

# J!world groove

## THE GOTHIC LOLITA TEEN COMES TO THE US!

In 2003, Nana Kitade made her Japan debut with her song “Kesenai Tsumi” (Indelible Sin) which was used as a theme song for the popular anime series “FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST”.

The singer/songwriter emerged onto the music scene and also became a fashion icon hit due to her “gothic lolita” style in which she would sport a mixture of black roses, lace, petticoats and fishnet stockings.

It is no surprise when the announcement was made that Kitade Nana would be performing in Baltimore, Maryland for OTAKON 2006 and in conjunction with Tofu Records, the release of her first album “18 -eighteen-”.

The album which contains several of her previously released CD singles such as “Kesenai Tsumi”, “break out ~Utaeru Ame~, “HOLD HEART”, “pureness” (used as a theme song for the anime series “:BEET the Vandel Buster”) “KISS or KISS” (Japanese and a bonus track featuring an English version; the song was used for the NHK drama series “Anego”) and “Kanashimi no Kizu” (used as a theme song for the PlayStation 2 game “FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST 3: Kami wo Tsugu Shoujo”).

The 12-track album also includes “Alice” an image song used for the film “Shinku”.

Aside from the “gothic lolita” style that Nana sports, people may

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18 -eighteen-  
NANA KITADE

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wonder what kind of music does she sing.

I can say that her music revolves around pop and rock. For instance, the first song “KISS or KISS” had a pop feel reminiscent of the happy pop music of Tomosaka Rie. Her vocals and the music is a bit more subdued compared to other tracks in this album

But the sound that I look as ultimately Nana Kitade is the second track “Indelible Sin - Kesenai Tsumi -” featuring features a rock style, so fun and enjoyable that I haven’t seen since over a decade since Aikawa Nanase first debuted. Also, her vocal style for this song makes it unique because its different from any Japanese female vocalist that I have heard. A very awesome song.

Many of the tracks (especially the songs that were released as CD singles) are rock-based and

her vocal style are used in the majority of the tracks on this album.

In the song “Alice” and “Eighteen Sky”, Nana shows that rock is not just her forte and that she can sing slow songs as well.

All in all, “18 -eighteen-” is a fun album. Many young female talent from Japan usually depend on their producer in developing a style for them. Kitade has brought own style to the music scene.

And for over a decade, I really haven’t seen a female solo singer that has exhibited musical talent, songwriting talent, vocal talent and unique talent for nearly a decade until Kitade Nana was introduced.

With the anime tie-in and the gothic lolita style that anime fans enjoy, I think “18 -eighteen-” is an album worth purchasing.

— DENNIS A. AMITH