

# J●POP SUMMIT FESTIVAL 2014

**Media Contact:**  
Erik Jansen  
MediaLab  
[erik@medialab-pr.com](mailto:erik@medialab-pr.com)  
(714) 620-5017

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

#### ***2014 J-POP SUMMIT PRESENTS A DAZZLING LINE-UP OF MUSIC ACTS AND ARTISTS PERFORMING LIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF JAPANESE POP CULTURE IN JULY***

*Pop & Rock Stars May'n, Tokyo Girls' Style, DAICHI, Una, YANAKIKU, Pinky Doodle Poodle, and the Akabane Vulgars on Strong Bypass to Play the Annual Summertime Bay Area J-POP Extravaganza*

**San Francisco, CA, May 29, 2014** – The 2014 J-POP SUMMIT Festival, San Francisco's annual celebration of Japanese pop culture, music, fashion and film, is proud to announce a potent line-up of artists and live bands set to perform during this year's event. "*POP Is Our Tradition*" is the theme for 2014 and this year's festivities will be highlighted by the appearance of a unique array of top Japanese pop, rock and Kawaii acts.

The 2014 J-POP SUMMIT Festival will be held in San Francisco's historic Japantown district on Saturday and Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. ***FREE*** live concert sets by some of Japan's hottest pop and rock acts will take place throughout both days on the Pagoda Main Stage in Japantown's Peace Plaza as well as at a special open-air live concert, "*J-POP LIVE AT UNION SQUARE*," in city's downtown Union Square on the evening of Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Headliners scheduled to perform this year include pop/rock/anime singer May'n, the popular idol group Tokyo Girls' Style, which makes its first-ever U.S. appearance at J-POP SUMMIT, the return of the amazing beat box vocal skills of DAICHI, a special musical performance by Harajuku fashion model/singer Una, the U.S. debut of the kimono cosplay duo YANAKIKU, and the hard rocking sounds of J-rock bands Pinky Doodle Poodle, and the all-girl punk rock trio, The Akabane Vulgars on Strong Bypass. Details and specific set times will be posted on the official 2014 J-POP SUMMIT Festival website at: [www.J-POP.com](http://www.J-POP.com).

The annual J-POP SUMMIT is ***FREE*** to attend (although certain activities will require a modest admission fee) and has become one of the largest events in the United States dedicated to showcasing the many sides of Japanese pop culture and fandom. Attendance in 2013 exceeded 80,000 people.

**2014 J-POP SUMMIT Festival Music Artists:**

**MAY'N – SPECIAL APPEARANCE AT UNION SQUARE ON SATURDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> & HEADLINE SHOW AT SLIM'S S.F. ON SUNDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Japanese pop/rock/anime star May'n (pronounced "Main") is known as the singing voice of Diva of the Galaxy Sheryl Nome from the blockbuster anime film, *Macross Frontier*, as well as many other popular anime series. Her powerful rock and pop vocal style has drawn critical acclaim and legions of fans. In addition to a very special appearance at *J-POP LIVE AT UNION SQUARE*, the 2014 J-POP SUMMIT Festival proudly presents a May'n Special Live Concert at the famous SF live venue, Slim's (333 11<sup>th</sup> St., San Francisco, CA 94103) on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm. Advance tickets are available along with special VIP show packages that include an exclusive artist meet-and-greet. (*Quantities are limited*) More details on the Slim's show are available at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/mayn-live-concert-at-slims>.

**TOKYO GIRLS' STYLE – TWO LIVE SHOWS ON JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> & JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Tokyo Girls' Style is a massively popular Japanese teen idol vocal group and will make their U.S. debut at J-POP SUMMIT this year. The group will perform at *J-POP LIVE AT UNION SQUARE* on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and also on the Pagoda Main Stage in Japantown on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Tokyo Girls' Style consists of 5 teenage girls whose funk and disco sounds infused with glossy urban appeal have garnered the group a massive following in Japan. Additional info is available at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/tokyo-girls-style>.

As part of the U.S. debut of Tokyo Girls' Style, the J-POP SUMMIT Festival and the 2014 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco (JFFSF) will also present the U.S. theatrical premiere of *Count Five to Dream of You*, an inspiring feature film starring Tokyo Girls' Style set in all-girls high school that captures the short-lived and unforgettable moments of adolescence. Also set to premiere is *Kotodama – Spiritual Curse*, a J-horror movie about a haunted school based on the bestselling book "Gakkou no Kwaidan," in which members of Tokyo Girls' Style play the leading roles. Both films will screen at the NEW PEOPLE Cinema following the group's special appearance. Advance ticket sales start on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the JFFSF website at: [www.JFFSF.org](http://www.JFFSF.org).

**DAICHI – TWO LIVE SHOWS ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> & JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

The 23-year-old Japanese human beat-box, DAICHI, taught himself his amazing vocal skill beginning at the young age of 10. Without using any instruments or machines, DAICHI can create more than 50 different sounds using only his voice, and moreover, can play rhythm beat and sing melody simultaneously. DAICHI is known internationally for his talents and he has opened for the likes of Boys II Men and collaborated with numerous singers, dancers, DJs and performers. DAICHI will perform at *J-POP LIVE AT UNION SQUARE* on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and also on the Pagoda Main Stage in Japantown on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional info is available at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/daichi>.

**UNA – TWO LIVE SHOWS ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> & JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Una was formally a charismatic shop assistant in Harajuku and began her modeling career in 2010. It didn't take her long to begin appearing regularly in numerous fashion magazines. With her beautiful looks and edgy fashion style Una represents a new type of model capable of expressing not only Kawaii style but also showcasing other cool aspects of Harajuku culture. Una also has a budding singing career and has performed with top artists including Katy Perry and Kyary Pamyu Pamyu. She will appear at J-POP SUMMIT in support of her newest single, "BOOM BOOM BOOM," and will participate in this year's *HARAJUKU KAWAII!!* fashion events as well as perform at *J-POP LIVE AT UNION SQUARE* on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and also on the

Pagoda Main Stage in Japantown on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional info available is at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/una>.

**YANAKIKU – LIVE PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

YANAKIKU is a unique Japanese kimono cosplay duo consisting of members Yana and Kiku. In 2013, they performed for international audiences at Hyper Japan (London) and TIFFCOM (Japan) and have garnered a massive following for their costume and dance performances. YANAKIKU makes their U.S. debut at the 2014 J-POP SUMMIT Festival and will perform on the Pagoda Main Stage in Japantown on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and participate in the Festival's cosplay contest and events. The duo will also host a meet and greet session and have a selection of merchandise available for sale to attendees. Additional info is available at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/yanakiku>.

**PINKY DOODLE POODLE – LIVE PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Pinky Doodle Poodle is a high energy, female fronted rock band from Tokyo that formed in 2008. The group features lead vocalist/bassist/guitarist Yuria, a successful Japanese anime singer often heard in popular video games in Japan as well as on solo records and with her band *Honey Bee*. Pinky Doodle Poodle just completed their first full-length record which was produced by *Goo Goo Dolls* member Robby Takac. The 10-song self-titled album, *Pinky Doodle Poodle*, was released worldwide in the spring of 2014 on Takac's Good Charamel Records. Pinky Doodle Poodle will perform on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> on the Pagoda Main Stage in Japantown. Additional info at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/pinky-doodle-poodle>.

**THE AKABANE VULGARS ON STRONG BYPASS – LIVE SET ON SATURDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

The Akabane Vulgars On Strong Bypass is an all-girl punk rock trio from Tokyo and returns for their third consecutive concert appearance at J-POP SUMMIT. A favorite with Festival-goers, the band plays in support of their two newest releases "Proclamation" and "Live in Brooklyn." Catch the Akabane Vulgars on Strong Bypass on Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> for a powerful live set on the Pagoda Main Stage. Additional info at: <http://www.j-pop.com/2014/akabane>.

***Stay tuned for additional J-POP SUMMIT Guest of Honor, programming and event announcements!***

**About J-POP SUMMIT Festival**

Launched in 2009, J-POP SUMMIT Festival is an annual street fair held in San Francisco, CA that celebrates Japanese popular culture. By introducing the latest in Japanese music, film, art, fashion, gaming, anime, food, as well as niche subcultures, the festival has become a prominent platform to showcase the latest pop trends and creative innovations from Japan.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual J-POP SUMMIT held in July 2013 welcomed more than 80,000 attendees, making it one of the largest Japanese festivals in the United States. In addition to the original Festival held in Japantown, new attractions include the *J-POP LIVE AT UNION SQUARE* concert in downtown San Francisco, the Bay Area's premier dedicated Japan Film Festival of San Francisco, and sake-tasting and fine foods events at the POP GOURMET Food Festival, which have each further enriched the experience. Additional information about J-POP SUMMIT Festival is available at: [J-POP.com](http://www.j-pop.com).

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