

What's New?

Niihama City

No.218 October 2013

Published by SGG Niihama

Organised Fun

Hannah Melnyk

The past year or so, I've been lucky enough to attend a good number of Japanese concerts. Whilst I was prepared for them to be a little different from back home, I wasn't quite ready for the steep learning curve I was faced with.

There are usually 2 or 3 different release dates, Fan Club pre-sale, pre-sale and general sale. Pre-sale tickets are normally lottery based, which means waiting a week or three to find out if you were able to get a ticket and also waiting until the ticket arrives to find out your number. Ticket numbers are randomly allocated during pre-sales so gone are the days of trying to be first to buy a ticket to show off how keen a fan you are and the days of camping outside the venue the night before to make sure you're first in the queue to get in.

Concerts are a good socialising event, many fans will follow their band around the country, often bumping into friends in different cities. Comparing tour schedules, what new good are on sale, what they are planning for the band members birthday and what presents they brought (yes, there are present boxes on the way in...) are the topics of conversation.

About 40 minutes before the concert begins everyone (decked out in the latest tour shirt, towels in hand) start to line up according to their numbers. Exactly 30mins before the start time, the doors open. Ticket numbers are called and everyone files in, diligently handing over their drink fee. Inside, there's no pushing your way to the front; orderly lines are made.

Back home, concerts are a free-for-all, but here everything is organised. Your towel, an essential item, is used for at least one song/the intro, sometimes extra items (light up star wands...) are used. Each song has different 'dance moves' which the whole audience know and perform completely synchronised. At the end of ballads

most often you stand in complete silence until the singer gives a cue for a short applause. There is time where the band members talk to the crowd, normally tailored to the prefecture. The fans hang on to every word, in complete silence, until a joke is told and everyone laughs in unison.

Everyone joins in chanting and clapping for the encore. Chants vary, ranging from the standard 'encore' to the band's/member's name or 'mouippai'. At the end, you turn and apologise to anyone you bumped into and to say 'Otsukaresama' to those around you.

In all, Japanese concerts are hard work but the fans are friendly and they are fun way to spend an evening.

Hannah Melnyk has been living in Niihama for two and a half year. She works as an Eikaiwa teacher. Her favourite weekend pastime is following bands on tour.

Hottest Item -- Recovery Wear (Healing Wear)

(from Ehime Shimbun)

Recovery wear is worn by sportspeople to help them relax. It is a favorite of Olympic athletes and top ranked sumo Yokozunas.

At 10,000 yen the price is rather high but since going on sale in 2009, it has earned a good reputation at sports gyms and its popularity has grown quickly. Platinum particulates, which are woven into the fabric, give off weak electro-magnetic waves that work on parasympathetic nerves. They help expand blood vessels and relax muscles, and assist recovery from fatigue.

Previous recovery wear squeezed the body and muscles, which helped get rid of waste material but new recovery wear is different. It is comfortable to wear without any feeling of tightness.

The manufacturer could not afford to advertise widely but recovery wear has become popular by word of mouth among athletes.

At first it was used by athletes to wear after doing exercise, now it is worn by elderly people who cannot sleep as well as by pilots suffering from jet lag. Moreover it is even used for pets.

Soap Bubbles Machine Presented to Kindergarten

(From the Ehime Shimbun, May 3, 2013)

"Please enjoy the soap bubbles." The students of Niihama Technical High School have presented their original, handmade, electric soap bubble blowing machine to Izumi Kindergarten. It was made last year, by seven third-year students from the Electronic Mechanics Department, who graduated last March. It is a box-shaped machine (27cm-length x 25cm-width x 40cm-height) made from a used motor and used acrylic plates. An aluminum disc with holes, a vessel for the soap solution, an electric motor and a fan are installed inside it. The motor turns the disc and the fan creates wind and produces soap bubbles.

Third year student Takuro Kubo and three other Electronic Mechanics Department students attended the presentation ceremony and told the 110 kindergarteners, "We wanted to make something useful." They switched on the machine and pretty soap bubbles wafted on the breeze, one after another. The kindergarteners were very pleased to see them. Miyoko Yako, the principal had this to say, "Thank you very much. I want to use this machine at entrance and graduation ceremonies as well as during playtime."

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>
Clair:*Multilingual Living Information
<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

August 30 ~	MAN OF STEEL	2D English
September 13 ~	SAMURAI	2D English · 3D Dubbed
September 20 ~	ELYSIUM	2D English
September 21 ~	DESPICABLE ME 2	2D · 3D Dubbed
October 18 ~	DIANA	2D English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.

· General	¥ 1,800
· Student (college)	¥ 1,500
· Student (Junior or Senior high, Elementary)	¥ 1,000
· Child (3 & up)	¥ 1,000
· A married couple, either one over 50	¥ 2,000
· Senior (60 & up)	¥ 1,000
· The first day of every month	¥ 1,000
· Cine MILEAGE Day (members only, every Tuesday)	¥ 1,300
· Every Wednesday (only for women)	¥ 1,000
· After 20:00 (every day)	¥ 1,200
· The first show on Friday mornings	¥ 1,300
· TOHO Cinemas Day (14 of the month)	¥ 1,000
· The disabled or the helper	¥ 1,000
· 3D	add ¥ 400

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

*The editors for this month are K. Kaida & Y. Miki

A hint for your life

The Furoshiki, Traditional Japanese Wrapping Cloth

(from Ehime Shimbun June 30, 2013)

Furoshiki can be used in many ways. The Furoshiki is a piece of wrapping cloth, that can easily be carried anywhere.

It can be used in many ways and items of various shapes can be wrapped with it. With the corners of the furoshiki tied diagonally, it can be used as a bag. When you give a present to someone, if you wrap it with a furoshiki, it will look much more attractive.

And furoshiki are an excellent eco-friendly wrapping cloth. At home too, it can be used as a cover for tissue boxes or a tablecloth.

It can also be used as a multi purpose emergency kit. It can be used as a bandage, an outfit for cold weather, or a mask. If you wrap a book with it, you can use it as a safety helmet in a disaster. And a larger sized furoshiki can be used to make a private space.

OCTOBER EVENT

< Niihama Taiko Festival Oct.15-18 >

Ojoin area Oct.15-17

Main performance

16(Wed) 18:00-20:00 *10 taikos at M2 Ojoin

Jobu area Oct.16-18

Main performance

17(Thu) 12:00-16:00 *15 taikos at Yamane

Kawahigashi and Kawanishi area Oct.16-18

Main performance

16(Wed)17:30-19:00 *11 taikos at Ikku Shrine

17(Thu) 10:30-11:30 *11 taikos at Ikku Shrine

17(Thu) 16:00-19:00 *15 taikos in front of Takihama Station

18(Fri) 8:30-9:30 *11 taikos at Oe hama

18(Fri) 14:30-18:30 *15 taikos at Hachiman Shrine

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな“ずっと”

A : 石籠山に登ったことがありますか。
Ishizuchisan ni nobotta koto ga arimasu ka.
(Have you ever climbed Mt. Ishizuchi?)

B : いいえ。Iie. (No.)

A : お祭りの頃に、行こうと思っているんですが、一緒にどうですか。
Omatsuri no koro ni, ikō to omotteirun desu ga, issho ni dō desu ka.

(Around the festival time, I'm thinking about going. How about joining us?)

B : いいですね。実は、ずっと行きたいと思っていたんです。

Ii desu ne. Jitsu wa zutto ikitai to omotteitan desu.
(Sounds good! Actually, I've been thinking I'd like to go for quite a while.)

A : そうですか。きっときれいな紅葉が見られますよ。
Sō desu ka. Kitto kirei na kōyō ga miraremasu yo.
(Really? I'm sure we'll be able to see beautiful fall colors.)

A : Bさんは、ずっと新居浜に住んでいるんですか。
B-san wa, zutto Nihama ni sundeirun desu ka.

(Have you always lived in Niihama, B?)

B : ええ、新居浜生まれで、新居浜育ちです。
Ee, Niihamaumare de Niihamasodachi desu.
(Yes. I was born and raised in Niihama.)

A : Cさんは？ C-san wa? (How about you, C?)

C : わたしは、結婚するまで ずっと大阪に住んでいました。
Watashi wa kekkon suru made zutto Osaka ni sundeimashita.

(I lived in Osaka my whole life, until I got married.)

A : すみません、この近くにコンビニはありますか。
Sumimasen, kono chikaku ni konbini wa arimasen ka.
(Excuse me, is there a convenience store near here?)

B : ええと、この道を ずっと行くと、右側にありますよ。
Eeto, kono michi o zutto iku to, migigawa ni arimasu yo.

(Let me see... If you stay on this road, there's one on your right.)

A : ^{かみがた}髪型を ^か変えたんですか。 Kamigata o kaetan desu ka.
(Did you change your hairstyle?)

B : ええ、お祭りも ^{まつ}近いことだし・・・。^{ちか}似合っていますか。
Ee, omatsuri mo chikai koto da shi... Niatteimasu ka.
(Yes. The taiko festival is coming up ... Does it suit me?)

A : すっきりして、^{まえ}前より ずっと いいですよ。
Sukkiri shite, mae yori zutto ii desu yo.
(It looks fresh; it's much better than before.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel **0897-34-3025** (Manami Miki).

e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp