

# THE COMING OF THE SPACE WARRIORS

THE COMING OF THE SPACE WARRIORS KNOWN AS UCHUSENTAI NOIZ WAS SET TO CREATE AN IMPACT IN LOS ANGELES WITH THEIR UNIQUE STYLE OF ROCK MUSIC. J!-ENT GOES UNDERCOVER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS BAND OF WARRIORS. **BY WYNNE IP**

WHAT'S HOT IN MUSIC



"Angel Voice" ANGEL-TAKA, lead vocalist of UchuSentai NOIZ.

# WHAT'S HOT IN MUSIC

**A**D 2006. For two days, five Space Warriors had landed in Los Angeles, California, to engage in a global battle in front of American fans of Japanese rock music.

As part of their own "WORLD TOUR 2006 ~the space hero comes to my town!!~" UchuSentai NOIZ set the stage on October 28 and 29 for the "Pacific Music Live" event at Pacific Media Expo, America's first major trade show dedicated to Asian-Pacific popular culture and entertainment.

While some Earthlings found our super heroes dressed up just a few days too early for Halloween, loyal followers came from all directions to witness the descend of UchuSentai NOIZ into the United States in full space gear for the first time.

The warriors were first gathered in late 1999 from different planets to protect peace on Earth through music battles; they are "Angel Voice" ANGEL-TAKA (Vo.), "Clockwork Guitar" TAKEswiy (Gu.), "Hyper Sonic Guitar" MASATO (Gu.), "Super Vibrator" Kyo (Ba.), and "Mix Beat Creator" S@TT-ON (Dr.).

To date, they have released 18 singles and 3 full-length albums, with their most recent one, EGO-style, cracking the top 100 on the ORICON STYLE music charts upon its release in November 2005.

Officially named "Imitation PoPs UchuSentai NOIZ", the band will complete their 2006 schedule with a nationwide tour from November 29 to December 30 held in 10 different cities in Japan.

The band's visual-kei style had inspired their fans to copy the exaggerated makeup and put on costumes of space warriors, as their name in Japanese suggests.

Vocalist and leader ANGEL-TAKA, however, joked that they were employees of a hero resource management company, and that they were actually born this way with no makeup involved.

He did reveal that his transformation typically would take two hours.

As super heroes, their busy schedule did not allow them to sightsee while in

the Los Angeles area.

But on the day they arrived, bassist Kyo did manage to go out for a drive to places like Santa Monica, while others took on the American food they had longed to conquer: a 20 oz. steak.

They finished the entire meal, but as guitarist MASATO put it, he had no idea where it had gone in his stomach.

UchuSentai NOIZ evidently has quite a fan base in the United States.

As the lights dimmed in the concert hall, their faithful started to chant rhythmically, leading to the band members' individual stage entrance, which included music,

voice-over, lighting, and dance that seemed almost theatrical.

The heroes' stage clothes were designed by none other than their own lead guitarist, TAKEswiy, who explained that even though his designs were made specifically for each individual member in mind, no favoritism was involved.

Such was a small LCD screen on ANGEL-TAKA's left chest, which flashed and scrolled the name of the band.

However, ANGEL-TAKA revealed that if the power to that

\* "Hyper Sonic Guitar" MASATO on guitar. Photography by Nergene Arquealada





\* "Super Vibrator" Kyo on bass. Photography by Nergene Arquealada

device were turned off, his hero power would be depleted.

Their music style is diverse, and they certainly demonstrated their wide range of musical abilities on stage, from punk rock tunes such as "From Skywalker", "Miracle\* Rocket G5", and "CRY", to harder numbers like "Thank you for the MUSIC", "Shonen Ningyou", and "Ichigeki Hissatsu PoPs".

During the more techno and hip-hop pieces, the orange-hair MASATO, whose favorite rappers included Kottonmouth Kings and Ice Cube, showed off his sensational rapping skills alongside ANGEL-TAKA.

The two of them also performed a little spinning dance segment, which seemed to mimic the movement of cyborgs or puppets, during the song "Igني+ioN".

And of course, who could forget the reckless dance routines displayed

by all NOIZ fans literally across the floor during the hit song "CHROMOSOME SIX", where reporters and fans crossed paths, causing minor chaos and confusion at the front of the stage.

Even though the band had heard about the existence of their fans in the United States before their arrival, ANGEL-TAKA was still surprised by how many there were at the concert, and was impressed at how they knew all the dance routines.

He appreciated all of them for coming, to the point that he wanted to hug them all.

Knowing how some Japanese fan club members were able to make arrangements to take part in UchuSentai NOIZ's first U.S. concert, the band welcomed the suggestion to one day bring overseas fans to Japan to be part of their tour, even saying in English that it was a

"good idea".

There are many forms of art to choose from in order to promote the message of peace, but as the composer of the band, MASATO thought that it was actually music that had chosen them.

Their sound was mainly inspired by what they felt the world would want to hear and how they could effectively promote world peace.

At times, the wild ANGEL-TAKA seemed to have only one thing in mind.

On stage, he censored himself during the first show, but clearly opened up on the second night, as he asked the crowd several times during a break on the set:

"Do you like sex?"

He thrust his hips while saying that in his accented English, drawing screams from the audience, and then said that he felt "so

*“Their sound was mainly inspired by what they felt the world would want to hear and how they could effectively promote world peace.”*





horny”, when he met so many pretty boys and girls at the greet-and-meet event during the first day at Pacific Media Expo.

Off stage, when our heroes were asked what they did in their free time while not saving the planet, our charismatic vocalist replied without any hesitation:

“Masturbation.”

It was followed by laughter from the crowd, a “me too” from MASATO, and then more laughter.

On a more serious note, drummer S@TT-ON explained that he had recently started to create silver jewelry as a hobby, such as rings and pendants. Perhaps in the future when he had completed a collection, he would consider handing them out to their fans.

Perhaps in the future when he had completed a collection, he would consider handing them out to their fans.

Having performed in France earlier this year and now in the U.S. as their second stop of their overseas tour, UchuSentai NOIZ definitely expressed interest in reaching out to fans outside of Japan.

An English version of their website was in the works, and there were plans to perhaps make their CDs available to the U.S. market; they might even consider expanding their fan club to international members

Although there were no immediate plans to tour outside of Japan for the rest of this year, they certainly welcome any invitations and would go wherever fans are waiting for them.

Some fans noticed that there were camera crews filming during the U.S. concert.

UchuSentai NOIZ confirmed that a 6-disc DVD box set would be released in Japan near the end of this year, which would include lives from their 32 consecutive days summer tour as well as the U.S. concerts, and the whole set would cost 20,000 Yen, approximately 200 US dollars.

Aside from promoting peace on Earth, UchuSentai NOIZ was also reaching out to the poor.

The band had come to the realization that the teeth of the poor children in the Philippines were decaying rapidly, and their families were unable to afford even



\* “Clockwork Guitar” TAKESwiy on guitar. Photography by Nergene Arquealada

toothbrushes.

The society was so poor that the cost of a toothbrush would equal a dinner for a 5-person household.

As a result, the band started a project to ask fans who went to their lives to donate toothbrushes to these poor children.

So far they have collected about 10,000 of them.

All in all, the sound of UchuSentai NOIZ was warm and encouraging, and their concerts were energetic both on and off stage.

While the band members were friendly, humorous, and appearing wild at times, they were all very sincere individuals and had a caring heart.

With an aim to reach the international audience, it is only a matter of time before more overseas fans would come to embrace their quality music. ■

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WYNNE IP is an entertainment writer-at-large for J!-ENT.

For more information on UchuSentai NOIZ, please visit [noiz.main.jp](http://noiz.main.jp)

## PMX 2006 CONCERT SET LISTS:

### OCTOBER 28:

01. Shonen Ningyou
02. CHROMOSOME SIX
03. Hard Romanticers
04. Igni+ioN
05. Thank you for the MUSIC
06. SPACE PIRATES (ch77.7) #2

### OCTOBER 29:

01. Ichigeki Hissatsu PoPs
02. From Skywalker
03. CHROMOSOME SIX
04. ORANGE GRADATION
05. CRY
06. Merry Go Round
07. SPACE PIRATES (ch77.7) #2
08. Thank you for the MUSIC
09. Hard Romanticers
10. Miracle\* Rocket G5



\* (Top) "Mix Beat Creator" S@TT-ON on drums. (Bottom)"Angel Voice" ANGEL-TAKA on vocal, "Super Vibrator" Kyo on bass and "Hyper Sonic Guitar" MASATO on guitar.

Photography by Nergene Arquealada



# WHAT'S HOT IN MUSIC



\* UCHUSENTAI NOIZ CONCERT COLLAGE Photography by Nergene Arquelada. Group Photo courtesy of addone ltd.



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\* **UCHUSENTAI NOIZ** (L-R) "Hyper Sonic Guitar" MASATO, Mix Beat Creator" S@TT-ON, "Angel-Voice" ANGEL TAKA, "Clockwork Guitar" TAKEswiy and Super Vibrator" Kyo. **Photography by addone ltd.**

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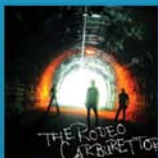
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