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## PRESS RELEASE

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## J-POP SUMMIT ANNOUNCES DATES FOR 2015 FESTIVAL THAT WILL OFFER A WIDER ARRAY OF JAPANESE POP CULTURE ATTRACTIONS

The Bay Area's Premiere Japanese Pop Culture Event Moves To Historic Fort Mason And Transitions To A Ticketed Event Offering An Even Wider Variety Of Japanese Film, Food, Fashion, Music And Entertainment

**San Francisco, CA, April 6, 2015** – The J-POP SUMMIT the annual Japanese pop culture celebration held in San Francisco since 2009, has announced that its 7<sup>th</sup> annual event will take place Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The J-POP SUMMIT kicks off on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> with a very special Friday night premiere event at the historic Castro Theatre in association with the 2015 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco.

This year, the popular Bay Area annual celebration of Japanese pop culture, music, art, anime, fashion, and film spreads to multiple parts of San Francisco and moves from Japantown, where it was held since 2009, to the historic Fort Mason Center in San Francisco's Marina district.

The J-POP SUMMIT also transitions to become a ticketed attraction this year. Tickets will go on-sale on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Details and information on featured performers and events will be posted at <a href="https://www.J-POP.com">www.J-POP.com</a>.

Returning as part of the 2015 J-POP SUMMIT will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Japan Film Festival of San Francisco, the only dedicated Japanese film festival held in the Bay Area. The week-long series of live-action and anime film theatrical premieres will be highlighted by special personal appearances by a variety of prominent Japanese directors and actors and kicks off on Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> with a special opening night premiere event co-presented by J-POP SUMMIT at San Francisco's landmark Castro Theatre. The 2015 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco then runs at the NEW PEOPLE Cinema, located inside the NEW PEOPLE venue on Post St. in

Japantown, from Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> until Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets and additional information will be available at: www.JFFSF.org.

Notable new and returning fan-favorite events for the 2015 J-POP Summit will include:

**LIVE MUSIC:** Savor a diverse roster of some of Japan's hottest pop and rock acts LIVE onstage in special concert performances. This year, an expanded program of artists will perform live on the J-POP SUMMIT indoor stage at Fort Mason. Exclusive autograph and meet-and-greet sessions are also planned. Announcements of featured performers coming very soon!

**FASHION:** Straight from the streets of Tokyo come the newest and most cutting edge looks by an array of the latest designers. Catch fashion shows and fun contests by Japan's hottest brands. Also browse a wide variety of products and exclusive designs for sale from many featured Japanese fashion labels. Look for news on the roster of fashion events and featured brands in coming weeks!

**FILM PREMIERES:** The 2015 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco will host its opening night premiere event at San Francisco's celebrated Castro Theatre. Together with NEW PEOPLE Cinema, the Bay Area's preeminent Japanese film festival will host screenings and receptions featuring popular Japanese actors and directors from Japanese live-action film and anime releases.

**INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY:** The 2015 J-POP SUMMIT is pleased to present the Bay Area's very first Japanese IT and Technology-focused showcase event with exhibition, panels and keynote talks. As a trend-setting center of the consumer technology world, San Francisco is the perfect venue to present a variety of pioneers and luminaries at the J-POP SUMMIT including hardware and software, arts and sciences, and entertainment and gaming companies.

**TRAVEL:** A unique and informative pavilion offers the many sides of Japan to potential travelers. A variety of pop-focused companies will also showcase aspects not normally seen or accessible in traditional tours but of keen interest to many J-POP SUMMIT attendees.

**SAKE & JAPANESE FOOD:** Let sake flow!! The Sake tasting events that have occurred at previous J-POP SUMMITS transform into the first-ever SAKE SUMMIT, an even larger-scale and more comprehensive event! The 2015 J-POP SUMMIT joins forces with a variety of major sake brands of Japan as well as key players in the sake business in the Bay Area: from distilleries, distributors to retailers. This event will help promote Japanese sake culture to a larger audience and entice more Americans to enjoy Japan's national spirit. More information will be released in coming weeks!

**MANGA & ANIME:** Catch insightful discussions and autograph sessions led by a vanguard of Japan's renowned manga and anime creators. Fans also can atch a wide variety of anime titles at the 2015 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco, which will take place at the NEW PEOPLE Cinema in Japantown.

**POP ART:** Take in several Japanese pop art exhibitions that accent the 2015 J-POP SUMMIT. Featured live performance art and other exhibits, as well as autograph sessions by world-renowned artists, will be presented as well as vendors offering handmade arts and crafts.

"The J-POP SUMMIT has expanded substantially every year since our very first event in 2009 and it has become an important annual showcase for the latest trends in Japanese popular culture," says Seiji Horibuchi, Chairman of the J-Pop SUMMIT Committee and the founder of

NEW PEOPLE, Inc. "This year's move to Fort Mason and the transition to a ticketed event is the next stage in the evolution of the J-POP SUMMIT and it will allow us to develop and present an even higher caliber of attractions and featured performers. Fort Mason's expansive festival grounds also will provide for increased secure parking, better show management, and an even higher quality experience for attendees. We look forward to announcing this year's roster of artists, performers and unique attractions over the coming weeks!"

## **About J-POP SUMMIT**

The J-POP SUMMIT is an annual Japanese Pop Culture celebration held in San Francisco, CA that features live bands and artists from Japan, pop culture panel discussions, film premieres, fashion shows and events, food and spirits, art, and celebrity appearances. In 2014, the two-day event attracted 125,000 attendees. Details on J-POP SUMMIT are available at <a href="https://www.J-POP.com">www.J-POP.com</a>.

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