

Shock Horror! What's next?!

Pulling a motorcycle across the stage with a cord which is tied to the base of the performer's family jewels. Eating the business end of a lit cigarette. Using the tongue and face to play with a scorpion. Drinking milk through the nose and squirting it out through the eyes. Nanbu Torata, Sango Juugo, Gyuzo, and Danna Koyanagi. The four unveil a surreal and unparalleled performance.

In 1990, the performers formed a company, the 'Dengeki Network'. Overseas they are known by the name 'Tokyo Shock Boys'. The Boys deliver a high-quality performance involving extreme physical risk, and as a result they have earned a strong following. Their activities overseas are also particularly impressive. To date they have performed mainly in Australia, but also the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Korea, Spain, Russia and France. In 1999 they became the first Japanese



Pulling a motorbike tied by a cord to a place you should never tie it, the 'Ball Bike'.



Live performances are always at fever pitch.



The Tokyo Shock Boys; returning soon to Australia.

performers to appear in an Australian TV commercial. And in 2004, they took part in one of world's three largest comedy festivals; Melbourne International Comedy Festival. The Boys' first of four Perth performances was in 1995, and every time, day and night, they performed to a full house. Of their previous Perth appearances, Danna Koyanagi recalls, "We wound up becoming friends with members of the audience. I remember going to the beach together, and to parties at people's houses, or barbecues. Perth is a lovely city. All the memories I have are good ones, of spending time with really friendly, kind people."

Moving to primarily trance, up-tempo music, clad in their trademark overalls, the Boys move smoothly from one act to the next. Of the performances, Gyuzo said, "These are the dear friends who have let me realise my dreams." Calling the shots for a group who are each individually strong personalities, is the MC, Sango Juugo. On the topic of the differences between performing in Japan and abroad, Sango commented, "The language is different, and that's about it. There really isn't a big divide." Perhaps the reason for attributing no great differences between performing in different countries, is that, their performances being 'good friends' of long acquaintance, continuing to do things their own way has gained the Boys popularity wherever they go. On top of this, a vital part of the Boys' live performances is the music. As a part of the act, the music, written and performed by genji/nishikata, plays a significant role. As an honorary fifth member, he is indispensable.

The Boys are poised for their first performance in Australia for 6 years. Of their future goals, Nambu Torata said, with due theatrics, "We're preparing for the 2010 Australian tour, and we're thinking of some new materials which will shock the world. Australia, prepare for our coming!" So, before your very eyes, what radical performance will issue forth this time? We can only wait in expectation.

Profile

The Tokyo Shock Boys are a company of extreme performers. Acts so extreme as to be called 'human experimentation' have gained the group popularity in western countries. They have also performed frequently in tours throughout Japan, university campus carnivals and festivals.

Website: www.t-shock.com