

JAPAN GIRLS NITE 2005

NOVEMBER 2005 - J!-ENT LOS ANGELES & SAN FRANCISCO REPORT



Japan Girls Nite



JAPAN GIRLS NITE RETURNED TO CALIFORNIA IN NOVEMBER WITH HARD HITTING PERFORMANCES BY THREE BANDS: AMPPEZ, RED BACTERIA VACUUM AND TSUSHIMAMIRE. J!-ENT COVERS THE LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO EVENTS. BY WAYNE GARLAND GEE

Concert photography by (LA) **NERGENE ARQUELADA**
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HOLLYWOOD -- Winter saw the return of Japan Girls Nite but the evening was anything but cold.

Heating up the West Coast in their second tour, the second girls night out brought back TsuShiMaMiRe and first-timers Red Bacteria Vacuum and Amppez.

Amppez started the event by rocking the red room of the King King night club in Hollywood.

Their hard-driving rock kept the over a hundred in attendance on their feet in a proper kickoff for the night.

Red Bacteria Vacuum followed up with their brand of punk. The antics of bassist Ranran, who perched atop the speakers, and lead vocalist/guitarist Ikumi, who screamed lyrics into the mic, inspired a mini-mosh pit and an attempted speaker dive by a fan.

During a brief break between songs, drummer Akemin summed up her feelings to the crowd with a breathless, "We happy, we happy happy."

TsuShiMaMiRe revealed themselves dressed in kimono and electrified the crowd with their upbeat rock and deep, penetrating basslines.

Playing their fan-favorite song, "Ebihara Shinji," elicited cheers from the crowd. The band soon disrobed into more appropriate jam attire and rocked the night away.

The Japan Girls Nite attracted people from all walks of life with a mix of nationalities and languages represented at the event.

But the musicians and crowd were welcoming, and nothing demonstrated this more than when Amppez bassist Shinobu



PHOTO: (top) Red Bacteria Vacuum rocking out at the KING*KING. Photo by Nergene Arquelada.

had greeted the crowd with, "I can't speak English so much, but we will rock you!"

The mutual language gap didn't detract from the enjoyment of Japanese music by the fans. "I do like it, but it's a little hard for me to understand," said Finnish 24-year-old Elle Sillanpaa.

Though lacking the language skill, one might still call Sillanpaa a Japanophile as professes her fondness for the culture. "I just love everything in Japan," she said. "I go there quite often and stay there for three months at a time."

Sillanpaa even trekked out to the intimate Hollywood club from her home in New York to see TsuShiMaMiRe.

An interest in Japanese subcul-

ture, books, movies and art lured Hollywood resident Omar Zubair, 23, to music, and eventually to Japan Girls Nite. "It sounds like American bands I like," said Zubair, who listens to American experimental music.

Jennifer Ray may have diverse tastes in music, but she has nearly no experience with Japanese music. The 32-year-old from Los Angeles may have been dragged to the show by friends, but it didn't feel that way to her. "I think I'm having more fun than they are," she said.

Ray had expressed curiosity about Japanese music in the past, but this was the first time she was ever to experience it firsthand and up close. "I'm digging the power-punk Japanese girl bands."





PHOTO: (top) Red Bacteria Vacuum (bottom) TsuShiMaMire



PHOTO: (top) Audience gathers at Studios.tv in San Francisco. (bottom) ampez takes the stage. Photos by Angelo Delos Reyes



PHOTO: (top) Red Bacteria Vacuum (bottom) TsuShiMaMire. Photos by Angelo Delos Reyes



PHOTO: Japan Girls Nite 2005 featuring ampez, Red Bacteria Vacuum and TsuShiMaMire in Los Angeles. Photos by Nergene Arquelada.



PHOTO: Japan Girls Nite 2005 featuring ampez, Red Bacteria Vacuum and TsuShiMaMire in San Francisco. Photos by Angelo Delos Reyes.