

# HYOGO TIMES

~THE VOICE OF GENKI SINCE 1924 A.D.~

NOVEMBER 2009

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Island and  
Okayama



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# From The Editor...

Leaves turning red, cooler weather, yada yada yada. Let's cut the foreplay and get straight to the topic that is consuming the attention of much of the Hyogo JETosphere this month... and no, I'm not talking about NOVEMBER, which I have declined to participate in owing to the fact that



I have about the same ability to cultivate a lip-brow as the average thirteen-year-old. (Of either sex.)

I refer instead to the impending ALT/JTE Mid-Year Seminar, to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November, which many of you will have learned about via Facebook well before your go-betweens dumped the fax from the BOE on your desks, and in preparation for which you are to write an "assignment."

In the tradition of Mid-Year Seminars, the assignment questions are frustratingly vague (even in the original Japanese, if my JTEs speak truly); but in my opinion the biggest mistake a first-year JET can make is to spend too much precious time worrying about them.

I can only speak from the experience of having attended two previous seminars, but here's what will happen: in the workshop for which you are supposed to prepare the assignment, you'll be seated at a table with about seven other ALTs and JTEs, and will have something like two minutes to present your ideas to other members of your group. Then some

poor sucker at your table — probably you, knowing your luck — will be bullied and/or guilt-tripped into hurriedly presenting the best of the group's ideas to the rest of the room. (I say you should make a JTE do it: they need the English speaking practice!) After that, your ideas (and useful ideas often do emerge at these seminars) will disappear down the proverbial memory hole: nobody (except, I



guess, the BOE) knows what happens to the assignments after the seminar — they have hitherto been unavailable in any form that might actually help John or Jill Q. ALT improve his or her classroom practice.

Tell you what. If you do take the assignment seriously — and I'm not suggesting you shouldn't — and you don't want your ideas to meet a similar fate, send them to the *Hyogo Times*, and we'll publish them.

The best news about the seminar is that it gives you two days off school, and a chance to catch up with ALTs from the far-flung corners of the prefecture. The JTEs doubtless also relish the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues they worked with in happier times, before the populist anti-public-servant hate machine whipped up by the lovely LDP transformed Hyogo's *shokuinshitsu* into something out of 1984. They'll probably be hitting up *izakaya* somewhere; and

while I can't say with absolute certainty what's in store for we Charisma Men and Women, I know Kym's on the case!

Onto matters editorial. November sees the *Hyogo Times* welcome into its fold two more regular columnists: Lauren McRae has taken on the *Travel Japan* mantle with a profile of Shiraishi Island, and JJ Cappa helms our new video review section, with a special focus on Tsutaya fare. Welcome aboard, and many thanks! In this month's *English Sensei Spirit* a selection of JETs past and



present offer some fantastic (and workable) ESS club activities: they may just help you boost the membership beyond the two or three who drag themselves along every week (and you can finally put away that Scrabble board!). Nick Grodzicki introduces us to "Shin-chan," an oh-so-*warui otoko* from Saitama who just might have a thing or two to teach us foreigners about Japan. And if you've been feeling out of the loop, it's probably because you're not on the right Hyogo AJET mailing lists: Goran Seletkovic shows you how easy it is to reconnect with the JET community from the comfort of your laptop.

Happy reading, and I'll see you at the seminar!

— Matt Stott

# From The HAJET PR...

Goodbye October and Hello November! I hope you all had a great Halloween and found at least one excuse to dress up and frighten the locals with some internationalizing action of the pumpkin variety. If for some reason you didn't, do not despair because November brings with it plenty of opportunity for autumn-themed internationalization action!

The changing season is about to turn the mountain trails of Hyogo into an unmissable spectacle of autumn colors, so this time of year is excellent for some hiking action! However, if hiking isn't

your flavor of *nabe*, you can still enjoy the autumn colors at many of the plethora of Hyogo events listed at <http://www.hyogo-tourism.jp/english/>. Check it out: it's totally worth a look!

For all you powder-holics, now might also be a good idea to start looking for any deals for any ski/snowboard/onsen deals over winter. A good place to start is <http://www.skijapanguide.com/>. If you find a good deal, be sure to let the rest of us know via the Forums, Facebook or the Hyogo Jets Yahoo Group. Share the savings! :-)

If you're one of the lucky people

who are already up to their eyeballs in fun events, and instead looking to get involved in something more concrete in your spare time, I suggest checking out Smile Kids Japan. They are AJET's newest Special Interest Group dedicated to promoting awareness of orphanages across Japan, within foreign communities. They currently have three prefectures with registered foreigner visits, and seven more prefectures hoping

to start! If you are interested in volunteering your time and your friendship to making an enormous difference in children's lives while in Japan, please check out their website <http://www.smile-kidsjapan.org> and help spread the love in Hyogo.

All of the above sounds like a lot of fun, but this time of year also brings with it something of a more serious nature. The re-contracting papers are out and it is time for us to start considering *all aspects* of whether or not to re-contract before finalizing your decision. Some things to think about:

- are you really as happy/unhappy about being an ALT/CIR/SEA as you think you are?
- do you have a job waiting for you back in the Real World? Now might be a good time to start networking or freshening up that resume.
- if you're planning to go back to university or college, be aware of the application deadlines.

These all these are excellent topics for Forum discussion. If you have questions about anything feel free to bring them up at <http://www.hyogoajet.net/forum/> or check out more information about the re-contracting procedure at [http://www.hyogoajet.net/wiki/Recontracting\\_and\\_Transfers](http://www.hyogoajet.net/wiki/Recontracting_and_Transfers).

That about covers it. Enjoy the rest of the issue and I hope to see you out and about (or at least on-line) this month... that is unless you're studying for the JLPT in December, in which case... good luck!

— Goran





# GETTING IN THE HAJET LOOP IN 4 EASY STEPS

By GORAN SELETKOVIC

The past three months have seen the JET Programme welcome the 2009-2010 intake of JETs with a lot of information to process, with the goal being to make your life here in Japan, more specifically Hyogo, much 'easier'. This happens every year and there are many opinions as to which information is useful to whom and which isn't, but on the whole, most of us agree that it's OVERLOAD!

Someone, somewhere, somewhere once said: "Too much of a good thing . . . isn't." And I think this is definitely the case here. All that info received pre- and post-arrival is hard to organize, prioritize and consume, especially before you're settled in and aware of your day-to-day ins and outs.

This being the case, it's not surprising that after three months some JETs may still be unsure how to hook into the Hyogo AJET information superhighway, otherwise known as the Hyogo AJET community. This article will hopefully help you on your way.

A good place to start is with a simple Google search. Googling "signup hyogo ajet" will populate your browser with a plethora of links which will direct you to the Hyogo AJET [web-site](#), [forum](#), [mailing list](#) or [Facebook](#) pages.

Listed below is a breakdown of each of the many online facets of Hyogo AJET. I suggest you join all of them, and to make your life a lot easier, just use the same username and password for all, or at least something very similar so that it's easy to keep track of.

## 1. The Hyogo AJET Website

<http://hyogo.ajet.net>

This is actually a wiki which any Hyogo AJET community member

can edit and add to after registering. The wiki serves to tie together all the aspects of Hyogo AJET, so anyone interested can find their way to answers for any questions they might have (Editor's note: you'll also find back issues of the *Hyogo Times* here!).

The option to register is at the top right hand corner of the page.

When logged in you can add to the wiki!

## 2. The Hyogo AJET Mailing List

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hyogojets/>

This is a yahoo mailing group where the community posts information about local events, parties, festivals and the like.

There are two ways to join!

Option 1:

If you have a Yahoo account (or don't mind creating one) visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hyogojets/>, click "Join This Group!" and follow the prompts!

Option 2:

If you don't have a Yahoo account and definitely don't want one, send a blank email to [hyogojets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hyogojets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). A confirmation message should be sent to you immediately, just reply to it and wait for your request to be approved.

Once that's done, any emails sent to [hyogojets@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hyogojets@yahoogroups.com) should arrive happily into your in-box. Likewise, if you want to let the community know about an event, just direct your email to the same email address.

## 3. Hyogo AJET Forum

<http://www.hyogoajet.net/forum/>

We even have a forum where



you can go to discuss anything and everything that your heart desires. Browsing the forums can be done anonymously, but you'll have to register in order to post. (Just like any other forum, really.) It's very simple: you click on 'register' in the top right hand corner and follow the prompts!

## 4. Hyogo AJET Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2232641438>

Finally, Hyogo AJET has a presence on Facebook that you can connect with to make your life just that little bit easier. Just search for 'hyogo ajet' and join the group. Couldn't be easier!

There that's about it. If you do all of the above, you'll definitely be well informed with what's going on and around Hyogo, not to mention the fact that it'll be easier to stay in touch with JETs who don't reside in your immediate vicinity... and that's always a good thing, 'cause we're all just one big happy family after all. Right?

~ G

# Maigo in Hyogo

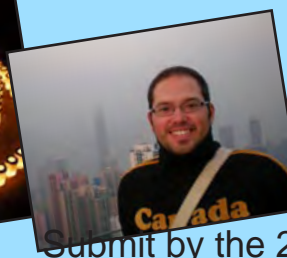


Where in the cosmos is this Hyogo landmark? Post your tentative hypotheses on the Hyogo Times Facebook discussion board, and if you're the first to respond accurately, we'll inform all star systems here next month. Fire at will! I thank me very much for providing the photograph. If you wish to avoid exposure to further gratuitous displays of self-congratulation by supplying your own Maigo in Hyogo photo, please email it to [publications@hyogo.ajet.net](mailto:publications@hyogo.ajet.net).

Solution to last month's Maigo in Hyogo: Kofun in Tarumi. Nobody guessed exactly, but Kym Farrant and Nicholas Grodzicki came pretty close.

# We Want Your Stories!

...and pictures, and opinions, and poems, and artwork, and essays, and....



Submit by the 20th of each month to:  
[publications@hyogo.ajet.net](mailto:publications@hyogo.ajet.net)



# English Sensei Spirit: What Do You Do In Your ESS Club?

*Compiled by Matthew Stott*



## Chip Boles

The most successful projects in my ESS (average size for the last few years is four members) have been variations on this theme:

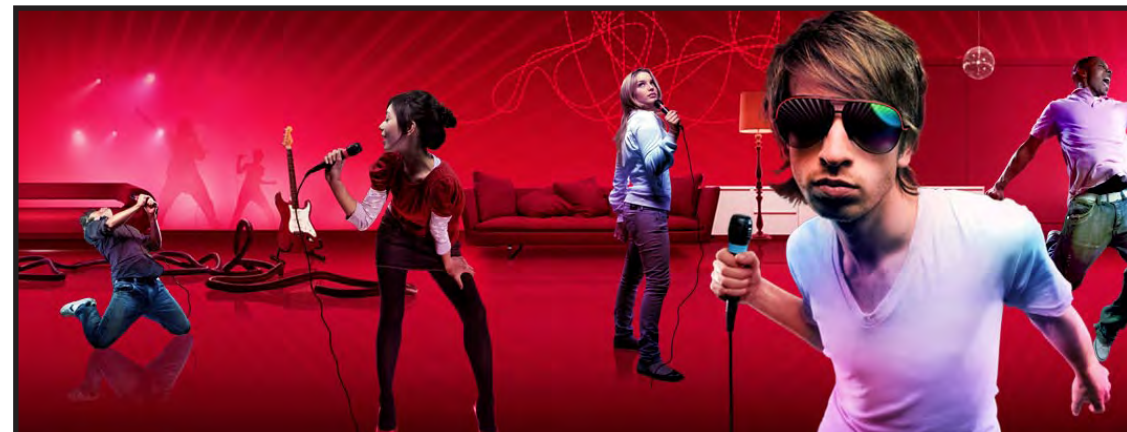
Find a Japanese story (we do ghost stories, but I guess they could be anything).

Divide the story into pieces and have the students translate them.

Bring these together, read/correct them, then combine them into a larger document for everyone.

Then make illustrations of the story on large paper. (Usually by dividing the pieces up again among students, or having meetings where different students do different tasks on the pictures.)

Read the story while showing the illustrations in front of a group.



We have done 3 stories so far:

Little Red Riding Hood (for the school festival; the pics were projected behind the students reading on stage, the students read different character parts).

The Legend of Musashi (Ghost story about a historical samurai who fought a ghost in Himeji Castle)

Okiku and the Well (about the well at Himeji Castle where a nobleman threw a servant girl when she pissed him off, and now she counts dishes and cries for eternity...)

With the last two stories, we made pictures we could hold, and went to the castle near our school and read the stories while holding up the pictures, all

for English-speaking tourists. The students then handed out info sheets with the club email address on it, and managed to get some penpals out of the deal.

Plus we really like to play Boggle.

## Tuwahakaroa Biddle

One thing I do is bring my PS3 to club, hook it up to the projector and sound system and do karaoke on SingStar. The students really enjoy it but they don't really try to sing the words on screen, they kind of just make noises along to it. They can do Toxic by Britney Spears, some of Beep by the Pussycat Dolls, and Sing by Travis perfectly. They actually got a higher score than our visiting sister school from Australia at Sing last year =D

## Brenda McKinney

If you can get a hold of the Apples to Apples game, it was always a hit. You can change the rules so the whole group

votes on the best match & I think I had the JR version (ordered off Amazon).

We also did a scary stories session at the very end, which made me realize pre-/teen girls in Japan tell the same sort of stories that pre-/teen girls in America (or AU/UK??) tell at slumber parties, etc. Maybe do something with

the stories they've heard and the urban legends we tell in the US? It might spark an interest in pop culture, too.

Other than that, tried to get one of my groups into blogging and set up them up on Facebook (yes, Facebook — with \*extreme\* privacy settings) during ESS so we could practice messaging in English back and forth.

Cooking is also cool (we made a Norwegian wedding cake once) but it's sort of a no-brainer that anything with food goes over well. Telling you, though, nachos were huge.

## Emma Nicoletti

I often do activities from the Side by Side Communication Games and Activity Masters book. I got my school to order this book, but it is also available from Amazon. It's fantastic. It only has speaking activities and as the title suggests, it comes complete with reproducible worksheets and picture cards. All I have to do is read the clear activity explanations, photocopy the activity materials and cut them out!

## Jeff Morice

We do the usual seasonal parties — Christmas, Halloween, etc., and most of it involves food. Ironically, I use my experience working in restaurants far more than my formal education when dealing with ESS. We have International Food Days (make tacos, quesadillas, pizza, bruschetta), decorate Gingerbread men at Christmas (try finding molasses in Japan!), have nabe parties in the winter and generally eat snacks whenever we can. Food is the gateway to eng-

lish conversation in my ESS.

Aside from that, I help students with Eiken practice, we watch English movies and TV shows, and play games — the favourite one being the Extreme Keitai Scavenger Hunt! Give them an English list of things to take pictures of with their phones and partner them up. The clues can be anything: seven red slippers; a student holding five open umbrellas; a math teacher making an angry face; a human pyramid; a boy getting a kiss on the cheek (\*squeal!\*)... they love the game, and enjoy it even if they don't win the sticker/candy prize.

Recently my ESS and a rival ALT's ESS entered into a summer challenge to raise money for a charity. We both taught our ESS clubs about Cambodia — their history, Pol Pot, the situation today, etc. Then the students brainstormed ways to make money — bake sales, collection boxes and displays. In total, our two schools raised 30,000¥, sending three Cambodian kids to school for a year.

My tip — be creative and get the students' input as to what they want to do, what they want to get out of ESS. The kids who go to ESS want to have fun, or just hang with a foreigner. Some of these events are a bit elaborate, but it can be worth it. Then again, some of our best meetings have been when we all just sit around chatting and getting to know each other. The kids can be surprisingly open and fun when there's no expectations or grades involved.





The Japanese don't seem to have this hang-up quite to the same degree. Just the other day on the train I saw a man in a suit, perhaps on his way to an important meeting or to sell mobile phones, casually brush the tip of his nose, and (picture this in slow-motion if you will, for that's certainly how



So, like, what's the deal with *hana mizu*? Let's start by looking at the malady known as *rhinitis*, of which there are two kinds. The first is called *allergic rhinitis*, and it occurs

The lining of the nose has glands that secrete water and mucus and, just under the surface, there are hundreds of yards of blood vessels that supply a con-



*(Editor's caveat: The author is not a scientist, nor is he a doctor. If you do happen to have some expertise in a science-related area, and would be interesting in writing some sciency articles for us, please let me know.)*





# Exploring Osaka

By Rob M.

It was a three-day week-end this month, and given that this week is an exam week (so no lessons to teach), I have plenty of time here in the office to tell you about it. We left on Friday and despite a slight deviation which made a twenty-minute leg of the journey turn into a two-hour leg, we arrived at a friend's apartment. She had thankfully agreed to lend us her apartment whilst she tripped on up to Tokyo, saving us a boat load of money in the process.

We toured Osaka during the three days, visiting the American quarter complete with loligoths and guys who wished either that they could be back in "da hood" or at least wanted to bring it over here. The local boys had clearly spent more time on their hair than their female counterparts. Large hairstyles aren't just the domain of *anime* and Johnny's boys; here they are almost de rigueur. I half-expected to see a sign in the style of the no-smoking signs with a

picture of my haircut on it.

Many people seem to believe and indeed preach that Tokyo is the Mecca of Japanese fashion, and maybe they're right. After all it is full of rich trendies clad in the latest chic, and suits so sharp they can't be handled by under 10s. But for me, that's fashion you can see in any country in the world. Osaka fashion however...

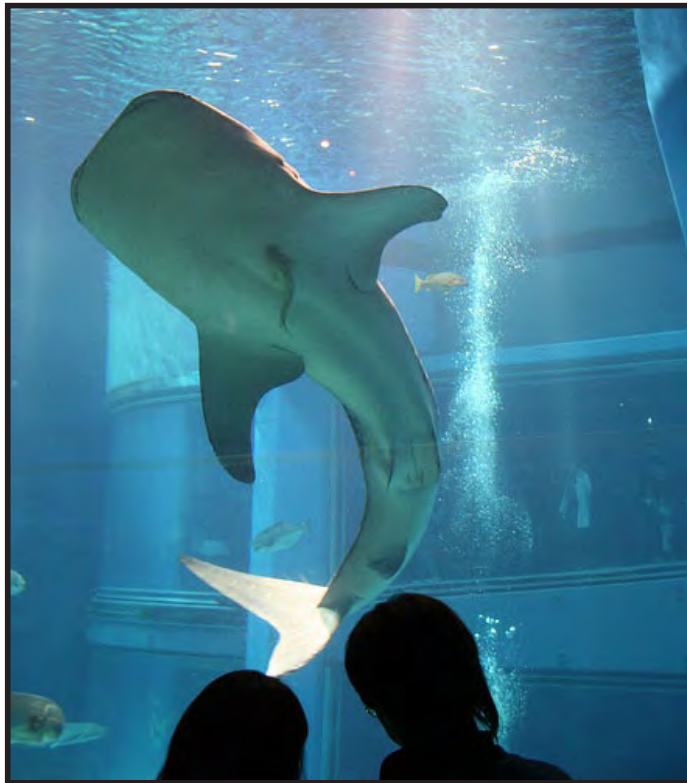
With my view of hairstyles and indeed style in general shaken up, it was off to Den Den district. The claustrophobic assembly of high rise buildings was filled with electronics, gundams and adult entertainment behind thinly disguised "video" stores.

Thoroughly shopped out, we spent the evening in Kobe (it's only a half hour or so away!), for a Mexican restaurant that we had spotted there on a previous trip. Kobe it seems is a good place to head to for foreign foods, restaurants, love hotels in the shape of a forest and Japanese kitchen staff donning guitars and Mexican accents and serenading the diners. Mui Bien.

Not to miss out on the local attractions, the next day we were off to the Osaka aquarium (*Kaiyukan* for those capable of remembering random Japanese). I must admit that I reached this place with a degree of skepticism; assuming that

they would be keeping the fish in tanks resembling those in the many eateries dotted all over the city. To my pleasant surprise, this was not the case. I could safely drop my animal cruelty banners and cover up my "Greenpeace: Death or Glory" tattoo and enjoy the fishies. The tanks stand around four stories tall and the walkways descend around them, allowing the fish some room to swim about and you the chance to get up close and personal.

So with my aquarial needs sated and holiday at an end it was time to return to the countryside and out of civilization. And yes, unfortunately the over-stylized brashness of Japanese fashion has worn off on me, but I must say that I love it. They seem to go out of their way to do things 100%. For girls (no, not me), they don't just appreciate the Victorian gothic fashion; instead they dress head-to-toe in pink frilly corsets and petticoats. It seems that the only wrong thing to do is nothing. Which is why I am now several thousand yen worse off, a steampunk coat better off and the bearer of a strange desire to try and outdress those suckers.



## Kawarime

Whisk me away to a far away land  
Where the sun rises but I don't understand  
The rivers are long and so are the vowels  
All is learned through tribulations and trials

Where life can be as soothing as an infrequent breeze  
When it passes by offers uttermost ease  
Rules abound an eternal freedom  
They have their own power and their own kingdom

That forces its subjects to submit and obey  
And leaves no room for any other way  
The land shakes and the seas rage  
The sun blazes on since the dawn of age

A change looms near behind the silk screen  
As bows become looser and you say what you mean

A morphing of society  
A morphing of propriety  
Is all that we can do  
Is all that we can choose  
But is this change for the best?  
Is it solely at our request?

Everyone is you and everyone is me  
And thus life continues in tranquility.  
A delicate balance of human harmony  
Is the driving force that composes its mentality.

Time will tell us which way will reign.  
Will this new human fabric be joyous or in pain?  
One fact will most likely remain forever  
All change will be made together.

-Esperanza Urbaz

JR — a haiku by Jonathan Shalfi

Haven't got a seat  
And there's still a ways to go  
The *shinkaisoku*

## Wagashi

by Emma Nicoletti

Japanese sweets are wonderful treats  
to be eaten on everyday of the week.

On Monday, have *anko*, a definite staple:  
A red bean paste to be eaten whenever one's able

For Tuesday try *daifuku*, it promises big luck to you.  
Don't leave this *mochi-anko* delight off your menu!

Wednesday, let's enjoying *maccha*-flavoured... anything!  
From ice-cream, to biscuits, to chocolate, to well everything.

On Thursday, please sample skewered *dango*.  
Those red, green and white balls are quite delectable

On Friday we'll chime, it's *dorayaki* time!  
This gong-shaped pancake is absolutely divine.

When Saturday does come, to *manju* we'll run  
In Miyajima's fun, we'll find a *momiji* one.

Finally on Sunday, I guarantee you'll say  
"Oh, cute," when you see a Japanese jelly on its way.

So ends this summary, of this food so yummy,  
Now I'm off to the shops to get some more for my tummy.







Way back in Hikami next to Aogaki  
Tucked between a barber and  
some okonomiyaki  
Off the Kita-kinki near a Fresh  
Sato,  
There sits a ramenya to which you  
all should go,  
Run by a funky guy by the name  
of Ryohei  
He slings some tasty noodles that  
make you stand up and say  
Go go! Go to Viva Rock Jalan! Go  
go go! Go Viva Rock Jalan! Go!  
This place is bomb!



ghettini and  
served with  
just as much  
bite as properly  
cooked al dente.  
There's also  
slight variations  
on the monthly  
special. Currently,  
VRJ is boasting  
*aka tougarashi*  
ramen, with  
noodles made with

Ok, poorly written cheese  
aside, I can't recommend this tiny  
spot enough. Run by the same  
folks who operate the cozy reg-  
gae-themed Jalan in Asago, Viva  
Rock Jalan is the black-and-white-  
checkered younger brother that  
recently opened in Hikami. While  
boasting the same full-flavored

yet surprisingly light pork base  
and delectably soft n scrumptious  
*chashu*, there are some small dif-  
ferences available to those as ob-  
essed with ramen minutiae like  
me.

First of the all, the noodles  
are a bit thinner than the Asa-  
go location. Traditionalists will

ground chili powder. They're a  
deep red and boast a bit more  
spice than one might expect.  
They're accompanied by regular  
and black sesame seeds, shred-  
ded and sliced *chashu*, as well  
as the typical green onions and  
sesame oil.

For sides you'll find *mentaiko*  
(spicy cod roe), *kimchi*, rice and  
*onigiri*. Notably absent is the usu-  
ally well made *yakimeshi* (fried  
rice), though VRJ is also offering  
a small *chashudon*, a small bowl  
of rice topped with their well made  
pork, kimchi, some seaweed and a  
half-boiled egg.

They're closed Wednesdays,  
and are open from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.,  
or whenever their soup runs out.  
It's a bit hard to find initially, but it's  
basically across the street from the  
Fresh Sato.



## Kechina Kitchen: Keeping Costs Low in the Kitchen

Ever wondered how restaurants keep the price of super yum-  
my *gyudon* (beef bowl) and *oyakodon* (chicken, egg and rice  
bow) so low? Look no further than the ingredient list for each  
below. Take seven ingredients, add heat, and these Japanese sta-  
ples can be gracing your plate too. I'd like to note that these  
recipes were taught to me by one of my good Japanese friends,  
and I will add her suggestions throughout.

Please indulge me a small etymological digress, but I feel I

## GYUDON/OYAKODON

must unburden myself of the disturbing meaning of *okyakodon*.  
The first kanji 親 (おや), you may recognise as the kanji for  
parents, and the second kanji 子 (こ), as the kanji for child. Re-  
spectively, these kanji represent the chicken, which is the parent,  
and the egg, which is the child. That's right, *oyakodon* invites the  
diner to consider the sacrificed cute, fluffy, chicken family being  
munched. Nonetheless, a better meal than this to trifle over the  
ethics of eating meat there is not, so please enjoy.



100 g thinly sliced beef  
1 teaspoon of oil  
1 onion  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 tablespoon of thick soy sauce (こいしょう油)  
1 egg  
cooked rice (for serving)

100 g sliced chicken  
1 teaspoon of oil  
1 onion  
1 tablespoon of mirin  
1 tablespoon of soy sauce  
1 egg  
cooked rice (for serving)

- ✖ Start cooking the rice
- ✖ Heat oil in the pan at medium heat and fry the meat until browned
- ✖ Cut the onion, add it to the pan and cook until softened
- ✖ Add the sugar and mix\*
- ✖ Add the soy sauce and mix (if it's too sweet, add more soy sauce)
- ✖ Add the egg and fry to taste (the Japanese style is to leave the egg quite runny)
- ✖ Serve on top of rice

- ✖ Start cooking the rice
- ✖ Heat oil in the pan at medium heat and fry the chicken until browned
- ✖ Cut the onion, add it to the pan and cook until soft-ened
- ✖ Add the mirin (みりん) and mix\*
- ✖ Add the soy sauce and mix
- ✖ Add the egg and fry to taste
- ✖ Serve on top of rice

Both recipes make two servings.

\* In Japanese cooking, the flavouring ingredients are added from weakest taste to strongest taste; this helps to bring out the flavours. A useful acronym to remember is *sa, shi, su, se, so*: *Sa* = *satou* (sugar), *Shi* = *shio* (salt), *Su* = *su* (vinegar), *Se* = *shoyu* (soy sauce), *So* = *miso*

by Emma Nicoletti



# Getting to Know Some Random JETs

## The Basics

- ✳ **Name:** Kimberly Bolan
  - ✳ **Please call me:** Kim
  - ✳ **School and Location in Hyogo:** Taishi High School, but I live in Aioi.
  - ✳ **How we know you:** Beer Garden, moon viewing... around.
  - ✳ **Birthday:** December 27.
  - ✳ **Born and raised:** Colorado (USA).
  - ✳ **Family:** 3 sisters and parents.
  - ✳ **University and Degree:** Colorado State University with a Major in German and Minor in Japanese.
  - ✳ **Other jobs that you have had:** Umpire and waitress.
  - ✳ **Travels:** England, Mexico and Japan.
  - ✳ **Hobbies:** Reading, jogging and debating.
  - ✳ **Staying another year?** Yep!
- ## Favorites
- ✳ **Food:** Tacos.
  - ✳ **Sports:** Football!
  - ✳ **Music:** Alternative.
  - ✳ **Shop:** Cross over
  - ✳ **TV Show:** *Big Bang Theory*.
  - ✳ **Movie:** *Pride and Prejudice*...or *Kill Bill*.
- ## Random Trivia
- ✳ **Most Proud Achievement:** Probably getting into JET.
  - ✳ **Best life experience:** Camping in the Rocky Mountains.
  - ✳ **Motto to live by:** Expect the unexpected and don't be a jerk.
  - ✳ **I remember when...** they used to show Disney movies on ABC
  - ✳ **What are you drinking?** *Mugicha*.
  - ✳ **Who would you like to meet?** Edward Norton
  - ✳ **Why should we elect you President**



- of the World?** Because I would throw a great party for the opening ceremony.
  - ✳ **Best thing about Japan so far?** Probably going up to Takeno (Northern Hyogo) and having a beach BBQ with friends
  - ✳ **If it was my last day on earth I would...** play with puppies.
  - ✳ **Interesting Fact about me:** I took 5 languages in high school.
- ## Teaching:
- ✳ **My top tip for teaching:** Be in control: if they know they can rile you up, that's what they will try to do for the rest of the class.
  - ✳ **When the class is TOO QUIET I...** make them stand up and move around, then ask them again.
  - ✳ **Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY?** ...It helps. So yes.
  - ✳ **Funniest Story involving a student:** I taught the kids about corn mazes, so I had them re-arrange the desks and place some students in random spots and told them to yell 'BOO' when the other students went past them. They spent the rest of the day just yelling 'boo' at everyone.

## The Basics

- ✳ **Name:** Lauren McRae
- ✳ **Please call me:** Lauren
- ✳ **School and Location in Hyogo:** Hirohata JHS and Jinnan JHS in Himeji.
- ✳ **How we know you:** Maybe you don't, not yet anyway . . .
- ✳ **Birthday:** September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ✳ **Born and raised:** Adelaide, South Australia.
- ✳ **Family:** Parents, Stepmother, Stepfather and one sister.
- ✳ **University and Degree:** Middle Schooling Bachelor of Education.
- ✳ **Other jobs that you have had:** Woolworths checkout chick while



- studying, teacher of German and Social Studies at a Primary School and a High School.
  - ✳ **Travels:** Australia, parts of Europe, America, parts of Asia – definitely not enough yet!
  - ✳ **Hobbies:** photography, traveling, cooking – especially learning how to cook Japanese food!
  - ✳ **Staying another year?** Of course!
- ## Favorites
- ✳ **Food:** Anything and everything . . . but natto!
  - ✳ **Sports:** I am learning Reggae dancing from another ALT, does that count?
  - ✳ **Music:** All types.

- ✳ **Shop:** My sister's clothing store in Adelaide – SOOKI.
  - ✳ **TV Show:** *Seinfeld*! However I have to admit *America's Next Top Model* gets me everytime!
  - ✳ **Movie:** *Austin Powers*, *Lost in Translation*, *Strictly Ballroom* – just to name a few!
- ## Random Trivia
- ✳ **Most Proud Achievement:** Not sure I have achieved it yet . . .
  - ✳ **Best life experience:** Deciding to come to Japan for a holiday – that started all of my amazing adventures.
  - ✳ **Motto to live by:** think positively and enjoy every moment!
  - ✳ **I remember when...** I saw snow for the first time in Japan . . . amazing!
  - ✳ **What are you drinking?** I have a fond liking for Captain Morgan since being introduced to it in Japan!
  - ✳ **Who would you like to meet?** Well Mark Wahlberg . . . for obvious reasons :-)
  - ✳ **Why should we elect you President of the World?** You probably shouldn't! Sometimes I am way too indecisive!
  - ✳ **Best thing about Japan so far?** My boyfriend, my amazing friends, students, food, Himeji castle – the list goes on!
  - ✳ **If it was my last day on earth I would...** Party with all my loved ones.
  - ✳ **Interesting Fact about me:** Although I love Kitty-chan, I hate cats!
  - ✳ **Teaching:**
  - ✳ **My top tip for teaching:** have fun, be *genki* and enjoy it!
  - ✳ **When the class is TOO QUIET I...** like to sneeze – it doesn't always happen but it is pretty funny when it does!
  - ✳ **Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY?** Not bribery as such, but it's great how students here love stickers!
  - ✳ **Funniest Story involving a student:** After teaching second graders past tense, and talking with the teacher about how we would have to revise it the next week as he didn't think they understood it, a student walks past me and yells out "I played sex!" Well he got it!



# THE KANSAI SCENE

By Paul Schuble

If you're the kind of person who feels at home touring the local music scene, Kansai is a great place to live. Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto, and Nara are chock-full of small, homegrown bands and artists either just having fun struttin' their stuff on the weekends, or earnestly struggling to make it big. As several of my friends here fall into one or both categories, I've been to a number of concerts at various venues over the past year.

A couple of weeks ago I decided to cover a show organized by my friends Dylan and Sammy of acoustic rock band Ihou no Kyaku (Strangers in a Strange Land). There are myriad hidden bars, live houses, and basements scattered throughout the Kansai area that play host to these shows (referred to in Japanese as "lives"), but luckily this one was held at a relatively easy-to-find venue at 元町(Motomachi) in Kobe. プラネトEarth (Planet Earth) is an interesting little joint—part art gallery, part bar, and part performance hall. It has a very bohemian atmosphere, and with enough room for two or three dozen audience members it is larger than some of the other performance locations I've been to.

The show started off with Ihou no Kyaku (異邦の客). Second was a solo performance by guitarist Nara Hideki, followed by a traditional Japanese set by Gajin(雅人). Afterwards there was a kind of half-time show by an amateur manzai duo going by the name of New River (ニューリバ). The one man show known as Qafu took the stage next, and the night was wrapped up by the lovely Chammy.

Let me finish up by saying that these kinds of shows are fairly frequent and can be a nice way to spend the occasional Friday or Saturday night. Not only might you find a band that you like, but the venues are often cozy and laid back enough that it is usually a simple matter to meet the performers or chat with other members of the audience. So get out there and explore the Kansai scene!

## Band Name: Ihou no Kyaku (異邦の客)

**Members:** Dylan (Acoustic guitar/vocals) Sammy (Electric guitar)

**Website:** <http://www.ihounokyaku.com/>

**Inspirations:** Jason Mraz, Dave Matthews Band

**Favorite Venues:** Osaka, Kobe

**Notes:** Ihou no Kyaku ("Strangers in a Strange Land" in English) is an acoustic rock duo sometimes accompanied by a drummer or bassist. The influence of their inspirations, Mraz and DMB, are heavily recognizable in their music. Highly recommended if you're a fan of either. The Strangers count among their songs pieces in both Japanese and English. Feel free to check out their website for samples, or look them up on Facebook if you might be interested



04341077087-8  
Ihou no Kyaku

## Band Name: Gajin

**Members:** JB (Janbe), Doug (Biwa)

**Website:** [gajin.xxxxxxxx.jp](http://gajin.xxxxxxxx.jp) (that's 8 x's)

**Inspirations:** Sakato Yoshiko

**Favorite Venues:** Osaka, Kobe

**Notes:** Impressive performers, whether or not you are a big fan of traditional Japanese music. The rhythmic jan-be beat and twang of the biwa are definitely something to check out if you've never heard them performed live, and JB and Doug seemed quite up to the task of providing an enjoyable introduction to any newcomer to (or member of) the traditional Japanese music scene.



04341077087-8  
Gajin

## Band Name: New River

**Members:** Musuda Naoyuki, Tatsumi Akinobu

**Inspirations:** Downtown

**Favorite Venues:** Osaka University

**Notes:** At the moment, New River performs almost exclusively at Osaka University, but hopefully someday these two amateur manzai comedians will branch out. Their performance at the show was a short but quite entertaining skit involving a valiant attempt to explain the American conception of Santa Clause.



04341077087-8  
NEW RIVER

## Band Name: Chammy

**Members:** Chammy (Vocals/violin)

**Inspirations:** Mariah Carey / **Favorite Venues:** Osaka

**Notes:** Chammy is quite a talent, with a beautiful and impressive singing voice and quite a knack for the violin. Her portion of the show mixed Mariah Carey-esque pop music with classical (one of her transitions was from an upbeat vocal piece to a violin rendition of "Canon in D"). With all the freakishly clone-like J-pop idols running around these days, it's a wonder that artists like

Chammy have yet to be scooped up by a label. You'd think some actual talent would be a hit.



04341077087-8  
Chammy



## Band Name: Nara Hideki

**Members:** Nara Hideki (acoustic guitar/vocals)

**Website:** <http://sound.jp/the-trip/index.html>

(mind your website's encoding)

**Inspirations:** Neil Young

**Favorite Venues:** All over Hyogo

**Notes:** Nara's like of American Southern rock was apparent in his songs. His sound struck me as a sort of J-rock meets Southern rock fusion. Other influences were also detectable—one of his songs sounded as if it incorporated elements of traditional Chinese music.



04341077087-8  
QAFU

## Band Name: Qafu

**Members:** Maeda Daisuke (Guitar/vocals/etc)

**Website:** [maetsch.info](http://maetsch.info)

**Inspirations:** Bowie

**Favorite Venues:** Osaka

**Notes:** I'm not quite sure how to describe Qafu, so I will offer a few words describing my first impression of his music: surprising, different, refreshing, kooky, and fun. His performance was evocative of a nightmarish circus scene from some scary movie. Qafu threw everything he could at us, using recording and looping equipment on the spot with various guitar distortions and vocal sounds. It made for quite a good show.



# Things I Learned from



By Nick Grodzicki

On September 19, 2009, the body of cartoonist Yoshito Usui was found at the base of a cliff on Mount Arafune in Gunma Prefecture. The creator of the popular manga and anime series Crayon Shin-chan, Usui was a regular hiker who apparently fell when taking a photo from the precipice.

His death may spell the end of his popular manga series, which debuted in 1992 and is comprised of short, unrelated stories about the Nohara family of four from Saitama. They are five-year-old Shinnosuke, his infant sister Himawari, mother Misae and salaryman father Hiroshi. Usui's death prompted me to reflect on what I've learned from his cheeky brat over my past four years living in Japan.

I first discovered the comic during my konbini shopping. A cursory flick through showed plenty of furigana and readable Japanese, so it went into the shopping basket. Since then, I've read the comic both for the Japanese language and the cultural insights. Some people will dismiss Shin-chan with disgust, and it's true that the comic can be shocking. Shin-chan's habits include butt-waving, squishing up his genitals to look like inari-zushi or drawing an elephant around them, and just generally being obtuse to everyone and everything around him. His lechery is unstoppable; even when exhausted he will try to chat up women, and he has probably groped more women than a To-

kyo subway pervert. Violence also punctuates each volume; Shin-chan's head has been thoroughly hardened by countless blows. More recent comics have also touched on darker themes, too: alcoholism, extra-marital affairs, and terrorism to name a few. And yet, in spite of the occasionally shocking content — or perhaps because of it — the Nohara family has had their hooks in me from the start. So let me share what I've learnt about Japan from Action Preschool's resident scamp.

## Mind your manners

Most ALTs are aware of Japanese customs of *honne* (one's true feelings) and *tatemae* (feelings displayed to conform to social expectations). Hear enough *tatemae*, and you might be tempted to think that Japanese are just extraordinarily amicable people who'll patiently put up with anything. The reality, of course,

is that they get just as irritated as people anywhere else. Shin-chan is littered with thought bubbles showing real feelings and single, enormous sweat drops to indicate embarrassment or irritation, and shows how Japanese approach misunderstandings politely, then with irritation, and then in apoplectic rage.

## You ain't from around here

I'm fairly sure that a comic in Australia would not feature stories about a five-year-old cross-dressing, comparing breast sizes, imitating corpses, making

snow-turds or taking candy from strangers. Granted, similar themes might crop up from time to time, but not with such cute and simple illustrations as found in Shin-chan. The comic has actually seen some translation, but with fairly heavy editing and ratings restricting it to teens and up. Quite apart from the shocking contents, though, the simple facts of daily life in a Japanese home, involving futons, shared baths, chores and so on also provide a great insight into language used in the home and in a casual family setting.

## All in good pun

One of the series' comic staples is Shin-chan's misuse of Japanese. He often makes errors in speaking, yielding amusing puns that are rewarding for the student of Japanese to discover. Some are actual puns, while others are just random non-sequiturs. In one comic, Misae says "*chotto anata ni chuui shi-tai*," roughly "I want to tell you something," but he mistakes *chuui* (attention) for *chuu*, a slang word for kiss. His blushing response is "Okay, but just on the cheek."

Even when Shin-chan grasps Japanese words, his convoluted logic is enough to drag others exasperatingly off-track.

## I can't speak English...

From time to time when the Noharas encounter foreigners, or expect that their Japanese won't transmit, they will attempt to converse in English as best they can. They

mean well, but their attempts, written out wholly in katakana, are usually amusing to the English native who sounds them out: ノーノードントショッピング! マイファミリーノーマネー! アイアムアビューティフル! Still, if every Japanese knows as much English as the Noharas do, perhaps enough of their learning remains to be useful.

I never watched the anime version much; Shin-chan's unnaturally deep voice always threw me for a loop. But for those who did catch the TV version and didn't think much of it, I implore you to try the manga version instead. It's a great way to learn Japanese without needing to follow a recurring story. You might avoid the color tomes though; they are usually printouts of the scrappier, cheap-looking anime and not as funny. So join the ranks of konbini lurkers today, with a copy of Shin-chan — who knows, you might find yourself getting your Japanese wrong on purpose just because the boy who can't get it right has shown you how.

## Japanese learnt from Crayon Shin-chan

- ・ ケンカ売っとるんか?  
You looking to start trouble?
- ・ 人の話を聞け!  
Listen when you're spoken to!
- ・ 他人のふり  
(pretend to be unassociated with someone)
- ・ おしっこ  
pee
- ・ けつ、しり  
butt
- ・ けち、けっち  
stingy, tight-fisted
- ・ いつの間にか  
When the heck did you (do that, get in here, etc)?
- ・ こっちのセリフだよ  
That's my line/what I'm supposed to say!

Nick Grodzicki is a 5th year ALT who could answer 'Yep, done that' to every one of the "50 Essential JET experiences" criteria in last month's Hyogo Times — except for, well, the ones about writing for the Hyogo Times...





# BodyCanvas

By Esperanza Urbaez

Bare breasts covered with the first chapter of the Koran written in brown-toned henna, bodies in black and white beautifully contorted and covered by long lustrous straight black hair and leaning against walls full of Japanese calligraphy, hands delicately decorated with henna intricately clasped together behind a naked body sitting with legs crossed.

These images are the manifestations and culmination of many years' worth of ideas and thoughts that have brewed in the mind of Emerald Huang as she has traveled throughout Europe, South America, Africa and the Middle East. She likes people and all things natural.

A Japanese musician friend asked her to take a photograph of him and his instrument, and with the advice from a French photographer she met in India that every photo must have a focus she began to think about nude photography. It would be the instrument and the man and nothing else. A Japanese model she met on a tour bus when she worked as a Niagara Falls guide, and who became a good friend over the past four years, asked Emerald to photograph her hip-length hair. When her model friend leaned on Emerald's *Shodo*-covered walls, she noticed how her natural hair resting on her body resembled a painting, just like the cursive ink on the paper.

Thoughts about women and their identity, or lack thereof, loomed heavily in her mind as she traveled the Middle East and

saw how women had to cover their whole bodies (including their faces sometimes). To Emerald they seemed caged. "There are a lot of things I don't agree with," she says. The henna that could only be seen on their hands and feet captivated her. She learned how to make, design and apply henna from scratch. Ideas about the rules women must abide by came to mind.

All these life experiences inspire her art. One of the best things about the JET Programme, according to Emerald, who is in her third year as an SHS ALT, is that she can do all she has dreamed of doing. Her latest venture is nude and studio photography which she has never done before. "It is so hard to make something so simple into art," she says. However difficult it may have been, Emerald has risen to the challenge and will be displaying her images\* throughout this month in Osaka at her second photography exhibition, titled *Body Canvas*.

"I want to provoke whatever feeling they might have in the back of their head," says Emerald about those who see her exhibition. "The purpose is to make them feel."

"I want the photos to be provocative because it's something I haven't done," says Emerald. "I like trying new things." This is most certainly true. On her dresser lies a small box full of smooth stone *han-ko* she has designed and carved for herself and for her friends. The room is filled

with the aroma of the exquisite dishes and desserts she has made with ingredients grown out of her backyard. The walls of her house are covered with *shodo* and pictures of her playing the *shamisen* and performing a tea ceremony as she wears a traditional kimono. They are also covered with big bright photographs she has taken of people through out the world.

She operates naturally. She learns naturally. She is a self-taught photographer and is learning as she goes through the process of putting an exhibition together. Inspired by Steve McCurry, an American photojournalist best known for his photograph, "Afghan Girl," that originally appeared in [National Geographic](#) magazine, Emerald first began taking photos when she began to travel. With the money she saved every year during college in Toronto, Canada, she would travel around the world during the summer break.

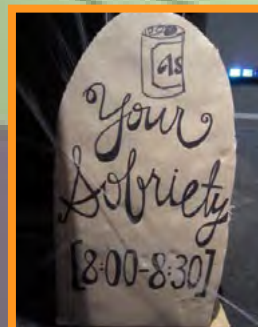
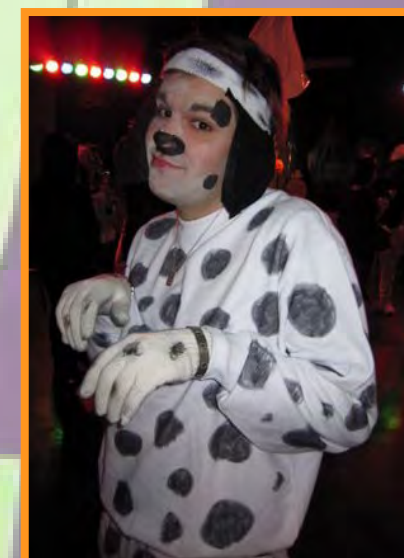
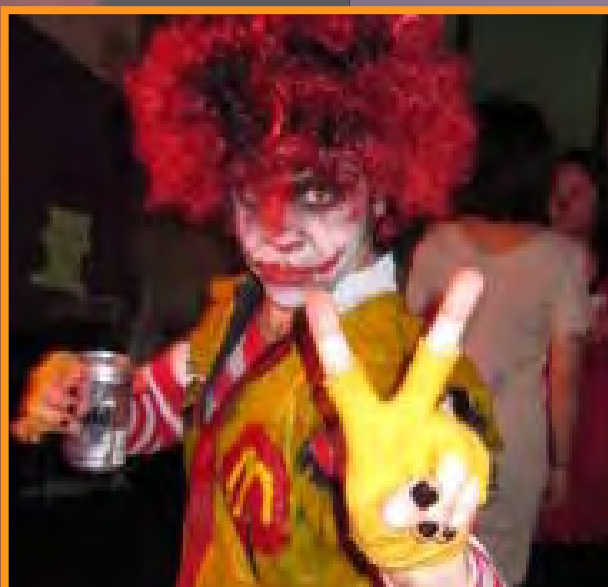
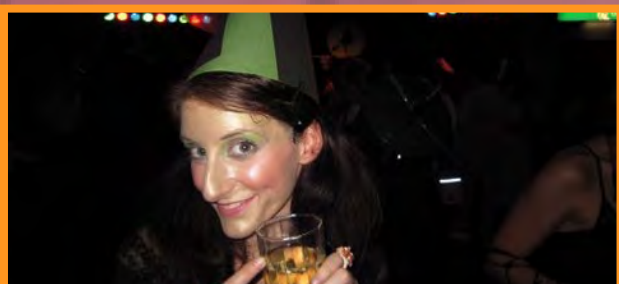
*Portraits of the World*, her successful debut exhibition held in Himeji in March of this year, was a compilation of original untouched photographs of people she has seen and met through out the world. Emerald did not think her photographs were good enough to show. However, after several friends asked her to have an exhibition, she complied. As she embarks on her second photography exhibit, Emerald has gained confidence in her photographic skills, and plans on having another exhibition in New York City next year. If you would like to contact Emerald or for more information about the exhibition please friend her on Facebook.

\* Editor's note: *Body Canvas* was originally to be held at the end of November in Shinsaibashi's L&L Bar. While setting up for the exhibit, some customers complained about the photos containing the Koranic writings. Emerald was forced to quickly find an alternative time and location for her exhibition: *Bambino Cafe* near Namba Shring. *Bambino Cafe* also received similar complaints, and decided it would not host Emerald's exhibition either.





# HALLOWEEN 2009







# Travel Japan

## Okayama-ken's Shiraishi Island

By Lauren McRae



Shiraishi Island is situated in the Seto Inland Sea, only 45 minutes by train and 10 minutes by ferry from Okayama station. There is an international villa on the island that is available to foreigners—such villas were created to attract foreigners to rarely visited areas of Okayama Prefecture. The villa is situated on a hill just a short walk from the ferry dock and the beach. Though only foreigners can make a booking, you are welcome to take your Japanese friends. The villa can accommodate 10 people: it has 5

bedrooms (one is a tatami room and the others are all twin rooms), a shared kitchen, 2 toilets, a shower/bath room, a lounge room, a dining room and an outdoor seating area. All bedrooms have air-conditioning/heating and the living areas have fans. The villa provides everything you need from kitchen utensils to towels, bedding and even books, bikes and a CD player. You just need to bring the important stuff – food, alcohol and your swimwear! However, the island offers two small supermarkets, one of which sells tobacco and alcohol; a few restaurants and a bar on the beach: the Moooo Bar. The Moooo Bar is open every day during Golden Week, July and August, and Sundays only in June and September.

The owners of the Moooo Bar are friendly foreigners who are more than happy to help you arrange alternate accommodation if you need or want it. They are also extremely knowledgeable about the island, and will point you in the direction of other accommodation options available on the island, ranging from *minshuku* (Japanese style Bed-and-Breakfast) to a private

holiday house and camping facilities. They can also help you organise a beach BBQ through San Chan's restaurant. We had a great time grilling a ready-made BBQ on the beach, and were provided with a generous amount of food for ¥3000 each. Sailing trips can also be arranged, as well as board and kayak rentals starting from ¥1000 per hour.

The beach is beautiful and has clear water: you can easily spend all day relaxing on the beach and drinking at the bar. I definitely recommend going during the summer months – late June and late August are best times as these technically lie outside the beach season so there are not too many people. However, if you go during peak summer season, there are often events such as dance parties on the weekends. I have friends who went during winter and autumn, and they found it to be really relaxing and enjoyed hiking and biking on the island. With the cooler weather approaching, this is the perfect time to go camping and hiking on the island. The international villa is most popular as a summer destination, but makes a perfect year-round getaway!

### How to get there

Take a JR train or shinkansen to Okayama station, take a local train to Kasaoka,



and follow the signs to the ferry dock. When you arrive on Shiraishi Island, go into the ferry office to collect your keys to the villa, or you will be met by people to take you to other accommodations.

### How to make a reservation

Go to <http://www.harenet.ne.jp/villa/> to check availability for the international villa, or email Amy from the Moooo Bar for help with other reservations at [shiraishireservations@yahoo.com](mailto:shiraishireservations@yahoo.com)

**Price:** The international villa is ¥3500 per person per night (plus a ¥500 fee for single occupancy). Other accommodations vary in price from ¥2500 to ¥4000 per person per night, and camping is ¥1000 per person per night (no rental equipment is available but you can use the outdoor kitchen; toilets and hot showers are ¥300).

More information can be found at [www.moooooobar.com](http://www.moooooobar.com)





# I <3 T-POINTS!!! BY JOHN CAPPA



**Film:** ラジオの時間  
(*Rajio no Jikan, Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald*)

**Director:** 三谷幸喜  
(Kōki Mitani)

Ever wander around your friendly neighborhood TSUTAYA, unsure what Japanese movies are worth renting and even less sure which ones have English subtitles? Never fear! I am armed and ready to help with a few college courses about Japanese film under my belt and a TSUTAYA card dying for more T-Points. Join me as I venture past the sea of Korean melodramas and Hollywood flops into the wonderful world of Japanese cinema.

The first film on the chopping block this month is the 1997 film debut of playwright and director Kōki Mitani (三谷幸喜) entitled *Rajio no jikan* (ラジオの時間). For those interested, the completely unrelated English title is *Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald*. I tell you this not because you will find it on the DVD box in



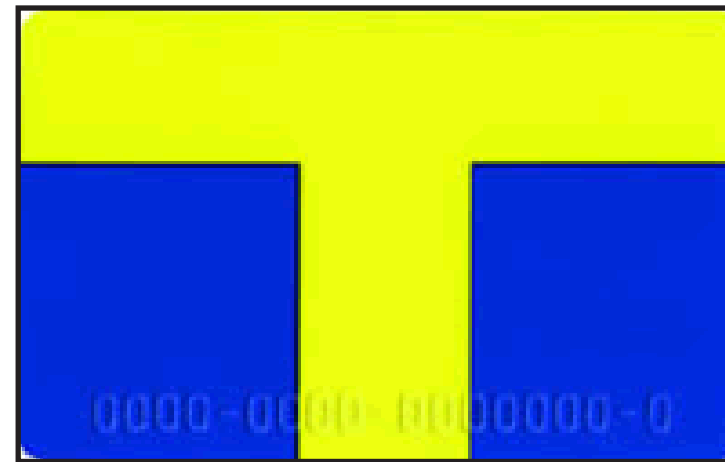
TSUTAYA, but because this seemingly nonsensical title has a great payoff about halfway into the film.

The first time I watched *Rajio no jikan* in college, I judged the book by its cover (or more appropriately, the film by its title). My combined love of Japanese films and extra credit typically leaves me open to anything, and this movie happened to qualify for both criteria. However, neither the Japanese nor the American title screamed “awesome movie” to me. Sometimes, it feels good to be wrong. This was one of those times.

*Rajio no jikan* is about performing a radio drama live on-air, which proves to be a decision both great and terrible. The film opens as the drama, written by an unknown housewife, has gotten through its final rehearsal without a problem. Before long, however,

the most famous star in the cast decides she wants her character’s name changed. The housewife is too passive to say no, resulting in a series of chain reactions that snowball into a drama that is nearly indistinguishable from its original vision.

You will find *Rajio no jikan* in the drama section of TSUTAYA, but do not be fooled; this movie is full of hilarious moments that continually pick up momen-



tum from start to finish. Even as the credits roll, the ending theme delivers one final laugh by poking fun at the stubborn, controlling lead actress. The humor is most often derived from the outrageous demands of the actors and the absurd concessions made by the station to appease them while keeping the story “factually” sound. For example, how can the main character have gotten swept out to sea if she lives in Chicago? The screwball solution the staff dreams up involves toilet-flushing sound effects, screaming townspeople and a fabricated natural disaster of epic proportions. I encourage you to watch this film with friends, because having people to laugh with will definitely enhance your *Rajio no jikan* viewing experience.

In his film debut, Kōki affirms that his abilities as a director have translated well from the stage to the screen. Although he believes *Rajio no jikan* has

too many long scenes, they betray his uncanny skill behind the camera. Many of these extended shots, which last as long as four minutes, assert the discipline of the director and his actors through their excellent choreography and execution.

Furthermore, despite inexperience with the medium, Kōki has effectively used point of view to implant his viewers directly into the film. By alternatively taking the perspective of an unnamed, unseen staff member and the wide-eyed housewife who is experiencing the busy world of radio for the first time, the camera forces viewers to become immersed in the story. Therefore, the characters become fast friends and their emotional roller coaster is our own as well.

Expect to experience both the anxious tension of a broadcast gone wrong and immense laughter and relief when that tension breaks as they piece together their Frankenstein storyline. These highs and lows make the humor all the more worthwhile; there is a reason *Rajio no jikan* took home seventeen awards at various festivals and award ceremonies.

If you enjoy *Rajio no Jikan*, consider next renting Mitani’s most recent film, *The Magic Hour* (ザ・マジックアワー). It is a strong effort, although *Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald* is the superior of the two in both humor and direction. *The Magic Hour* was certainly worth watching, but I was slightly disappointed that it did not live up to the high standards set by its predecessor. Give it a chance, but if you are let down by it like I was, remember that you were warned.

Thanks for watching!





# Where Are They Now?

The team at Hyogo Times (all two of us) thanks you for your participation in this questionnaire. Please email the completed form to publications@hyogo.ajet.net

➔ **Name:** Andrew Stening

➔ **Age:** 38

➔ **Placement school/s and location in Hyogo/ Japan while on JET:** Takasago Minami SHS, lived in Kakogawa and Higashi-Futami (in Akashi-shi, near Harima Cho) – 3 yrs

➔ **Current occupation & jobs held since leaving the JET programme:** All sales related jobs with the same company, currently national business manager for an international consumer food manufacturer / supplier.

➔ **Highlight/funniest part of your JET experience:** So long ago... I always think of the students when I reminisce - sincere and enthusiastic – the baseball team captain breaking down and crying hysterically after my farewell speech.

➔ **How the JET programme has benefited you career-wise:** I guess having it on my CV showed my adaptability etc. etc., but the real thing I think it has helped me with is being able to see things through others eyes and experiences better.

➔ **What transferable skills JET gives you:** See above

➔ **What advice you would give**

## Life After the B.O.E.

by David Namisato



A career where you can transfer all the skills acquired during JET

**to current JETs for getting the most out of the JET experience in order to further their career afterwards:** Make the most of it — don't stick to the basics, take charge and make a difference. It is a very unusual role where you can essentially formulate the game plan yourself. The impact

you make may not help you directly but the approach will.

➔ **Any tips for job hunting after JET:** Unless you are going into teaching, focus on the transferable skills and the broadening of your knowledge/experience — these are very valuable in any career.