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**Happy Holidays
From PMX Monthly**

Monthly

PMX[®]

Pacific Media Expo



From the Editor's Laptop

The countdown to the holidays has begun and the staff of PMX Monthly have been very busy shopping! PMX Monthly explores the can't-miss buying opportunities in the U.S and abroad. We are also happy to introduce another new feature: subCULTURE! subCULTURE will feature Asian and Asian American pop culture news from all over the U.S. and the world! Enjoy the new feature and happy shopping!



***Going Once! Going Twice!
Sold! In Japanese!***

We all have that one friend who has the latest gadgets and items within days of its release in Japan. How do they get their paws on it that fast? Most likely they are using Rinkya, the English-language deputy bidding service that lets you bid for items in Japan. Rinkya is so easy to use, PMX Monthly's editress is officially addicted to it!

How it works

Go to Rinkya.com and sign up. It usually takes 10 seconds. Next, you enter your bank information, which takes less than 24 hours to

process. After your bank information is approved, you can now bid through Rinkya.com in real time! Just like eBay or Yahoo Auctions, you can bid on items that expire in seconds or in a week. After you win the auction, the Japanese seller can take anywhere from five to seven days to ship to Rinkya's Tokyo office. Note that the majority of Japanese sellers do not ship outside of Japan. This is why Rinkya's Tokyo office is an integral part of this process. From there, Rinkya will ship the items to you, which takes about three to five days. The entire process takes eight to 14 days from auction win to your hands! Rinkya also has a new feature that can kick your shopping up a notch. "As a Rinkya member, you can also shop from any Japanese online store through us," President and CEO of Rinkya Heather Russell happily added. Thank goodness for the Internet! It's such a marvelous thing-for shoppers!

***Well Hello Dolly!
Volks Opens in Los Angeles***

Asian ball-jointed doll collectors need not wait another second! Volks, the creators of Super Dollfie, have opened a store in the Los Angeles area! Tenshi-no-Sumika opened to much queueing and fanfare on November 20, 2005.

There was an invitation-only reception for the Super Dollfie Owners club at the Volks Mansion the night before the opening. Located in Torrance, this store is where you can order and customize your Super Dollfie in person. However, store hours are very limited. They are open on Saturdays and Sundays only from 11 a.m to 6 p.m. You can visit Tenshi-no-Sumika at 386 Beech Ave, Unit B-4, Torrance, Calif. 90501.



Katrina and the Vets in HiFi

HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN (LOS ANGELES) -- RELIEF: A Benefit for Asian American Hurricane Survivors was a fundraising event held on Nov. 10, at the SIPA (Search to Involve Pilipino Americans) Performance Space in Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles.

Local Asian American bands Bambu, Ethnic Descent, Eighteen-ninety-six, For Elise, and Karmacy, along with spoken-word artists came together to raise money for the victims who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. There was a suggested donation of \$10 at the door but no one was turned away due to lack of funds. Sales from the silent auction, which totaled \$2,000, were added to the total amount raised. The handful of organizers who set up the event were more than pleased with the success of the event as the night ended with warmfelt thanks for the continuous help and support from the community.

The next day, the annual parade commemorating Veterans Day was led down the streets of Historic Filipinotown. Filipino WWII veterans marched along, joined by students, activists and community leaders. "Recognition, justice, and equity" were the three words that echoed the praise for the heroic

contributions of all Filipino WWII veterans and the cries for the ongoing struggle of attaining the benefits that they still await from the U.S. government. The parade started and ended at the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) center as different communities came together to fight for a common cause.

-- Amirah May Limayo

It's A Rockin' Girls Nite Out

HOLLYWOOD -- Winter saw the return of Japan Girls Nite to Hollywood. Their second West Coast tour brought back TsuShiMaMiRe and first-timers Red Bacteria Vacuum and Amppez. More than a hundred filled the King King night club Sunday, Nov. 6.

Amppez kicked off the night with their hard driving rock, as bassist Shinobu greeted the crowd with, "I can't speak English so much, but we will rock you!"

But the mutual language gap doesn't detract some from the enjoyment of Japanese music by the fans. "It sounds like American bands I like," said 23-year-old Omar Zubair of Hollywood, who was referred to Japanese rock music by the bands he normally listens to.

Red Bacteria Vacuum followed up with their brand of power punk. Their bassist Ranran played while she was perched atop some speakers and their lead vocalist and guitarist Ikumi screamed their lyrics into the mic.

TsuShiMaMiRe walked onto the stage in kimono and electrified the crowd with their upbeat rock and deep, penetrating basslines.

Although featuring fewer bands compared to their first West Coast tour in March, November's Japan Girls Nite kept the audience on their feet throughout the night.

-- Garland Gee

subCULTURE

Hard Gay Dominates Japan with a Whooooo!

TOKYO -- Imagine a 29-year-old, 6'3", 193-pound Japanese guy donning leather boots, leather hot pants, a leather vest, aviator shades, and a studded leather hat. Now imagine him thrusting his pelvis back and forth with his hands in the air bellowing *Whooooo! Haado Gei!* (Hard Gay!) in a high pitched, escalating voice. No, that guy from the Village People wasn't Japanese. We're talking about one of Japan's favorite talents/comedians: Masaki Sumitani, or as his fans know him, Hard Gay.

The Osaka-born Hard Gay began his career as the pro-wrestler known as Razor Ramone HG in 1997. After some limited success, he made his transition into comedy by joining Yoshimoto Kogyo, Japan's largest comedy troupe. There, he created his leather-clad character Hard Gay, who introduces himself with Ricky Martin's "Livin' La Vida Loca" blaring in the background and bellowing his catch-phrase "*Whooooo! Haado Gei!*" that nearly every Japanese recognizes.

He then became popular after he was given his own segment on Bakuten, the Tokyo Broadcasting System Saturday night variety show, where he surprises unsus-

pecting pedestrians, from children to the elderly, with his *Whoooo! Haado Gei!* catch phrase while stabbing the air (or victim) with his bulging hot pants. Despite his erotic wear and hip shaking moves in a family hour time slot, Hard Gay's ero antics boosted the failing show's viewer ratings. Now, like many Japanese talents of the moment, he can be seen on a number of variety shows and network specials.

However, his fame is not limited to TV and random street appearances. Hard Gay has spread throughout the media-crazed social fabric of Japan. Reportedly, the No.1 costume sold over Halloween at Tokyu Hands, a large general store chain, was his leather bondage outfit. The flash animation of Hard Gay leaning back at a 20-degree angle pumping his pelvis up and down is being downloaded and e-mailed to cell phones by the thousands. People can't help themselves from ending an e-mail with a *Whoooo!*, or some other Hard Gay reference. Even school children can be seen in playgrounds across Japan with their arms stretched high above their head like soaring eagles hollering HG's *Whoooo!*

The fickle Japanese audience may soon lose interest with Sumitani and his aggressive Hard Gay character. However, until then check out Hard Gay's nightly appearances on Japanese TV and first book release, which he proclaims is raunchier than allowed by television censors. Until next time...*WHOOO!*

-- Shawn "Shank" Honnold



*Parokya ni Edgar at Grand Banks Cafe
Photo by: Marlou Sanchez*

Parokya ni Edgar's Amerika City Tour

JERSEY CITY, N.J. -- The first leg of the Amerika City Tour of Parokya ni Edgar, by Happy Box Productions, was held at the Grand Banks Cafe in Jersey City last Nov. 4.

For those who are not familiar with the group, they are one of the most sought-after bands in the Philippines today, with hits like *Buloy*, *Cooking ng Ina Mo*, *Harana* (with which they won an MTV Asia award), *Okat-okat* (theme song for a TV show), and *Mr. Suave* (from a movie starring Vhong Navarro), among others. They are a six-piece band comprised of Dindin Moreno on drums, Buwi Meneses on bass, Darius Semaña and Gab Chee Kee on lead guitars, and front man Chito Miranda Jr. on vocals.

The venue was small, but packed--designed for 200 but feeling like 400 people were there. Four-man Bleud, opened the show singing a mix of English and Filipino songs, reminiscent of Eraserheads, another Filipino band that was popular back in the '90's. When they sang *Bye-Bye Na*, everybody who had access to TFC sang along. It was an original composition of the band that got airplay through ABS-CBN's Himig

Handog song writing competition awhile back. Bleud is scheduled to release an album in early 2006 with U.S. and Philippine distribution. Check out their website at <http://www.bleud.doesntexist.com>.

Minutes after Bleud performed, Dindin, Gab, Buwi, and Darius went on stage followed by Chito. The crowd went wild! Chito apologized to the crowd for making them wait and he said since they came a long way to Jersey, they would sing a lot of their songs. He started taking requests from the crowd.

They played songs one would not normally hear in their regular concerts such as *Sampip* and *Your Song*, which coincidentally are among my favorites. I wish you were there to experience the energy and the excitement this band brought to the place. It was one of those intimate and interactive gigs I like. I first saw them in concert back in 2004 in my home city of Toronto, Canada. It was a bit different then because they were onstage and it was like watching a play. In this one, they were so in touch with everybody that I can say they literally rocked the whole place apart, and the crowd got more than what they paid for.

They ended the night with *Yes Yes Show* from their *Bigotilyo* album. It was a long set, I would say close to three hours, if not more. They are coming back and are planning to do a North American U.S-Canada tour starting in March with their long lost brother Vinci Montaner, who went on hiatus in 2004.

And finally, the band did a very uplifting gesture during their gig. They thanked and encouraged everyone in supporting the Philippine

music scene. There are a lot of great acts in the Philippines today, such as Francis Magalona, Gloc-9, Kami-kazee, Bamboo, Rivermaya, Hale, Sugarfree, Queso, Greyhoundz, Urbandub, Aegis, Sexbomb, Salbakuta, MYMP, Hardware Syndrome, True Faith, Kjwan, Itchyworms, Soapdish, Kiko Machine, Jr. Kilat, Spongecola, Moonstar 88, Eheads, Lito Camo, The Youth, Datu's Tribe, Shiela and the Insects, and Radioactive Sago Project.

If you have a chance, check out your local Filipino stores and demand for these great Filipino musicians you've been missing. Thank you Parokya band! Thanks for renewing my passion towards appreciating the Filipino music I've been missing since living away from the Philippines. Thank you for sharing your music and for promoting the Philippine music scene!

Astig. -- Raymond Santos

For more photos of this event, please visit <http://monthly.pacificmediaexpo.info/> and click on the link for "Event Photos".

PMX Monthly Call For International and Local Writers

Do you want to write articles for a monthly newsletter on Asian pop culture throughout the world? Topics can be about, but not limited to: Japanese/Korean animation/manga, Asian cinema, internet/console gaming, cosplay, music trends (Japanese/Korean/Chinese/Filipino musicians), fashion trends (Japanese/Korean/Chinese-inspired exported to another country), and

Japanese animation events outside of the U.S.

If you live in the following cities, we want to hear from you: San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Vancouver, Seoul, Beijing, Hong Kong, Manila, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, London, Berlin, Rome, Paris, and Sydney.

All articles must be written in English and cut and pasted into email. Photo attachments are allowed. Please note that the readership age of this newsletter are people aged 14-35. Writers of accepted articles will receive a by-line (credit) in the newsletter. This opportunity is perfect for a journalism student or anyone who just wants to write! If you're interested, please send email with a very short writing sample or clip (link to previously published articles) to asianamerican@pacificmediaexpo.com.

Obituaries

Noriyuki "Pat" Morita - 1932-2005
Rest in peace, Mr. Miyagi. Thank you for being one of the first to open Hollywood's doors for upcoming Asian American actors and performers.

PMX Veterans' and Other Upcoming Events in Los Angeles for December:

12-03-05:

Zoo Hero @ Zen Sushi

12-09-05:

Next Phaze @ CSULB Christmas Festival

12-17/18-05:

Random Ninjas @ JTAF in SF!
(not a local gig but we 🤪 Random Ninjas)



Our PMX Monthly family wishes your family Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

What do you want to see in PMX Monthly?

Let us know! Send email to: asianamerican@pacificmediaexpo.com.

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PMX Monthly is free! Spread the word!
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