

A J!-ENT FEATURE ARTICLE & INTERVIEW

MOMOI HALKO

BY MICHELLE TYMON & DENNIS A. AMITH
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF AVEX ENTERTAINMENT, INC.



QUEEN OF AKIHABARA
秋葉原の女王

Visit Momoi Halko's Official Website at <http://avexmovie.jp/lineup/momo-i/>

Remember this name—Momoi Halko. Rarely have I seen seiyuu get attention for their work that is non-animated related but when we see the name Momoi Halko and news stories writing about an essay book, known for her passion for Akihabara or a drama based on her life, its quite evident that this seiyuu must be very big.

Sure, we have reported on seiyuu (and our last major feature was Hayashibara Megumi many years ago) but its been awhile since a Japanese voice actress (Seiyuu) has peaked our curiosity.

So, who is Momoi Halko?

To start things off, the singer and actresses real name is Momoi Haruko but adopted the name Halko after the computer HAL 9000 from the film “2001: A Space Odyssey”.

If you have watched any love/comedy anime series in the last couple of years, you have probably heard this seiyuu’s voice.

Momoi Halko is an Akihabara super idol and proclaimed by her fans as the “Queen of Akihabara”.

Her talents include voice acting, singing, song writing, cosplaying and being the go-to girl for any information you need on Akihabara.

Akihabara is an anime lovers’ paradise.

It is the part of Tokyo that specializes in electronics including not only the sales of the coolest TV’s, DVD players, digital camera, computer accessories, cell phones and video recorders, but it is also where anime and video game fans from around the world flock to because of the vast anime, manga, and video game merchandise they can find there.

Momoi Halko is not only an active member of all three of those industries, but she is also a huge fan of all three herself.

Momoi Halko was born on December 14th in Tokyo; As a high school student, she started browsing the internet and e-mailing people around the nation and posting on message boards concerning her favorite female idols at the time.

Because Momoi was interested in culture and female seiyuu idols that could be seen as “otaku”, it made her different from her other female classmates. So, different that throughout her high school life, she was bullied.

It may be hard for people in America who embrace anime and manga culture and enjoy it and call themselves “otaku” culture and find thousands of fans through anime conventions or clubs but for Momoi, her communication with these fans were on the Internet. In fact, she embraced the Internet culture via message boards to meet other fans.

Sure, sounds like no big deal because many have embraced the Internet as part of their daily routine in life but in Japan, for Momoi Halko’s reality, it made her look uncool to some of her female classmates.

As documented on her recent drama series based on her life “HALKO★UP DATE - Halko Momoi Story”,



Halko Momoi sporting a black outfit (darkside) from her “Best of Momoi” album “Momo-i Quality”. Photo courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

the bullying Momoi endured was terrible.

Fortunately, the friends she met on the Internet help keep her strong and put up with the challenges and graduate from high school.

As for Momoi, although she was a writer for a magazine, throughout college she would hold live concerts in Harajuku and Akihabara and from there she got noticed.

Her major break was in 2000 with her debut CD single “Mail Me” which was used for the film “Suicide Circle” and from there led to other avenues of work.

Her seiyuu debut was for the anime television show “The Soutaker” in which she was the voice the character Nakahara Komugi in 2001.

As a seiyuu, Momoi has done a lot of roles for cute girls such as Minazuki Chika from the popular “Ai Yori Aoshi” series, Hayakawa Ai from “Final Fantasy Unlimited” and even cute little creatures like Maromi from “Paranoia Agent”.

In October 2001, Momoi got the role of Nakahara Komugi for “Nakahara Komugi’s Toasty (Kongari) Nurse Station”. The show becomes the world’s first anime internet radio program.



Introducing Akihabara's super idol - Momoi Halko. Photo courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

With her seiyuu career flourishing, Momoi still loved performing live and continued this by being part of a unique music group.

In February 2002, she formed the music unit UNDER17 (aka "Ansebu") with Koike Masaya. The duo offered and sung songs from 18 and over hentai (adult) video game songs that were pretty much taboo. They formed a new genre of adults songs called "Mo-e" songs and interesting enough, Momoi performed with glasses on.

With the popularity of "Ai yori Aoshi", "Ai yori Aoishi ~Enishi", "Popotan" and "Nurse Witch Komugi-chan" in Japan, Momoi was involved with many anime drama CD and anime soundtracks from

2002-2003.

With multiple albums and demand for "Ai yori Aoishi" and "Nurse Witch Komugi-chan" related albums, Momoi still continued her passion through singing on these animated albums.

Demand for the voice actress exploded and Momoi was doing voice work for "RAGNAROK THE ANIMATION", "STELLA DEUS", "Binzume Yousei" (Bottle Fairy), "Twinkle Circus", "School-Days" and "Da Capo 2nd Season".

In September 2004, UNDER17 decides to call it quits after performing in many live performances.

At their last live performance at Yokohama Blitz, she ended the performance with leaving her trademark "ansebu"

glasses on stage.

After 2004's breakup of her group Under 17, Momoi pursued her solo career and held her first solo live tour titled "Wonder Momoi Tour" in Osaka, Nagoya, Hakata and Shibuya in 2005.

She released her CD single "Tondoru Baby" (LHCM-1013) which was the theme song for "Akahori Gedou Hour Rabuge" in July 2005.

Her music continued in video game soundtracks such as NAMCO's "Taiko no Tatsujin - Tobikkiri! Anime Special Dainesshu Utamatsuri" and "Sukimizu 2".

Momoi released her CD single "Wonder Momoi" (COCC-15804, used for the "Taiko no Tatsujin" video game) in October 2005.

In 2006, Momoi's career blossomed.

For Momoi (aka "Momooi", a nickname she has gone by), her first fan club titled "m.m.m." dedicated to her was established in 2006.

Now established as a popular idol singer among anime fans, Momoi released her first concert DVD shot at Shibuya O-East titled "Wonder Momo-I Live tour Final" (COBC-4519, released on March 29).

Anime soundtracks and drama CD's continued with anime and video series such as "Tales of the Abyss", "Da Capo 2nd Season" and "Lovely Idol".

With her music gaining popularity, Momoi signed with major record label Avex Entertainment, Inc. (avex mode) and released a best album "momo-i quality" (AVCA-22786, released on Aug. 9, 2006) with collection of songs from her indie labels throughout 2005.

The album features a total of 13 tracks and photos of Momoi cosplaying as a character from the dark side and another character in heavenly white.

The music featured in "momo-i quality" range from J-Eurobeat inducing songs (such as the first track "Love.exe -Momo-i Quality Version) to cutesy idol pop music.

For those who are accustomed to listening to anime soundtracks, or seiyuu soundtracks will dig this album.

Songs such as "Go★Home! - Master MIX Version-" feature almost a gabber mix but Momoi singing in a high pitch, cute voice.

But you get a little of rock with songs such as "Friendship" and even a little disco with songs such as "Koi no Recipe".

Also, a beautiful ballad that Momoi sings (and plays piano for) "Figure ni Naritai -Re Painted Version".

So, you will get a good mix of Momoi performing different styles of songs.

The album received the #1 spot for monthly sales for Akihabara's "Tora no Ana" and ranked #8 on the yearly chart for Akihabara's "Ishimaru Denki".

Momoi had been proclaimed by her fans as the "Queen of Akihabara".

Who would think that the girl who was a big fan of idol singers in five years would become one herself.

Since her CD debut of "Mail Me" in 2000, Momoi has become among the top voice talents in Japan and one of the most



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successful seiyuu idol singers.

Because her life of overcoming odds from bullying and taking chances is inspirational, a drama series titled "HALKO★UP DATE" based on her life would be developed.

In November 2006, Momoi released her first CD+DVD single titled "Saigo no Rock" (AVCA-26018/B).

The song is used as the theme song for Momoi's upcoming drama "HALKO★UP DATE".

The DVD accompanying the CD single features the "Saigo no Rock" performance of Momoi and clips from the live drama.

Also released in November was a character CD single "Ippozutsu/Love, Love, Love no Sei Nanoyo! (Mai Solo Version)" (AVCA-26014, released on November 22nd) for Haruko's character Nonomiya Mai for the anime series "Lovely Idol".

In December, Momoi's CD single "Yume no Baton" (AVCA-26020) was released.

The song was used as the ending theme for her live drama "HALKO★UP DATE" and the DVD version contains behind-the-scenes footage of the making of the drama.

To begin the new year, the release of the "Lovely Idol" drama CD and part 1 of the live drama "HALKO★UP DATE" was released. Two versions with one that includes a CD (PCBE-51448) and the other, a regular version (PCBE-51450) released on January 26th.

This release will feature a total of eight tracks including her two released CD singles and a version 2.0 of "Mail Me".

In February, Momoi released her second best album titled "HALKO★UP DATE SONGS BEST" (AVCA-26117, released on Feb. 21).

The album will contain her new CD singles used on the live drama including covers.

The music videos included on the DVD version will include her debut CD single "Mail Me" from 2000 is included on the DVD version along with "Saigo no Rock".

On February 23rd, the conclusion of "HALKO★UP DATE" was released.

The special edition (PCBE-51449)



桃井はるこ

ゆめのばとん

c/w 恋の冥王星

『はるこ☆UP DATE』 ED曲



PHOTO: Momoi cosplaying a sailor outfit for her CD single "Yume no Baton"(image is of the normal CD version) and an image of her "Haruko*UP DATE - Halko Momoi Story - Songs Best". Image courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

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HALKO MOMOI

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avex mode



PHOTO: Heavenly momo-i. Image courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

includes a 16-page booklet and bonus CD featuring three songs.

A regular edition of part 2 (PCBE-51451) is also available.

Also, announced in February was Momoi's essay book titled "AkihabaLOVE ~I Became an Adult Along with Akihabara~".

In March, her upcoming concert DVD "Momo-i Live" will be released. There will be three versions with a "momo-i UP DATE TOUR in Shibuya O-EAST" (recorded in January 28, 2007) and a "momo-i quality LIVE IN Stellar Ball 2006" (recorded in August 2006).

A special DVD box set containing both concerts will be released with a bonus t-shirt.

Suffice to say, Momoi Halko has a busy

schedule this year and even more CD singles planned in March and DVD releases of "Lovely Idol".

Just to think that a little over a decade ago, this fan of idol singers would one day later become an idol singer with legions of fans who are passionate for the talent.

Suffice to say that Momoi's career is anything but typical, she has become an innovator may it be the former artist of UNDER17 creating moe music or taking her career to new heights.

The reason why she is so loved by her fans is because she doesn't put herself above them.

She was just like them years ago and because she is well-grounded, she is

respected for that.

With her latest release of her video "HALKO★UP DATE", rarely would you find a live drama based on a seiyuu's life but it's because Momoi Halko is indeed an inspiration for many young people. She is also a sign of hope that if you are passionate about something and you really want it, you seize the opportunity and make it happen.

Momoi Halko is a truly genuine person and an idol that is not just creative, innovative but also truly inspirational.

I look forward to seeing her career continue to flourish for many years to come.

- DENNIS A. AMITH

はろ〜☆
UPDATE...
HALKO MOMOI STORY
後編



The following image is the cover for "HALKO★UP DATE ~ HALKO MOMOI STORY" - DVD. Image courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.



MOMOI HALKO

THE J!-ENT INTERVIEW
By Michelle Tymon



Photos and Images courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

Momoi Halko completed her US performance at Anime Expo in Long Beach, Calif. in July, performing in front of thousands of her International fans who traveled so far to watch her perform.

Her International performance continues in Germany this summer at Konnichi-Con and by now, Momoi has seen how she has fandom all over the world who support her music and her work.

But before her performance at Anime Expo, we wanted to feature an interview prior to traveling to the US to learn more about her expectations and get an idea of her perspective as a popular idol singer.

J!-ENT's Michelle Tymon interviewed Momoi Halko about her drama, anime, sex and more.

J!-ENT: Let's get to know you first. For fans that are just learning about you, why do you choose to write your name as "Momoi

Halko" rather than "Momoi Haruko"?

Momoi: Ufufu (Giggling). My real name is "Haruko" and that is the name that I received from my parents, but the sound "Haru/Hal" I learned when I was in high school has quite the otaku meaning, so I made my stage name "HALKO". To explain the otaku meaning, HAL is in 2001: A Space Odyssey as "HAL9000" there's the HAL software and the HAL company (Who made the Famicom Joy Ball, the predecessor to Kirby, "Tinkle Popo") just to name some examples.

J-ENT: Out of all of the anime characters you've played, who is your favorite? Who do you relate the most to?

Momoi: This is a pretty hard question. This might sound like a safe answer, but I feel connected to any character that I am given the opportunity to play. I think my favorite is... "So-nano". As for someone I thought I could relate to... I don't think there really was one. I think

I'm somewhat like Komugi-chan, but I am by far more of an otaku.

J!-ENT: You've had a lot of seiyuu roles as cute little girls such as Chika from the "Ai Yori Aoshi" series and Ai from "Final Fantasy Unlimited" and even cute little creatures such as Maromi from "Paranoia Agent". Are there any particular kinds of roles you would like to do in the future?

Momoi: I'm grateful for any role that I get to play, but I've never really gotten to play a boy character, so I'd like to play one sometime. I think I'd like to play a very heated elementary school student from a shonen manga. Other than that, maybe an orthodox bishoujo (laughs).

J!-ENT: Did you know that anime was so big in America and that there are so many anime conventions in America?

Momoi: I've heard that from the Geneon staff and the Avex staff, but I've never gotten to see that for myself so I'm very excited about my



“It’s true that there is about a 10 hour flight between America and Japan, but there are no borders for otakus.”



Momoi Halko poses with fans who came to watch her perform at Anime Expo. Photo courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

upcoming trip to the US.

Currently, I have internet radio programs (Like Onsen's "Seto no Hanayome Yomeiri Radio" and "Chou! Momo-i.web") that people from all over the world can listen to so I'd love it if I could get letters/ emails from people in America too.

I'd like to see that one day things like that become pretty normal rather than extraordinary.

J!-ENT: What are you most excited about coming to America?

Momoi: Of course I would love for everyone in America to hear my songs and enjoy them. I will do my best!

J!-ENT: Are there any other places you would like to visit in the future?

Momoi: I want to go to so many places! There are a lot of places in Japan that I haven't been to yet and of course tons overseas. Music is the universal language.

Actually, about 7 years ago when I went to San Francisco for a visit, there was a live house near Union Square. I can't remember the name of it but I was thinking I'd like to perform there one day.

J!-ENT: In the DVD story about your life, "Halko*UP DATE", the actress that played you when you were younger looks almost exactly like you. Did you have any hand in picking her before she got the part?

Momoi: The Producer Nishiura Masaki-san as well as the rest of the staff held many auditions and I got to attend the final audition and judging. I kept making eye contact with Saki-chan for some reason, and it felt like a fateful meeting between us.

Saki-chan is doing her best to make her dream of becoming a great actress come true so I hope that



people in America cheer her on as well!

J!-ENT: You've done a lot of things in your career including singing, voice acting and writing. Which do you enjoy doing the most?

Momoi: I think music is in the core for me. When I'm at the post recording sessions I always think to myself, "I wonder what kind of music will play here?" while I'm recording.

I have something like absolute hearing and because of that, I've been able to work with anime for so long.

But from when I was a student, I worked as a writer for magazines and I went to many places for interviews and met a lot of people and learned a lot; everything I learned from that experience is something I can never replace.

The most memorable experiences from my writing career is I went to MIT, I got to shake hands with Min-

sky who is called the God of artificial intelligence and I got to ride the simulator that train operators of the Tokyo Subway use for practice in full uniform.

J!-ENT: I am also a very big video game fan and I was wondering what is your favorite video game that you are playing right now?

Momoi: I've been playing a light and puzzle game for the PSP called "Lumines" while I'm traveling somewhere.

Also I've been playing "Reiton Kyoju to Fushigi na Machi" (Professor Reiton and the Mysterious City). I also like "Grand Theft Auto" but the content is rather extreme so I shouldn't say that so loud (laughs).

J!-ENT: Out of all of the new systems: the Nintendo Wii, the PS3 and the Xbox 360, do you own any and if you don't, which one would you want the most and why?

Momoi: I have the Wii. I want the PS3 and XBOX360 as well. I want to

idols you like now?

Momoi: I liked the idol Mizuno Aoi-san, who mainly concentrated on doing live performances. Other than that, I liked groups like CoCo, ribbon, and Qlair. Lately I've been buying CDs featuring idols from the 80's. As for looks, I like Mizutani Mari-san the most.

J!-ENT: How does it feel to be an idol yourself now with fans who look up to you and admire you?

Momoi: This might sound a little rude to my fans, but it actually feels really weird. Originally I wanted to be the person behind the scenes that makes the idols, so I really didn't think about being on stage.

But I'm grateful that I'm able to express what I'm feeling and sing the songs that I write and that there are so many people that relate to me through that.

As a musician, it's a lot of fun to sing in front of people. Because I get so much support from so many people, I keep thinking that I need to have more confidence in myself. Also, I love radio programs, so I'm very happy that I get to be on radio programs.

J!-ENT: I've read that you like to collect T-shirts but I was wondering are there any particular kinds or do you collect any t-shirts?

Momoi: I'd have to say old games and computer related. When I went to America on vacation before, I liked going to thrift stores and finding T-shirts with ATARI or Mario or Pacman and other game related stuff.

Even in Japan now if they have those kinds of shirts, even if the sizes are too big I still buy them. I also like Transformers.

J!-ENT: For someone that has never been to Akihabara, where is the one place you would recommend them to go to?

Momoi: I'd like them to walk along the central street and go to places they like from there.

After that, if I'm having a live show I'd love for them to come see me! If you go to Comic Market and events and make Japanese friends, it might go pretty smoothly.

If you get the confidence to talk to them, they are sure to be nice to you. There are no borders for otakus!

J!-ENT: In every interview, we have a word play. We give you one word, you give us your definition of those words:

a. LOVE

Momoi: "Love", I love John Lennon's song "LOVE". In Japanese, when making a list of words we learn using the alphabet, it goes "a i u e o". And the first two characters end up being "ai"(love). I usually try not to overuse this word in my lyrics, because it is such an important, meaningful word.

b. SUCCESS

Momoi: I'd like to have small successes one by one and then one day look back and think, "Hey, I got pretty far".

c. HAPPINESS

Momoi: I think that everyone should think a little more about when they feel that they are the happiest. I think about that everyday. But my way of pursuing it might have been different from other people when I was a student.

d. SEX

Momoi: When I was a student, I vaguely had been questioned about sex.

I was interested in anime and sentai series, things that were marketed for boys a lot of the time.

I thought quite frequently that I

had a rather boyish side inside of me.

I liked playing dating simulation games that were for guys, and I liked female idols but I didn't view them as objects of affection. Later on I realized this feeling was called "mo-e".

But as a girl, I have feelings of affection and love towards guys.

I think it's because I have had these experiences that I don't really have any prejudice or dislike guys that like "mo-e". And I keep writing my songs in that way, with my own honest point of view.

e. MONEY

Momoi: It's something that I don't want to worry about too much. I'd like to have enough just so I wouldn't have to worry about it.

J!-ENT: You've already done so much in various fields of entertainment. Do you have any future aspirations?

Momoi: To not be too worried about "being like Momoi Halko", I think that is what it means to "be like Momoi Halko". I want to attempt various things freely. "Everything in this world is first an illusion!"(From the lyrics of "Wonder Momo-i")

J!-ENT: Do you have a message for your fans in the U.S.?

Momoi: I know how passionate American fans can be after watching things like Youtube (laughs)!! I'm very excited to personally meet them.

It seems that my Japanese fans are excited to meet everyone in America too. It's true that there is about a 10 hour flight between America and Japan, but there are no borders for otakus!

I want all of us with similar hobbies and interests to have fun to the full extent. All of us are living under the same sky of the 21st century. ■

A J!-ENT SPECIAL EVENT FEATURE

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J!-ENT

ce cutting edge



songs featured in HALKO★UP DATE, extra dvd backstage footage and promotional videos, a small booklet with candid photos and actor commentary and comes in a special package.

HALKO★UP DATE involves three versions of Halko: the current idol Halko performing live on stage, the young Halko re-enacting her rough teenage years and a manga version of Halko used in a couple of scenes to express how Halko was feeling at that particular moment.

The current Halko is portrayed by Momoi Halko herself, but the younger Halko is played by a young actress, model named Takayama Saki who has an uncanny resemblance to the real Momoi Halko.

The DVDs mostly concentrate on the drama based on Halko's real life experiences leading up to her becoming one of the biggest idols of Akihabara.

We see Halko get bullied quite a bit by the other girls because she is quite different than them in many ways and in Japan, you don't need much of a reason to get bullied.

Halko was a big fan of female idols, and one of her favorite things to do was to browse the internet (when the internet was still pretty new and it was pretty unheard of for a teenage girl to go on it so much) and find out the latest information on her favorite idols and e-mail with other fans as well as post on message boards for the idol so she could connect with fans nationwide.

Unlike in the real world where she was quite the outsider, she felt like she really belonged in the internet world where other people understood her.

One day while she was on the net, she receives an e-mail from someone named "Akio" and they start talking and eventually she is asked if she is a guy, because it's very rare for female idols to have female fans and even less common for girls to use the internet anyway.

Halko decides to lie about the fact that she is a girl for many reasons, and ends up calling herself "Haruo" and they soon become great friends over the net.

Akio becomes a very concerned and encouraging voice to Halko

**HALKO★UP DATE
HALKO MOMOI STORY**

4:3 standard, Region 2

DVD 1 (45 minutes/Special version: 85 minutes)
release date: 1/26/07

DVD 1 Serial #: PCBE-51450 / Special version
serial #: PCBE-51448

DVD 2 (45 minutes/Special version: 85 minutes)
release date: 2/23/07

DVD 2 Serial #: PCBE-51451 / Special version
serial #: PCBE-51449

Price: Normal Versions: 5,800 yen/Special
Versions: 7,800 yen

Even Idols have it rough at one point it seems.

That's what DVD's 1 and 2 of Halko*Up Date tells the viewer and that no matter how rough one may have it, dreams can come true.

HALKO★UP DATE is a two volume DVD drama which tells the story of Momoi Halko, a famous Japanese seiyuu (voice actress), cosplayer, singer, songwriter and all around Akihabara idol.

Both DVD's have a regular version with just the dvd and a special version with a CD included that has three

J! DVD REVIEW

whenever she tells Akio about all of the troubles she's going through at school.

During one of those times, Akio tells her about her own dream about becoming a famous dancer one day and this in turn helps give Halko confidence to follow her own dreams.

One day Akio asks Halko if they could meet because Akio has a street dancing performance coming up in Tokyo so this would be a great opportunity for them to finally meet in person; but of course Halko is a little apprehensive because she had been lying about being a guy for so long.

Halko has a meeting with her other otaku friends (three guys she knows through being a fan of one of her favorite idols) and she gets the idea that she can just be a guy dressed up as a girl because that is not an uncommon thing among her friends.

She goes to the meeting spot that Akio had set up and at first doesn't

see him.

It starts raining after a while and most of the street dancers clear out, except for one girl dancer who keeps on dancing despite the rain.

Halko then remembers something that Akio had said in the past and realizes that Akio is not really a guy either.

Relieved, she heads over to her and this meeting ends up strengthening their bond even more with all of the obstacles they must both overcome to reach each of their dreams.

Overall I thought the acting was done well; Takayama Saki does a great job playing the young Halko.

Aki (Akio) played by Matsushima Hatsune also does a great job of being the friend that is always there for Halko through her hard times yet being honest with her at the same time.

As a little surprise, idol fans might even notice an interesting cameo in the second DVD of a former idol, Fukawa Toshikazu from Shibugaki-tai

playing a producer.

The DVDs were entertaining to watch even with all the going back and forth between the live footage, drama and talk.

I even liked how they incorporated the drama storyline with the live footage later on combining both worlds producing a nice end to a very heartfelt story.

As for the DVD, it is only available in Japan for now, so you may need to purchase it online or from a Japanese video retailer.

Also, the DVD is region 2, so you may need an all-region DVD player or play this on your computer.

All in all, fans of Momoi Halko and viewers new to Momoi Halko alike will enjoy this heartfelt story of a young girl reaching for her dreams with the help of a best friend.

— MICHELLE TYMON

A J!-ENT INTERVIEW BY EDWIN MACARAEG & DENNIS A. AMITH
AVAILABLE ON J!-ENT



www.j-entonline.com



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quality

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HALKO MOMOI

- 01 Opening -dreaming more! more!- (instrumental)
- 02 LOVE.EXE -momo-i quality version-
- 03 mebius ring
- 04 Adolescence -rainy Taipei version-
- 05 Hide and seek
- 06 恋のレシビ
- 07 フィギュアになりたい
- 08 ゴー☆ホーム! -re painted version-
- 09 贖罪のラプソディー -Master MIX version-
- 10 Far and away ~party night~ -new mix-
- 11 アキハバラ -summery summer version-
- 12 Friendship
- 13 もっと、夢、見よう!! -Now I feel...version-

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avex mode

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MOMOI HALKO

HALKO★UP DATE

HALKO MOMOI STORY SONGS BEST

Avox Mode

AVCA-26117/B (CD+DVD)

DURATION: 36:42

RELEASE DATE: February 21, 2007

1. Koi no meousei
2. Mail Me (ver 2.0)
3. Ushiro yubi sasare gumi
4. Akihabarhapsody
5. GURA GURA (ver 2.0)
6. Space Love (ver 2.0)
7. Saigo no Rock
8. Yume no Baton

DVD:

Duration: 16 minutes, 4:3, Region 2

1. Saigo no Rock
2. Mail Me (original)
3. GURA GURA (original)

Halko Momoi is back with a new album titled "HALKO★UP DATE HALKO MOMOI STORY SONGS BEST" which features the music from her live drama.

The album is quite interesting because you get a good variety of music from Momoi. May it be idol pop, rock music, live house-band style to even an ode to classic Japanese songs with an an orchestra.

The first song "Koi no meousei" (Pluto of Love) is a fun song featuring Momoi singing in a hype pitch voice but what is even more interesting is how she incorporates "134340" to her song.

The numbers is the new identification for the planet Pluto after it lost its planet designation and been labeled an asteroid #134340.

The song "Mail Me" (ver 2.0) is a remake of Momoi's debut song.

The main difference is that the original had a break beat, Eurobeat feel to it but the second version has more of a livehouse band feel to it.

The third track "Ushiro Yubi Sasare Gumi" is a rock song and one of the most notable songs from the live drama.

The fourth track "Akihabarhapsody" is sung like a classic Japanese song which seems to be a remake of a song with an orchestra.

The fifth track "GURA GURA"(ver. 2.0) is another recognized song from the drama series.

In this song, Momoi sings in a high



<Akihabara Queen

The soundtrack based on the life of the girl who would become an idol

pitched voice and the songs appears to be more rock based, while the 1997 original was also rock-based but had a lot of synth integration.

In a way, the 1997 version, while nice does seem a bit dated. So, the second version varies a little.

The sixth track "Space Love" (ver. 2.0) is so different from previous Momoi Halko releases and it's actually a very contemporary, non-idol sounding rock song that is in par with music from female rockers in Japan.

I was very surprised by this track the most because it's so different and no hint of the high pitch voice in this song.

The seventh and eighth tracks on the album are her two CD singles ("Saigo no Rock" and "Yume no Baton") that were used as the opening and ending themes for the live drama series.

The sountrack comes with a 16 minute DVD featuring "Saigo no Rock", the same music video that was on the DVD for the CD single which features scenes from her

concert and scenes from the live drama series.

Also, as a bonus for Momoi Halko fans, the original music videos for "Mail Me" and "GURA GURA".

The music video for "Mail Me" features Momoi Halko in Akihabara during the day and night singing and even wrapped in Christmas lights.

In the music video of "GURA GURA", it's Momoi cosplaying in a sailor outfit and wearing a Nintendo Power Glove and singing while she strolls Akihabara back in 1997.

Not sure if the music video was used as an audition or an older video release but the quality of the video looks as if it was taken from a VHS or SVHS master.

Also, interesting is that she is credited as "Moai Halko".

All in all, this Momoi Halko album has a good balance of music and the inclusion of Momoi's past videos makes it worth while to purchase if you are a Momoi Halko fan.

— DENNIS A. AMITH



Momo-i Live DVD: momo-i quality LIVE in Stellar Ball 2006.8.19

210 minutes, Region 2, 4:3, avex mode
Release Date: March 28, 2007
AVBA-26214-5

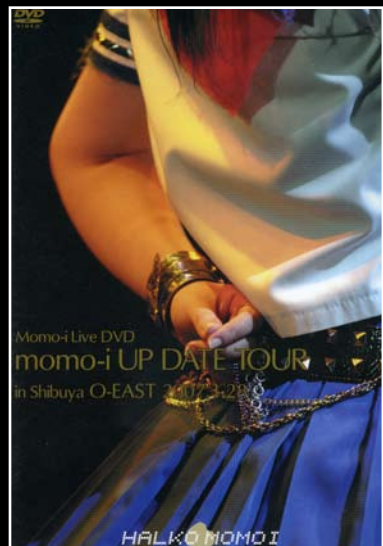
DISK 1:

01. Opening - dreaming more! more!
02. LOVE.EXE - momo-i quality version-
03. shokuzai no rhapsody
04. Far and away - party night~new mix~
05. WONDER MOMO-I ~New recording~
06. Wish
07. Days
08. Stay

09. Koi no Recipe -unplugged version-
10. Figure ni Naritai -unplugged version-
11. Oyasumi -unplugged version-
12. Adolescence -unplugged version-

DISK 2:

13. Hide and seek
14. mebius ring
15. Akihabarabu - summer summer version-
16. Friendship
17. Motto, yume, Miyou!! - Now I feel.. version-
18. Saigo no Rock
19. Ushiro yubi sasare gumi
20. Ima, Anata ga suki



Momo-i Live DVD: momo-i UP DATE TOUR in Shibuya O-EAST 2007.1.28

160 minutes, Region 2, 4:3, avex mode
Release Date: March 28, 2007
AVBA-26216-7

DISK 1:

01. Motto, Yume, Miyou!! - Now I feel... version-
02. Enter!
03. Dondoru Baby
04. E.S.P. ~Thanks to Mamichan~
05. Koi no Meioseisei
06. Koi no Recipe
07. Adolescence - rainy Taipei version-
08. Akihabarabu - summer summer version-
09. Figure ni Naritai - re painted version-

10. Chuo Line
11. GURA GURA
12. mebius ring
13. WONDER MOMO-I ~New Recording~
14. Ima, Anata ga Suki

DISK 2:

15. Koi no Medicine
16. Hide and seek
17. 2001 nen no Game Kiss
18. Ushiro yubi sasare gumi
19. Saigo no Rock
20. Yume no Baton
21. Friendship
22. Life is free - momo-i live version-
23. LOVE.EXE - momo-i quality version-

If there was one thing that I always wanted to watch was how a Momoi Halko concert is in Japan.

I have heard about the hardcore fans, the glowsticks, the audience choreography with their waving of hands and screaming in unison.

I was able to check out both concerts via a Momo-i Live DVD box set which includes her 2006 and 2007 concerts and a forest green Momoi Halko t-shirt but each DVD can be purchased separately.

The first concert that I was able to watch of Momoi Halko was "Momo-i Live DVD - momo-i quality LIVE in Stellar Ball 2006.8.19".

The concert took place before the release of "Halko Momoi UP DATE" and before a lot of her CD singles and albums were released on avex.

This concert comes with two DVD's and

features Momoi Halko singing a lot of her hit songs but surprisingly, her band also performs three songs during intermission.

So, you get a taste of Momoi Halko's music and a j-rock band.

Also, what I like about this DVD is that it includes the MC segments which she is promoting her upcoming movie and also talking to the audience.

These days, many concert DVD's omit the MC segments, so I was happy to see them included.

So, the first 2006 DVD was fun, energetic and gave me a good understanding of how fun her concerts are.

For "Momo-i Live DVD: momo-i UP DATE TOUR in Shibuya O-EAST 2007.1.28", the biggest difference that you will notice is the overall stage presence which features very cool lighting and a very good setup (as opposed to the

basic setup of the last concert) and how various camera angles for the DVD are shown throughout the concert show how hardcore her fans are.

A lot of the songs sung on this concert are songs she released through avex mode and many songs from her "UP DATE" drama.

Similar to the 2006 concert DVD, MC segments are included.

Now which DVD is better?

I actually enjoyed both. The 2006 concert DVD was enjoyable because of the fan interaction and much more playful.

The 2007 DVD featured better production qualities for editing and more camera angles which was very cool.

So, either DVD, you can't go wrong. I highly recommend buying the box set. — DENNIS A. AMITH

Momoi Halko

COVER BEST "COVER DENSHA"

avex mode

AVCA-26303

Duration: 37:22

OFFICIAL Website: <http://avexmovie.jp/lineup/momoi-i/>

momo-i/

RELEASE DATE: June 20, 2007

1. Yume no Naka e
2. Shin.com ko chan no Theme
3. Yume Bouken
4. THE GOONIES 'R' GOOD ENOUGH
5. Miraikei Idol
6. TOUGH BOY
7. Koi wa Question
8. Yuzurenai Negai
9. God knows...
10. VIDEO KILLED THE RADIO STAR

Momoi Halko has a new album and surprisingly its a cover album.

Momoi's latest album "HALKO MOMOI COVER BEST "COVER DENSHA" features 10 songs from popular anime and video game songs to popular 80s American songs sung Momoi Halko style.

Included is Momoi Halko's cover of "Yume no Naka e", the ending theme from the anime series "Kare Kano"; "Shin.com ko chan no theme" which was used for the 2001 Sega Dreamcast game "Segagaga"; "Yume Bouken" is Momoi's cover of the popular Sakai Noriko song (used for the animated film "Anime Sanjushi - Aramis no Bouken"); a cover of Cyndi Lauper's "THE GOONIES 'R' GOOD ENOUGH"; "Miraikei Idol" (opening theme song for the anime series "VS Nights Lamune & 40 Fire"); "TOUGH BOY" from "Hokuto no Ken 2" (Fist of the Northstar 2); "Koi wa Question" from the anime series "Anmitsu Hime"; "Yuzurenai Negai", theme song for the anime series "Magical Nights Rayearth"; "God Knows" from the anime series "Suzumiya Haruhii no Yuutsu" and "VIDEO KILLED THE RADIO STAR" by the Buggles.

All in all, this is a fun album and I was very impressed by Momoi Halko's covers. They sound great (in fact, some I prefer over the originals).

Insert booklet features notes by Momoi on each song and also another insert featuring lyrics for each song.

If you are a Momoi fan, definitely pick this album up!



桃井はるこ COVER BEST
カバー-電車

< THE QUEEN OF AKIHABARA AND HER COVERS

Momoi Halko's latest album features covers of anime, video game and 80's American songs!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?

Momoi Halko

21 Seiki (21st Century)

avex mode

AVCA-26194/B, Rel. March 28, 2007

Duration: 18:43

After a string of CD singles from her Japanese drama "Momo Halko UP DATE", Momoi releases her latest CD single "21 seiki".

I have to admit that the cover art is what caught my attention.

Not only do we get a photo of Momoi Halko's NES power glove but surrounded all around her are the classic video game consoles, portable consoles up to the Sega Dreamcast.

It's no surprise that Momoi Halko is a tech geek that loves video gaming and her music can really incorporate techie things to it.

With her latest CD single "21 seiki", Momoi Halko sings about the 21st Century.

The song features a catchy pop rock melody that seems quite polished audio-wise compared to previous CD singles.

In the accompanying DVD which



features the music clip for "21 Seiki", Momoi sings in front of her musical and tech gadgets and breaks out and plays her red Roland AX-1

The coupling song "RADIO DAYS RADIO NIGHTS" which is the ending theme for her radio program.

The song is very synth driven and reminiscent of early 80's songs mixed with intermeshed electric guitar.

All in all, a pretty cool CD single from Momoi Halko. — DENNIS A. AMITH

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