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## Wide Island Update

### Editor's Statement

Welcome to the spring edition of Wide Island View! We hope you have survived the freezing Japanese winter and are ready to enjoy the brief interlude of sun before rainy season begins. In this issue, you'll find articles on Japanese television, a review/survival story from the Hadaka Matsuri, advice for those of you traveling to Indonesia, info regarding the Fukuyama Film Fest, a delicious recipe that doesn't require an oven, a weird and wonderful cartoon, AJET news and a guide to upcoming spring events. We hope you enjoy this issue of Wide Island View and don't hesitate to write to us at wideislandview@gmail.com if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for future articles. Thanks,

and see you in May!

### We're looking for new editors and designers to take over next year!

Hi! We're looking for anyone interested in taking over both the design position and the editor positions next year. If you'd like to be a part of keeping Wide Island afloat, please contact Jen or Matt at wideislandview@gmail.com.

We need your story ideas and submissions! If you've traveled during your stay in Japan, or have a vast knowledge or interest in an aspect of Japanese culture that you'd like to share with your fellow JETs, please feel free to write us at wideislandview@gmail.com.

## Happy Reading!

MATT and JEN

### Event in Review

# HADAKA MATSURI

by WESLEY CAPDEPON  
& CALLUM WATSON

When one first sees pictures of 9000 men dressed only in *fundoshi* (loincloths) running around and engaged in a giant brawl the first thing that comes to mind is "what the hell are they doing?!" The Japanese participants believe that if they end up with the *shingi*



Hadaka Matsuri (photo by Marc Milsten)



Hadaka Matsuri (photo by Marc Milsten)

(sacred stick) at the end, it will bring a year of good luck (aided by a large cash sum), and if not, they will still receive blessings from the two deities Senjukannon and Goousho Daigongen, just like their fathers, and their fathers'

fathers. We knew none of this though. However, either being tired of living or, simply, as one teacher put it, being *henna* (strange) *gaijin*, we decided to join in for the *craic*. The festival at Kannonin Temple near

Okayama City dates back to the Eisho Era (1504-21) as a form of prayer for peace (!) and a good harvest. Today it has grown into one of Japan's most famous festivals, drawing up to 30,000 spectators (and over 200 JETs) every year. As well as the main adult competition, children are trained from a young age at an earlier contest in which they fight over mochi or "treasure tubes". The main festival begins at 9pm when the participants arrive to get "dressed" and numb their nerves with some suitably strong liquor. By 11pm the 658 police officers, 744 fire fighters and 230 organisers are all in place and the festival begins. Linked at the shoulders in rows of 3 to 5, groups of men run several circuits of the temple complex to chants of "*washo?*" (let's go). Crowds line the route, and just in case the near-zero temperatures don't keep the runners cool, water is sprinkled on them before they run through a steeple chase-style water bath.

After having done several rounds, each

... continued on page 7

# AJET bulletin

by CYBIL LITWILLER

## Hiroshima AJET

A word from Cybil Litwiller, AJET Representative in Hiroshima Prefecture

### Hello Hiroshima JETs!

Spring Break is upon us and Golden Week is just around the corner. That means that there are only a few months left before we have to say goodbye to some friends. Add more memories of your time in Japan and come out for the upcoming AJET events. So get out your planner and a pen, and write these dates down! More details will be coming as the dates get closer.

### May 24/25 – Camping Trip

We are heading out of the ken for 2 days and 1 night of fun in the sun! We will be leaving early Saturday morning, in order to get some quality kayaking (or another adventure) time in the afternoon, which will be followed by relaxing and camping outside under the stars. We will then head back home on Sunday afternoon.



Hiroshima AJET-sponsored Bonenkai at Café Bien (photo by Cybil Litwiller)

## June ? – Carp Game

What better way to truly experience Japan than watching Japan's national obsession, baseball?! Come and cheer on your Hiroshima Carp as they fight their way to the playoffs! The crowds, the cheering and of course, the baseball, are a sight not to be missed! The date will be decided when the

schedule is posted.

## July 12 – AJET Leavers Party

Come out to Mitsukoshi Beer Garden in Hiroshima and bid your friends farewell. It's a great chance to say Sayonara to all the people you love, but can't see on a weekly basis. All you can eat and drink? It is guaranteed to be a good time.

As always, if you want to come to an event or you have ideas or suggestions, please email us at [hiroshimaajet@hotmail.com](mailto:hiroshimaajet@hotmail.com). EVERYONE is welcome at these events, so please bring your friends with you!! We are looking forward to seeing you all soon! §

## RECIPE:



## Bacon Broccoli Potato Cheese Soup

by JULIA MAYEDA

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 bag of regular potatoes (my bag had 7 little guys) cut into small cubes
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 1 head of broccoli, cut into small pieces
- 150 grams bacon, cooked and cut into small pieces
- 200 grams shredded white cheese
- 1/2 TBS oil
- 6 to 8 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp paprika
- salt and pepper
- about 8 cups of water
- 1 bunch of green onions, chopped

### DIRECTIONS:

- Saute onions in oil with a dash of salt and pepper until the onions are cooked (about 5 minutes)
- In a large pot throw in your potatoes, broccoli, onions and water
- Bring to a boil, add cumin, paprika and chicken bouillon

- Reduce heat and simmer until veggies are tender (about 15 minutes)
- Slowly add cheese while stirring constantly
- Add bacon and taste, season with salt and pepper
- Portion into bowls and garnish with plenty of green onions
- And scarf!

### NOTES:

- If you like potato skins just wash, slice and throw in, if you don't care for the skins, peel them first, or go half and half
- Preparation Time: about 30 minutes
- Feeds: 4 hungry people

## Beer (ビール)

by MICHAEL HALUALANI

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 or more cans of Beer

### EXPLANATION:

I thought that a nice, dark beer would go well with a hearty soup like this. So off to the local Fresta I went with the knowledge that my choices would be limited considering the flavor that the

Japanese beer drinker tends to prefer. But after a quick scouring of the beer section I came up with three different options (all in can form). I lined up one can each of Guinness, Yebisu Black, and Kirin "Ichibanshibori Stout", and the taste test began. I guess I should say up front that I was probably a bit biased in my assessment considering Guinness is one of the most popular beers in the world. The tasting proved my point with Guinness outdoing the competition hands down. That said, Yebisu Black is not a bad choice if you can't get your hands on a Guinness or some other tasty import. I found it to have a sharper taste, with a slight bite even, where Guinness has a much smoother flavor which goes down so easy. Yebisu Black's caramely flavor and aroma are both there, but just seem to drop off a bit too soon for my liking. The last choice, Kirin "Ichibanshibori Stout", should be consumed only if no other option is available. With a quick internet search I found that many serious beer drinkers are up in arms over the fact that "Ichibanshibori Stout" is not actually even a stout! This has something to do with the brewing process which you are free to look up at your leisure. Regardless of this, the taste is quite similar, and the look is almost identical to Yebisu Black. Although I have downed my fare share of these guys, when put in a tasting situation I found the flavor to be slightly too bitter, and there is a lingering aftertaste that leaves my mouth with the taste of something stale and nasty. So, to end this before it gets too long, my recommendation is Guinness all the way.

かんぱい!

### SCORES:

Guinness - 10  
Yebisu Black - 8.5  
Ichibanshibori Stout - 6.5

# MAR • APR • MAY CALENDAR

## • March 9 - March 23

### Grand Sumo Tournament in Osaka

Tickets are still available for this event, one of six Grand Sumo Tournaments held in Japan each year.

## • March 15

### Fukuyama Carp Baseball

Come cheer on the Hiroshima Carp as they challenge the Oryx Buffaloes in a pre-season game held in Fukuyama.

## • March 16

### Fukuyama Marathon

While it's too late to sign up for this annual run in Fukuyama (Japan fun runs really need to have day-of-race sign up!), those staying for another year should keep this run in mind for next year. Keep a lookout for a signup deadline next year around January or February.

## • March 20

### Vernal Equinox

The spring equinox in Japan coincides with the Buddhist holiday Ohigan. The mild spring weather made Ohigan the perfect time for farmers to reflect and renew efforts to practice Buddhism. The day is also celebrated by visiting ancestors' graves and giving them a spring cleaning.

## • April 8

### Hana Matsuri

The Hana Matsuri is not an official holiday, but it is a celebration of the Buddha's birthday.

## • April 29

### Showa Day

Originally celebrating the Showa Emperor's (Hirohito's) birthday, the day was changed to Greenery Day upon his death in 1989. This year it has somewhat controversially been changed back to Showa Day in honor of Hirohito.

## JLAND • FACT

• As of 2005, there were 43,667 convenience stores in Japan, with 7-11 the leader with 11,310 stores.

• It takes 28,000 liters of paint to paint Tokyo Tower.

## • May 3

### Constitution Memorial Day

This day celebrates the day on which Japan's postwar constitution took effect in 1947.

## • May 4

### Greenery Day

There is a holiday law in Japan, which stipulates that any day that falls between two holidays must be a holiday itself. Hence the 2007 creation of Greenery Day, which ostensibly celebrates "friendship with nature and gratitude for its blessings."

## • May 5

### Children's Day

Formerly Boys' Day, this holiday was changed in 1948 to celebrate all children. Koinobori, or carp-shaped wind socks, representing each family member are flown throughout Japan.

## • June 15

### Hatsukaichi Oudan Miyajima Triathlon

Signup for this triathlon soon, as there are only 500 slots available. More information can be found on [www.gethiroshima.com](http://www.gethiroshima.com)

### • Upcoming Films

March 14 Enchanted  
 March 15 The Diving Bell and the Butterfly  
 March 22 Lust, Caution  
 March 22 My Blueberry Nights  
 March 29 Evening  
 April Lions for Lambs

### • Upcoming Concerts

Radiohead, October 4-5, Saitama Super Arena, Tokyo - Tickets on sale April 27

Summer Sonic 2008, featuring Coldplay, The Verve, Sex Pistols, Devo, etc., August 9-10 - Tickets on sale May 24 at 10am

Fuji Rock 2008, featuring My Bloody Valentine and The Go!Team (as of now), July 25-27 - Tickets on sale March 8

Modest Mouse, April 8, Osaka and April 9-10, Tokyo

Spring Groove, April 3 and 6, Osaka  
 Punk Spring, April 4-5, Osaka and April 6, Tokyo

# NIHONGO no BENKYOU

by ALEXIS FRANKS

### TOPIC 1:

日本の諺  
 にほんのことわざ  
*nihon no kotowaza*  
**Japanese Proverb**

### JAPANESE:

弱肉強食。

### ROMAJI:

*Jaku niku kyou shoku.*

### LITERAL TRANSLATION:

Weak, meat; strong, eat.

### ENGLISH EQUIVALENT:

It's a dog-eat-dog world.

### VOCABULARY BUILDER:

- 弱, じゃく, *jaku*, weak also read as 弱い, *yowai*
- 肉, にく, *niku*, meat
- 強, きょう, *kyou*, strong also read as 強い, *tsuyoi*
- 食, しょく, *shoku*, eat also read as 食べる, *taberu*

### TOPIC 2:

日本の擬態語  
 にほんのぎたいご  
*nihon no gitaigo*  
**Japanese Psychomime**

### EXAMPLE 1:

- べたべた, *petapeta*, describing the feeling of clamminess or stickiness

顔が汗でべたべたする。  
*Kao ga ase de beta-beta suru.*  
 My face is clammy with sweat.

### EXAMPLE 2:

- ぼろぼろ, *boroboro*, describing the feeling of raggedness

顔が汗でべたべたする。  
*Kojiki wa boro-boro no kimono o kite ita.*  
 The beggar was dressed in tatters.

# travel: INDONESIA

*Cybil Litwiler and her friend Heather explore the “Land of Diversity”, and sum up their travels with five top “To Do” recommendations.*

## ADVENTURES IN THE LAND OF DIVERSITY

by **CYBIL LITWILLER**

Over winter break, my friend Heather and I headed to the “Land of Diversity”, also known as Indonesia. With more than 17,000 islands and only 10 days to explore, we had our work cut out for us. Here are five of my To Dos.

First stop, Jakarta. The capital and economic centre of Indonesia is home to 9 million people, an uncomfortable amount of smog, a lively culture and a blossoming paparazzi.

### **To Do 1: Embrace Your Inner Celebrity**

Maybe it's because we're gorgeous, but more likely it's because we're tall, girls and look like stereotypical English-speaking Americans (which I'm NOT), but either way we were asked repeatedly for pictures. From our first dinner, where Heather was interviewed for Indonesian TV, to the school groups surrounding us for a photo-op, we were fawned over and pestered. At times I couldn't stop smiling and at other times I wanted to run away screaming, but throughout it all, I was fascinated by the whole experience, surprisingly different to what I've encountered in Japan and I have to say, I liked it. But then again, it could be because I'm a diva.

To escape the pollution of Jakarta, we flew to Yogyakarta, home of two incredibly old temples, Borobudur (a 1200 year old Buddhist temple) and Prambanan (a 1200 year old Hindu temple). We only had time for one, so we headed to Prambanan, the closer of the two.

### **To Do 2: Take Buses to the Temples**

The trip turned out to be the sketchiest and most memorable ride of my life! The #4 bus had a literal jump on and off policy, where you stuck out your hand on the side of the road, and the bus would slow down enough so you could



Prambanan, a 1200 year old Hindu Temple (photo by Cybil Litwiler)



Selminyak Beach, Bali (photo by Cybil Litwiler)

jump on. There were no doors, the walls and roof were held together by tape and the driver and his helper stopped occasionally for a drink from a stall. On the way home, I rode up front, with a hole in the floor and no speedometer or gas gauge in sight. I prayed to the Hindu gods we wouldn't break down. It was one of the most intense rides of my life. Not only did we get to experience Indonesian public transit, we also got the scenic tour of the beautiful countryside and the opportunity to people watch,

all for the price of...200 yen. And how was Prambanan? Amazing, but a bit dull compared to the journey.

Soon tired of history, heat and adoring fans, we decided to put our terrorism fears aside and head to Bali. We pondered the 20 hour, ¥2000 bus ride versus the 1 hour, ¥15,600 plane ride.

### **To Do 3: Fly**

Not only did we get a lunch box and drinks with Garuda Airlines, but also



My party patrol. RipCurl's surf instructors (photo by Cybil Litwiller)

smiles, something you only dream of when flying short economy-class flights in North America.

Once in Bali, I decided to try something new. Indonesia is great for scuba-diving and bungee jumping, or so I've heard, but I wanted to try something cheaper, less scary and on my "things to do before I die" list.

#### To Do 4: Try Surfing!

Bali has a ton of surf schools if you want to learn, and places to rent boards if you didn't bring your own. I chose RipCurl, as it was the closest to my hotel, and I'm glad I did. Surfing, though tiring and difficult, was a huge rush, especially when after only a few wipe-outs, I finally got up on the board! I was surfing, much to my and my instructor's delight. Three lessons and about 10,000 yen later, I'm no Kelly Slater, but I have

developed a new passion and the crazy idea that I should move to Australia for 3 months and surf.

After 6 beautiful days in Bali, it was time to fly back to Jakarta. Due to a crappy booking, we were scheduled to leave on New Year's Eve.

#### To Do 5: Roll with the Punches

To make a long story short, I decided to have a pre-leaving party at the surf school which coincided nicely with their New Year's party. Unfortunately JDs and coke are not a good mix for me, and I missed my flight, much to Heather's alarm. Instead of losing it, I continued partying in true University of Waterloo style, deciding to deal with it in the morning, something very atypical for me. The rest of the night included meeting a Balinese family and falling off a motorcycle. I do not remember midnight. Looking back,

scissors from the world. It's not strange until I write it down... Arrgh, have I really become that numbed to the absurdity of Japanese TV and culture?

In conversations with JETs, I'm always quite surprised by how many don't watch even 5 minutes of TV a day, let alone turn their TV on at all. I guess I shouldn't be because, after all 1) it isn't in English; 2) we don't know the programmes and people and 3) it's pretty damn strange! Recently,

## TRAVELTIPS

### Getting There

There are a number of ways to get to Indonesia. There are direct flights to Bali and Jakarta from Tokyo and Osaka, but especially during peak seasons, it might be cheaper to find a connecting flight through Hong Kong, or another Asian country. You can book your tickets through a travel agent, or use a travel website.

### Getting Around

Taxis are extremely cheap in Indonesia, with one hour rides costing less than 500 yen. In Jakarta, look for BlueBird Company, the most reputable taxi company. For long distances you can take overnight buses or fly. Garuda Airlines is a good company with many flights daily.

### Links

Booking airplane tickets:

- [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)
  - [www.garuda-indonesia.com/](http://www.garuda-indonesia.com/)
- Indonesian information:
- [www.tourismindonesia.com/](http://www.tourismindonesia.com/)
  - [www.lonelyplanet.com/world/guide/indonesia/](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/world/guide/indonesia/)

I was extremely stupid. However, since I made it back to Jakarta in time and mostly in one piece (minus a small knee problem) I count myself lucky and smile when I think of it. It is one of the most memorable experiences of my entire life.

So how was Indonesia? The food was incredible, the scenery amazing, the people fantastic and the activities plentiful. But most of all, it was truly unforgettable. Don't take my word for it though, go and check it out yourself! §

I have been watching it a lot, so I thought I would share with you some of my experiences. I hope these will encourage you to turn on the box to see what's on.

### Variety/Quiz Shows

These shows are definitely the most entertaining and are what most people think of when asked about Japanese TV. These shows tend to have comedians performing routines, interviewing guests or are 'reaction shows'. These 'reaction shows' are ter-

## O-SUSUME DESU!

# GETTING INTO JAPANESE TV

by PHILIP CLARK

As I sit here thinking about what to write for this article, I flick my eyes up to "The Best House" special on TV to see them counting down the top three styles of

ribly simple in their format. They basically involve the cast members and guest celebrities being briefly introduced and then shown a video clip or a live performance.

These videos typically depict something foreign, a delicacy from some part of Japan or a tale (complete with reenactment) of how someone triumphed over incredible odds. Here are a couple of the most bizarre shows I've seen. I've only put two here but there are tons of others:

1. An interesting show that I only saw once was the Hiroshima Police version of 'Cops'. I know what you're thinking. 'What you gonna do?' or more importantly, 'What they (actually) gonna do?' It did get pretty interesting, though. They banged down doors, chased people through the streets of Hiroshima city and showed a bench in the Peace Park, covered in blood! I was pretty shocked by that last one, it being our peaceful Hiroshima and all.

2. However, my all-time weirdest show was about comedians catching bees. Two comedians met with some old men in a forest and the comedians were shown how to catch bees. First, the old men hung a piece of squid from a tree in a forest (fairly standard practice these days), then lay in wait for a bee to land on it (bees love squid hanging from trees, didn't you know?). A couple of bees landed and the old men whipped out a tiny bit of thread and lassooed the bees with a small knot. The end of the thread had a small piece of fluff attached. The bee, now startled,

... continued from page 2

time praying to the two deities, the participants gather under the temple itself, packed in like sardines. On the stroke of midnight the lights go off, the *shogi* is dropped and chaos ensues. Emergency-bell wielding first-aiders, as well as police, are on hand, but neither could prevent one man from getting trampled to death last year. Post-event interviews exposed a rather blasé attitude: injuries are usually brought on by the victims' own silly actions and, in any case, police joining the brawl isn't going to help.

This is where our stories diverge. Callum: As I ran around the temple eventually working myself into an Ancient Greek-style cathartic trance, I stopped feeling the pain of both the cold, and a rather painful injury I inflicted

flew away as the comedians ran after it through the forest to great comedic effect. The point of this: the fluff shows them where the bee is flying and following the flying fluff leads them to the hive. It is here that they smoke out the bees, take them home and make a honey-type conserve that uses whole bees. Weird.

### Dramas

The dramas here are pretty damn cheesy. They have the same kind of clichéd storylines as shows back home, but the acting is subpar and camerawork is amateur. They seem often to use Aidoru (Idols), like beautiful/famous celebrities as the main characters, who seem mostly to have graduated from the Keanu Reeves' School of Wooden Acting.

As at home, some dramas can be pretty hard to stomach due to the cheese content, but some are actually pretty good. If watching a drama on TV is just too hard and you don't understand a single thing, why not try it with subtitles on the 'net. Try checking out MySoju (see below for address) for a wide range of old and new Japanese dramas complete with English subtitles.

### Adverts

I have seen some pretty poor commercials in my time on this Earth but I was astounded by the new ads I've seen on Fuji TV recently. The ads don't appear to be from any particular company but simply have people, including a lot of cute kids, singing, "I love commercials" (in English). I think the advertisers have just given up.

upon my head before I got to the temple, a result of a pre-*matsuri nomihoudai*. Inside the temple one of my friends clung to me, later saying he'd wanted to at least be in the company of a friend. After midnight, the crowd moved like a sea, and eventually my feet left the ground as I found myself in a human cascade flowing off the side of the temple. A few seconds later I was on the ground where it was raining men; fun for some-I thought I was going to die.

Wesley: I heard that people died participating in the Hadaka matsuri in years past; I also heard that they died because they were in the temple, which is considered the most dangerous area. With this in mind, I told myself, "stay out of the temple and you'll be ok." So, where did I find myself after running through the sacred pool five times and parading

Just writing it here has firmly planted the tune in my head and the sad thing is I don't even really like commercials.

### Why should I watch TV here?

It's funny and often pretty interesting. I also think it is fantastic practice for those wanting to learn Japanese. It's good for your listening skills, but also good reading practice as most TV shows have subtitles. Although they do use Kanji a fair bit, they also use a lot of Hiragana and Katakana too.

I say give Japanese TV a bit more of a try if you haven't already. For example, try to tune into the same show each day or week even if only for a short time to get a feeling for the programme and the people. For you ALTs, students - not to mention workmates - also respond well to conversations and questions about TV and its personalities. I'm not saying that Japanese TV is great or even good, but it's worth giving it a go while you're here. Gambatte!!

### Some useful websites:

MySoju: [www.mysoju.com](http://www.mysoju.com). A good resource for subtitled Japanese dramas.

TV Guide: <http://www.tvguide.or.jp/>. In Japanese. Main page shows what's on right now on all channels.

Japan Zone: [http://www.japan-zone.com/modern/tv\\_star.shtml](http://www.japan-zone.com/modern/tv_star.shtml). A bit dated but has pictures of personalities next to names in English for easy identification.

I love commercials: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=699F9Zzqm4Y>

Wikipedia is also a great source. §

around the streets yelling *washoi* until my mind and body became numb with repetition? Right in the middle of the temple. It was like being in an insanely frightening mosh pit, except there was no music, it was the middle of winter, everyone was in man diapers and some guy kept throwing water on me. There were times when I thought I wasn't going to make it out, there were times when I thought I was going to have an anxiety attack because my life was in the hands of an entity comprised of 9,000 drunk Japanese men in diapers and for some sick reason there were times when I was thinking, "I can't wait 'till next year."

The Hadaka Matsuri being what it is, it's hard to believe that so many JTEs see our Thai beach holidays as so *abunai*. §



**FEATURED PHOTO:** 'Wet Bridge' by **july07jen**

This issue's photo is by july07jen. Katie, our resident photography expert, explains why she chose it:

"I chose 'Wet Bridge' because I really like the motion of the image. There is a lot of linear motion as well as actual motion that keep your eye moving around the picture. I also like the shallow depth of field, which isn't really noticeable at first. The focus on the railing up close allows you to see the texture of the wood, and it also leads your eye straight into the center of the shot."

To see more stunning shots of life in Japan, and to join in the fun yourself, go to the Hiroshima JETs photo page at: [www.flickr.com/groups/esid](http://www.flickr.com/groups/esid)



## Let's Film Fest III

Created by Grahaeme Cowie and Natasha Mekhail, two former Fukuyama JETs, in 2006, Let's Film Festival is an annual short film contest held in Fukuyama every spring. This year's contest will be held on May 31. Here's all you need to know about the Film Fest:

**Entrants must produce one of the following:**

A) a 30-second commercial for a product or service of your own creation

B) a five-minute film featuring three elements: a line, a prop and a location. These elements will be universal to all the movies entered and have been determined by way of a semi-democratic process. As for the rest of your film, you are bound only by the limits of your imagination.

**The elements for this year are:**

Prop: A can of corn soup or ramen

Line: "Are those real?"

Location: Karaoke Box

**Format:**

All films must be in digital format, burned to DVD and readable by common software programs (Windows Media Player or Quicktime).

**Entrants:**

ANYONE is eligible to enter the Let's Film

Festival, whether you're English or Japanese-speaking. Films in either language are welcome and make for a much more interesting playbill.

**Timeframe:**

1) The deadline to announce your intent to participate is April 15. Please write us at [letsfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:letsfilmfestival@gmail.com) with a team name and contact information for at least one of the participants.

Teams may be any size and you may enter as many times as you wish in as many different incarnations as you wish. Once you've signed up, we'll send confirmation. 2) The deadline to submit your finished film (and the event itself) is May 31.

**Judging:**

Let's Film Festival winners are determined by audience vote so it's in your best interest to stock the place with friends, family and co-workers.

**Details:**

Date: May 31, 2008

Time: From 4 pm until 9pm

Place: Nohohon Cafe, 1-11-20 Minami Miyoshi-cho, Fukuyama. (Close to Ito Yokado/Happy Town)

**Contacts:**

Matt Hazel, Bill Lawson or Josh Zimmerman at [letsfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:letsfilmfestival@gmail.com)

**Fee:**

Registration is free but there will be a small door fee to cover costs. All profits go to charity.

**Inspiration:**

Check out previous films at: [www.letsfilmfestival.com](http://www.letsfilmfestival.com).

See you there! Let's Film Festival!

# Gaijin Gaffs

by **GRAHAEME COWIE**

