hope I helped Believe's victory in a small way with giving my plastic balls to Saechan - when it was time for the members to come around to collect them with the nets, for both times when it happened with Believe I waved to Saechan on the stage and she waved back and she made sure she came over to me. However when Akirametara were playing their first game, Hi-yuka came along the aisle where I was sitting and she was unsuccessful in collecting anything. Then she spotted me and she obviously remembered me from Sunday's HS as she pointed her net straight at me! I didn't catch what she said to me but people sitting around me laughed, so yes I gave her one of my plastic balls. How could I refuse her!

After the final presentation there was a send-off when the audience walked past each of the 12 members so it was another chance for me to briefly greet Saechan. The last member in line was Hi-yuka who called out 'Thank You' to me in English. That was very sweet of her and I'll definitely buy some online talk tickets for her for the next single.

For me a very different and very fun AKB event!!





# Komiyama Haruka

## Komi Festival FC Meeting

**This event took place at the Zeal Theater in Shimbashi,**

the same venue as for Megu's fan meeting which I attended two weeks ago.

A nice touch on each seat was a signed card from Komi addressed to the person sitting there.

Komi was wearing a pale yellow long dress and began by singing a solo performance of 'Idol Nanka Janakattara' followed by a medley of Jpop covers which unfortunately I didn't recognise. Then it was photo time and she came through the audience so we could all take pictures, and I took a lot, these are just some of them (you can find them on the Stage48 forum).



**And then the dream moment** came when my oshimen was looking directly into my camera.

After that, Komi performed songs from her Snow White and Queen musicals as well as dancing to the duet song she performed with Ayanan in the movie 'Nibihiro Chocolatville Biennale'. Her voice in her song performances was absolutely perfect and I was really



quite honestly moved. She showed off so well today her talent and while I hope of course that she doesn't graduate I do also wonder what great opportunities might await her outside of AKB48.

All too soon it was time to end and as everyone filed out she gave each fan a keyring with her photo on and waved everyone goodbye, but I had the honour of her both saying my name to me and pronouncing it correctly!

So ended my last AKB-related event of this wonderful trip and I hope in my heart that I can meet Komi at least one more time.

**David61**



# NEW SHIP

17th, 18th and 19th generation



あの夏の防波堤  
**Ano Natsu no Bohatei**

The long-awaited MV is finally here.

**School Uniform + Beach + Summer + Running = THE IDOL feels!**

Amazing MV for the new generation, hopefully we'll have more of these in the future!

If there's anything to nitpick, it feels a bit more biased to the two centers' story, instead of more screentime for everyone else.

But hey, that's the same thing everyone's been saying for every other MV from the golden era.

Here are some tidbits I found that I'd like to share.

donjinnie

The "Bouhatei" (The Breakwater)  
location: 36°23'08.6"N 140°37'15.0"E  
A breakwater in Ibaraki prefecture:





### The dance scene and other scenes

location: 36°13'14.4"N 140°33'42.4"E

The building is とちぎ海浜自然の家 (Lit: Tochigi Seaside Nature House) in.....not Tochigi but in Ibaraki, a bit further south from the breakwater.

It's some kind of activities camp for kids/adults with lots of facilities - [tochigikaihin.jp](http://tochigikaihin.jp)

The building is partly shown in the MV, and they danced at the courtyard(?) facing the sea.

### The library scene is also in the same place, inside the building:



Credits:

[https://x.com/hamu\\_masa/status/1797969741170286947](https://x.com/hamu_masa/status/1797969741170286947)

Credits:

[https://x.com/4846\\_\\_group/status/1797962606638149997](https://x.com/4846__group/status/1797962606638149997)

### Also regarding the uniform difference:

I see that they are consistent with referencing the colors they've assigned for each generation (mintgreen for 17ki and lavender for 18ki), as well as keeping the accessories similar to their KKS uniforms (ribbon for 17ki, and ties for 18ki)

In her showroom Azu says the paper they ripped and scattered in the end was all water-soluble so don't worry about pollution. AKB48 is environmental-friendly she says.



# MVメイキング



## Some personal

01. Hotechan introducing the contents of her bag like a youtuber, and this chick doll is named "Kasumin".



### Making/Behind-the-scenes

Just watched the making video, and I think it's **something you should definitely watch after the MV!**

The ones who didn't get much screen time in the MV were featured a lot! There were lots of fun interactions and screen time for everyone, and plenty of Hotechan scenes too, so I'm happy now.

donjonnie

04. **The three chatty girls** that noticed AichanxAzu close-ness in the story. (Eriko, Yukinee, and Mizumin's roles).



05. **Aichan confronted Azu about her AiAiGasa doodle** (Love Umbrella doodle).



06. **Yukitan, a college graduate, teaching a high-school girl Yumemin some English.**

Here's how it went:



09. **Sorara and Mayuu surprised Yukitan with a birthday cake!** This confirms that the MV shooting was done on March 27, 2024, on Yukitan's birthday.



10. Lastly, Mayuu revealed that they can't actually see the stars and had to act like they are seeing them. So the beautiful starry sky in the MV is actually a lie!



Q1. これはリンゴです。\*  
Yumemin: Your apple.  
Yukitan: This is apple.

Q2. あれは私のものです。\*\*  
Yumemin: That my MONO.  
Yukitan: That mine.

Yukitan could do a little better, but certainly good enough to teach Yumemin here.

\*This is an apple.  
\*\*That's mine.

# ly cute 17ki highlights!

02. Masaru fell asleep for real while waiting for her turn. Apparently all of them hadn't really slept the night before due to excitement and this MV shooting process started early in the morning, before 6AM.



03. Kokko was feeling great though!!



07. "This is pretty much Guam." says Eriko here. Remember that this is just a simple beach in Ibaraki.



08. Nonchan and Sorara trying to figure out who's the Hare Onna (The girl that brings the clear sky) among the members.

Apparently the day before had had huge rain and that MV shooting day was supposed to be raining too, according to weather prediction.



▶ Reference: the starry sky in the MV



AKB48  
Team 8

IN APR 8 THEATER  
MC, AZU SAYS...



she would like to join  
Team 8, but...

Q: Even if it's just a fantasy,  
what do you want to join?

Azu: I want to join Team 8.  
Their songs are fun!

Naru: Let's see you do Team  
8's pose! By the way, where  
are you from?

Azu: Tokyo...

translation by @nagekinohina on X

Well Tokyo is big so it's okay to  
have two representatives for it?

Totally agree with her that Team 8  
songs are fun and should be  
passed down as the original mem-  
bers slowly graduating. Songs, as  
well as the spirit of Team 8.

I bet Azu will slay with Jitabata  
song, hopefully we'll see it!

Even her name 八木愛月 has the  
Eito kanji in it! (八 means number  
8).

donjonnie

SHOWROOM

2024年06月04日 SHOWROOM

Azu streamed last night...

and commented on the recently released MV! She is wearing her couple outfit she has with Hina. The MV was filmed on a very cold cold cold day in March. Seem to have some kind of interesting relationship with Aichan in this MV. Glad she could do a little acting. Really hopes new people can discover this song since its so special for her!! The first song 18ki was in.. and her w-center! Very fresh song and youth feeling MV! She wants people take a good look at the sad expression she makes in the MV! Apparently the letter Aichan has is from her boyfriend from Tokyo? And Azu loves Aichan so... it hurts to see her so sad! But in the end, they are just like.. forget it.. and HAPPY ENDING (my kind of ending). Another good scene was when Azu picked up the letter and was torn up inside to read it.. Azu did her best to make a sad expression here.

Because Azu respects Aichan so much  
in real life, she could act out all these  
emotions very well.

Apparently the letter she ripped  
up was also biodegradable?

It was so cold for the bike sce-  
nes, her hands, legs, face were  
all frozen!

Talked a bit about the last 4  
stops of the tour in Kanagawa. She  
saw that many people were sad that  
they couldn't get tickets to the other  
stops so go apply for this!! (I also applied). Her

unit songs are usually cool songs or dance songs... perhaps she will change it  
up for the tour? Look forward to it! Loves the visual poster that was just  
released, everyone looks so cute (I agree), wishes everyone good luck on the  
ping pong, hopefully wishing someone will pick her for the 2shot cheki.

otabe



AZU SHOWROOM  
04/06/24



## Forty-Eight Times

# AKB48 研究生 伊藤百花 SHOWROOM

## Cute bun hair style today!

Another entry into the many hair styles of Itomomo. She had a drama shoot today so she already had the double bun from her character's hair so she just tied it into a single bun! They have been filming quite often early in the morning lately so she is mega busy lately.

Really loves the tour logo pastel colors! So excited for it to start!!

Has alot mosquito bites on her arms she got from drama filming, also some sunburn.

Advocates again for everyone to watch the drama!! She has to wake up at 4am tomorrow to go film again.

She talks to Aichan the most during filming since they do share alot scenes together as the 2 leads. They have alot close physical scenes together... like the forehead telepathy stuff. They also hug and warm each other up when it's cold.

Someone in chat asks if they can do the telepathy stuff at hs event. Momoka quickly says they cant with the foreheads but we can do it with the hands!

Very comfortable filming now for the drama. Was a nervous wreck in the beginning but quickly became a PRO.

Since filming is so early in the morning, she cant eat breakfast at home. So she's been eating tuna mayo onigiri at the combini. Prefers onigiri stuff compared to the bread stuff at combini. Loves soba! Often goes to soba shop with her family.

Her fav rakugo artist is Shunputei Ichinosuke.

Still trying to get the hang of dobon, chat is teaching her alot of the terms from the game. She's sad she doesn't have much time lately to play but she will try to squeeze in some if she can...

Drama ended early today so she ate an acai bowl at home... so healthy! The bento at today's drama filming was chicken. Mahopyon was eating the second option, omette and salmon and it made Momo kinda jealous.

Lately really likes passion citrus tea from Starbucks, used to drink alot of chai tea latte.

otabe

## ITOMOMO ANSWERED...



## some questions for 48times, here's a little summary!

Itomomo doesn't remember when she first learned about AKB, it's always been around her life! She learned Koi Suru dance faster than anyone in the 4th grade from watching videos on her ipad (what a KID).

She auditioned for AKB because she received courage from idols and wanted to be in a position to give it to others too.

Before her intro stage at the concert, she was very scared but performing on it was very fun! She felt very warmly welcomed by the fans.

Admires Maho, she loves her face and her talking ability.

She wants to talk to Zucky who dancing she loves.

Of 48g graduated members, she admires Oshima Yuko who does idol and acting! Itomomo wants to follow the same path of idol and acting.



Oshima Yuko

► Wants to try dancing to Nemo Hamo and Oosawagi Tengoku. She is really interested in these dance songs!

Her fav song of the entire 48g is Oogoe Diamond.

A unit she wants to do is Heart Gata Virus.

Among her fellow 19ki, she believes she has the loudest voice!

Itomomo is not good at drawing. She like to draw but her ability is lacking... Favorite color is pink.

Of all 48g graduated member, she wants to meet Oshima Yuko.

If she ever centers an AKB48 song one day, she wants it to be a dance song. She is confidant in her dance skills and want to show it off! But rather than a cool dance song, she wants a kawaii dance song with pink frilly costumes.

If she wasn't an idol, she would have aim for a job that used English and communicates with people around the world. Apparently she is studying English at school!

Obsessed with cooking lately, she cooks for her family once a week.

Some self produced projects for 48times she wants to do are cosmetic/skincare one or a rakugo project.

otabe

AKB48



The favorite Oogoe Diamond



## AKB48'S NEW DRAMA HOSHIKUZU TELEPATH

**GREAT NEWS! Itomomo got one of the main roles in AKB's new drama Hoshikuzu Telepath!**



First of all, I'm so happy for her! She has some acting experience (stage plays) and I'm so glad we'll get to see her acting in AKB, and so fast after debut and she looks just adorable in these pictures! She is the only one smiling in the first picture. She looks sooo cute. It looks like there are 4 main roles, but 2 who are the leads, Aichan and Itomomo. And among all of them, Itomomo is the only one with a different outfit! So she really stands out. She's in pink + she has a very cute hairstyle that looks like Sailor Moon and I love the theme in these pictures, like space theme. it's an adaptation of a manga and the drama starts on 25th June. Reading the storyline, Aichan is Umika; the introverted girl who wishes to live on another planet - and Itomomo is Yu; the girl who pretends to be an alien and has some telepathic powers. That sounds like a fun story and I'm really looking forward to it. Itomomo's role sounds unique and a little weird, in a cute way! And with her styling, it's going to be very cute.

Itomomo made a tweet about playing the role of Yu, she said that she will do her best to make people fall in love with Yu.

Mana



## More information about **Itomomo's** role in **Hoshikuzu Telepath!**

### **AKEUCHI YU**

PLAYED BY **ITO MOMOKA**

**Role:** She's Umika's classmate. She calls herself an "alien" who has no memory of her arrival on Earth, and that she just woke up wearing an uniform in a lighthouse. She has a special ability unique to aliens called "Forehead Pathy", which allows her to read someone's feelings by putting her forehead against the other person's.

**Itomomo's comment:** I was determined to try everything I could and I immediately decided to audition, and I was filled with surprise, thinking "I never thought I would be able to play the role of Yu-chan!". I love acting, so I'm very happy that I will be able to do a lot of acting in the future. I thought "Stardust Telepath" is a sparkling youth story, partly because of the "space" theme. Also, all the characters have completely different personalities, and each of them grows a lot through the story, so there are so many attractive characters, and I felt "I can't decide which character is my favorite!". I am very happy to be involved in such a wonderful work.

The character I will be playing, Akeuchi Yu, is an alien, but I felt that her bright and honest personality is similar to my own, so I would like to play the role by using my bright and loud voice. I also know that Yu-chan is very sensitive and observes her surroundings better than anyone else, so I want to play her more carefully than I normally would. This is my first time to act in a TV drama, so I am very nervous, but I will do my best to make you love Yu-chan!



THE DRAMA  
WILL BEGIN ON  
**JUNE 25TH**

The 4 main girls played by  
**Mahopyon, Sorara, Aichan and Itomomo**





# Mangaka Stream

## OOKUMA RASUKO'S CHARACTER PROFILE PRESENTATION



**This video is actually by the original author of Hoshikuzu Telepath, Ookuma Rasuko herself!**

She even has her VTuber avatar wearing AKB's costume, can you guess which one?

She put quite an effort and put everyone's profiles on her powerpoint slides, and went through them one by one while getting more, deeper details from fans.



She also nicely draw connections between the girls' details and their roles, some matched pretty well!

For example, she told the drama staff to change the goggles if it doesn't seem to be realistic, but she was surprised they found a girl that matches Matataki Raimon role so well even the goggles nicely fits her:



Her hyped up style of speaking is pretty unique and overall she seems to enjoy learning about the AKB girls with each of their unique cliches provided by the fans.

She hasn't met the drama casts at the time of the livestream, but she is planning to by using her "original creator exclusive rights".

Apparently some characters didn't originally have names and she gave them names for the drama.

Also some characters are still secret, like Mizumin's and Ayane's, for avoiding spoilers.

**x\_lambs said: \_**

*"There is a fictional lighthouse that features prominently in the anime. would/could they possibly film at THAT lighthouse?"*

This one from trailer:



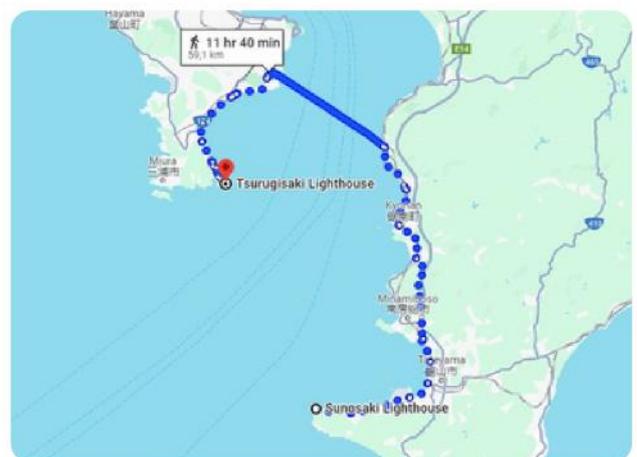
Close but no cigar.

It's not the Sunosaki

"Aitakatta" Light-

house, but another one just across the water, called

Tsurugisaki Lighthouse (剣埼灯台).



Do you guys think AKB will sing the opening/theme song of this drama? If so, will it be in the 64th single?

**donjonnie**

# AKB48 17 研究所!

STREAM

## 17KENKYUUJO #65 - ERIKO, MAYUU AND CHIYORI AS GUEST



**If you miss Chiyori, this is the episode you need to watch!**

**Why is Chiyori here?** Supposedly because Eriko jokingly said Chiyori as a senpai to be invited and staff unexpectedly gave it an OK.

Chiyori is imparting her wisdom of being entertaining in Variety setting to the two of them.

Masaru happily receives and instantly tries to practice them, while Eriko is more reserved and seems to still want to keep her traditional idol image instead.

One question they asked is how to interact properly with Senpais. Chiyori had wealth of experience, dealing with Team A with Takamina, Kojiharu, and Paruru. One of Chiyori's advice, if you have trouble interacting with senpai, make sure to practice with Orin!

*donjonnie*

Chiyori's specialties, Hanger Face and Bird Face are also making comebacks!



She's teaching Eriko and Mayuu the techniques but those need some specially trained face muscles it seems.

At the end of the episode, the best Mayuu can do is this: (Close enough!)

While Eriko confessed she actually doesn't want to do funny faces but her fans asked her anyway since her respected member is Chiyori.

Also I believe the fans want to tease her for keep rejecting the variety image.

**THANKS FOR READING! SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE!**



嬉しい〜