

さくら

# 桜コンデュイト

Sakura-Conduit Post-Con Edition - 2012

15周年おめでとうございます!

*It was truly a happy 15th Anniversary, thank you all!*

Dear Staff and Members;

Thank you for a wonderful 2012 convention. This anniversary year brought many things to be proud and grateful for. Winning the Evening Magazine's Best Local Event and being selected to receive the 2012 Foreign Ministry Award are only a couple of the incredible things that were accomplished by Sakura-Con and A.N.C.E.A. Sakura-Con raised huge amounts of money for Seattle Japan Relief and the Make a Wish Foundation. Our Team Sakura group traveled around spreading excitement for our event.

Our convention is made and run by fans. We work hard to bring an excellent event to the public every year. While we are all volunteers, I can honestly say that this is one of the finest and most professional groups I have worked with. Without all the hard work of our staff, we would not be what we are.

I am busily working with the executive board preparing for Sakura-Con 2013. We hope to bring new things, improve existing offerings, and continue to put on an event that thousands of people call home.

Thank you all for being a part of the Sakura-Con family.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. B. Louck

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# Kanon Wakeshima – The Interview

By Klaudina Pasko

Kanon Wakeshima started learning cello and classical music as a girl and has stayed with it ever since. With a strong desire to express and convey emotion and to start expanding her realm of musical expression, Wakeshima-san began writing lyrics and compositions. Her style is characterized by the combination of the ephemeral and eternity, reality and unreality, and includes motifs from classic fairy tales, Greek mythology and Shakespeare dramas. Wakeshima-san has also turned to art as a means of expression, illustrating one-piece line art drawings, digitally processed fashion drawings and character designs from fairy tales all under the name “Hirari.”

Produced by Mana, Wakeshima-san debuted under the DefStar Records label on May 28, 2008 with the singles “Still Doll” and “Sand Castle,” which is the ending theme for the anime adaptation of the manga series Vampire Night. She was nominated for a Best Newcomer award for 2008 in the fourth annual Shojo Beat Music Awards, nominees of which are determined by surveying “record companies, music journalists, music experts, and music fans.



Wakeshima-san took the time out of her busy debut at Sakura-Con to do an interview.

**Q:** When did you know that music was in your future – that you wanted to be a musician when you grew up?

**Wakeshima-san:** Since I was very small, I had been involved in music. I started playing the cello at age three. In those days I only listened to classical music. However, when I entered middle school I first started listening to JPop and I realized that there were other kinds of music out there. That is when I realized that I wanted to express myself in those ways and I began doing some composition.

**Q:** What inspires you when you create your music and art?

**Wakeshima-san:** When it comes to music, I listen to a lot of jazz and classical music and that is one of my major inspirations. When it comes to art, I started drawing outfits that I wanted to wear or that I imagined. I think of clothes that I like and I draw them.

**Q:** Are there any musicians you would like to work with?

**Wakeshima-san:** I really like the French artist Émilie Simon. I listen to her songs and enjoy her music. If I ever got the chance, I would like to meet her and work with her.

## ***Kanon Wakeshima continued...***

**Q:** Since you are inspired by classical and jazz music, what artists are you inspired by from those genres?

**Wakeshima-san:** When it comes to classical music, I admire Jacqueline du Pré, although she passed away when I was young. She was a performer with a very powerful playing style and I found that very cool. When I was learning to play the cello when I was young, I really admired her and looked up to her a lot. As for jazz, I admire a duo of siblings called Les Frères. These are two siblings who play the piano together and have a strong playing style; they're pounding on the piano. They play the piano so hard it seems like the piano strings will break. When I watched their live recordings, I thought they were very cool.

**Q:** You have played an instrument from such a young age, have you had moments of wanting to quit playing the cello when you were younger, and if so, how did you work through those moments?

**Wakeshima-san:** I've continued playing the cello for a long time and even though there were times that I have wanted to quit, I had good teachers and very supportive parents who would tell me what a waste it would be to quit and how rewarding it would be if I were to continue. They said it would bring many good experiences my way and that I would meet many interesting people through my music. I also had many friends the same age as me that played musical instruments, so we would often form little ensembles and play together. With so many friends like this I was able to continue playing.

**Q:** Was there ever anything else you wanted to be when you grew up, other than a musician?

**Wakeshima-san:** I really enjoy drawing and art, so I was interested in becoming an illustrator.

**Q:** How long and how often do you practice? Do you have time to play for fun?

**Wakeshima-san:** When a performance is approaching, I practice a lot. Everyone involved gathers and we practice from morning until evening. For fun, rather than playing the instrument, I tend to compose music, write lyrics or sing.

**Q:** How would you describe your music to someone who has heard your music for the first time?

**Wakeshima-san:** Basically, because I am alive, there are things that make me happy and that make me sad. I am always putting my emotions into my music and I hope that those feelings come across to those who are listening.

**Q:** How did you decide which songs to play at Sakura-Con?

**Wakeshima-san:** For the first songs in my performance, I picked songs from my second album that people may have listened to. For the middle part, I selected ones that I composed myself and for the final third of the performance, I chose new songs to reveal. I chose a lot of classical songs that use piano, violin and cello.

**Q:** What is the most challenging song for you to perform live? What makes it challenging?

**Wakeshima-san:** That is a difficult question... I usually am playing a musical instrument, usually the cello when I am performing, so it is when I am just singing and not playing an instrument, I find it more difficult to express myself.

**Q:** How would you describe the theme behind the clothes you wore for your concert at Sakura-Con?

**Wakeshima-san:** Since I based this on Sakura-Con, I based my clothes on the sakura-blossom and went with a pink theme.





**Q:** What has been a fun thing that you have done in while visiting Seattle?

**Wakeshima-san:** I went to the Seattle Aquarium on the day before the live performance. I like aquariums very much; this was my first time visiting an aquarium overseas.

**Q:** What is your favorite part about performing overseas?

**Wakeshima-san:** I can always tell how happy the audience is. That always comes across clearly and I am grateful for that.

**Q:** You have been to Europe and the United States on your tours – where else would you like to go? What would you like to see?

**Wakeshima-san:** I want to go to the Czech Republic; they make a lot of stop-motion animation there and have a museum that I would like to visit. The museum displays the figurines from those animated movies and has a dark fantasy section that I would like to see. I am also interested in south Italy or Spain, countries where it is warm.

**Q:** What are your favorite foods at home? What are some of your favorite foods that you may have tried from other countries while traveling.

**Wakeshima-san:** I really like sushi and eat a lot of it in Japan. I particularly like ikura – the roe – and salmon. I can't make sushi myself at home, so I make omurice and eat a lot of udon. I eat many things that are easy to make. Overseas, I liked Italian food; the pizza was very impressive.

**Q:** Have your fans in the US, specifically Sakura-Con, been different from your Japanese fans?

**Wakeshima-san:** In Japan, a lot of the audience members listen very quietly – they seem very shy. The fans at the Sakura-Con concert seemed to be enjoying themselves very much and very energetic. I was somewhat nervous at first but became more relaxed after the audience response.

**Q:** Do you notice a difference between European, Japanese and US fans when you meet them?

**Wakeshima-san:** In Japan, there are many fans that act like more like mothers and fathers – they are like, “good job,” “you did really well.” There are old women who are fans. In Europe and the US, fans are like, “that was so fun!” and they interact with me like friends.

**Q:** When you found out that your song was going to be featured in the Vampire Knight anime, what were your first feelings and thoughts?

**Wakeshima-san:** The ending theme to Vampire Knight was also my debut; when I realized that so many people would be hearing my song, it made me very happy. It was a very strange feeling hearing my song played on the show every week.

**Q:** What is your favorite anime? Manga?

**Wakeshima-san:** These days Japanese anime series keep switching so fast that I don't have a favorite, however, the manga tend to continue for a longer period of time. I am a big fan of the Yotsubato!/Yotsuba&! manga. It is so cute and I am such a big fan, however the author said that there were no voice actors in Japan that would make a good Yotsuba so unfortunately there won't be an anime.

**Kanon Wakeshima continued...**



**Q:** Do you have any hobbies or interests that fans may not know about?

**Wakeshima-san:** Hmm... I wonder. Well, since I have been specializing in anime, I have begun collecting figurines. I have this cabinet with a clear window in which I display my characters. I have many female characters, for example from Shinobu and Hitaki from Bakyemonogatari. I have Panty from Panty and Stocking. I also have some Lucky Star characters. I have those on display; they're cute. I also have Miku and Ranka from Macross and Asuka from Evangelion.

**Q:** Do you have Yotsuba? I totally had a shared fan-moment with Kanon Wakeshima.

**Wakeshima-san:** No, I do not have Yotsuba. I love Danbo though and have him.

**Q:** Is there anything you have not yet tried as a musician that you would like to try?

**Wakeshima-san:** I have not actually done that many live performances in Japan yet, so I would like to work with other musicians to make songs together and perform together. I have worked on albums and performed solo before and I would like to work with a violinist or pianist, or a drummer, guitarist or bass and possibly get together in a band and maybe perform.

**Q:** What are your plans for the future?

**Wakeshima-san:** Recently I have been composing more songs on my own. I have also been working on expressing myself more in my lyrics. I hope to convey the feelings I have through my songs and hope that listeners recognize and acknowledge those, both here, overseas and in Japan.

**Website:**

<http://www.kanonweb.jp/>



# StereoPony

## The Interview

By Klaudina Pasko

Forming in Okinawa in 2007, STEREO PONY has become famous in the world of anime through their numerous theme songs. Their debut single, "Hitohira No Hanabira," was the seventeenth ending theme for the famous anime series "BLEACH," released on November 5, 2008 and ranked #25 on the Oricon Weekly Charts. Their second single, "Namida No Muko," was the second opening theme for the second season of the Sunrise series "Mobile Suit Gundam 00," and achieved #2 in the Oricon charts. STEREO PONY's fifth single, "TSUKIAKARI NO MICHISHIRUBE," also released with a tie-in with the second season of hit anime series "Darker than Black," which ranked #8 on Oricon. "Chiisana Mahou," the opening theme of anime series "Letter Bee REVERSE," was released on December 8th.

STEREO PONY's Sakura-Con attendance marked the band's first visit to Seattle and first West-coast performance. STEREO PONY's members are Aimi Haraguni (vocals/guitar), Nohana Kitajima (bass), and Shiho Yamanoha (drums).

**Q:** How have you liked your visit to Seattle thus far?

**STEREO PONY:** We like it a lot.

**Q:** Before you became STEREO PONY, and Mixbox, what were you doing before?

**STEREO PONY:** We were just regular students.

**Q:** When did you know that music was the direction that you wanted to go in?

**Shiho:** It was when I started to take the drums, so it was when I was sixteen or seventeen years old.

**Q:** Where do you find your inspirations?

**Shiho:** I am inspired by bands – many of those being girl rock bands.

**Q:** What inspires you when you are writing and creating a song?

**Aimi:** I write about the things that make me really happy or sad or about things that happen in my day-to-day life.



## StereoPony Continued...

**Q:** What is your writing process like when writing a song? Do you write the melody first or the lyrics?

**Aimi:** When I am riding the train home from work or, when I take a path that takes an extra ten minutes to walk through, I sing or hum to myself and that sometimes becomes a melody or a song.

**Q:** When you started making music, was it because you wanted to become famous or was it what you wanted to do because you loved it?

**Aimi:** Maybe it is different for Nohana, because she wanted to be on TV and become famous. Shiho and I didn't have a goal to become famous; we didn't like being in front of people. After we formed a band and performing on stage and making music and saw everyone having so much fun in front of us and that we were making people happy, we really started to enjoy it.



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**Q:** What was it like when you heard your song was going to be featured in an anime?

**Shiho:** We were really happy. When the first broadcast of that show aired we rushed to the TV and all of us watched it.

**Q:** How did you all meet, being from different locations?

**Nohana:** We met at studio in Okinawa, where we formed the band.

**Q:** When you first met, what did you do to get to know each other better and become a group? Did you do anything special?

**Shiho:** We went out to eat, we went to karaoke and we went bowling. Stuff like that.

**Q:** Do you have any favorite karaoke songs?

**Shiho:** I don't like karaoke very much.

**Aimi:** I will often have to go by myself because nobody else likes it.

**Q:** Since STEREO PONY formed, and have been touring, have you had any vacation time?

**Shiho:** We have had some vacation.

**Q:** What do you do to pass the time and have fun when you aren't working? Do you do anything interesting?

**Aimi:** When I have the energy, I go out and have fun.

**Q:** What is your favorite song to play live?

**Nohana:** Viva la Viva, from the new album.

**Shiho:** Um... Blow in the Wind from our newest album is fun to play.

**Aimi:** Over the Border, Hoshikuzu Kantera because it is fun to watch everyone dance to that.

**Q:** Do any of you have any special talents?

**Shiho:** Not really.

**Nohana:** I talk to my dolls and stuffed animals.

**Shiho:** Yeah, Nohana talks to her dolls

**Nohana:** It's fun.

**Q:** If your songs could be featured on any show or movie, which would you choose?

**Aimi:** A commercial broadcast across North America.

**Shiho:** A co-promotion with a beer company.

**Q:** When you're performing together, what is your favorite thing to do?

**Shiho:** I have to always sit while playing the drums, so when the guitar and bass come to play in front of me, it is very exciting.



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**StereoPony Continued...**



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**Q:** After your west-coast tour – do you foresee returning to Seattle?

**Aimi:** We would like to come back to Seattle if we could this year, but we don't have any plans. We would like to come to America again.

**Q:** Have you had any chance to do any sightseeing in Seattle?

**Aimi:** Not really, but we want to go to see the very first Starbucks tomorrow if we have time.

**Q:** Has anything surprised you about your American fans

**Aimi:** I saw someone with a STEREO PONY tattoo yesterday during the autograph session and I've never met anyone like that in Japan. I put the picture on my blog and immediately our Japanese fans said "We're not going to lose!"



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## StereoPony Continued...



**Q:** Are you working on anything now? Are you ever inspired while on tour?

**Aimi:** We have a new song called Stand By Me that will debut in an anime soon. As for touring, we have had a lot of exciting experiences in the United States and I would like to put that in a song or photos, maybe.

**Q:** Speaking of touring and traveling, if you were able to visit anywhere in the world, where would you go or what would you see?

**Shiho:** I would like to go see the Northern Lights.

**Aimi:** I want to take a trip around the world.

**Nohana:** I want to go Jamaica and get dreadlocks.

**Any Sakura-Con interview would not be complete without asking the following:**

**Q:** What is your favorite anime?

**Nohana:** Sailor Moon

**Aimi:** Pocket Monsters (Pokémon) – They went to see the movie last year, together.

**Shiho:** Dragonball. They're airing reruns in Japan right now.

**Q:** What is your favorite manga?

**Nohana:** Bleach

**Aimi:** NANA

**Shiho:** NANA

**Website:**

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# H.NAOTO - INTERVIEW & FASHION SHOW

By Klaudina Pasko

Naoto Hirooka-san's brand, h.Naoto, made its debut in 2000. This unique brand is a representation of extreme punk, drawing inspiration from gothic-lolita and visual-kei Japanese subcultures. Over the years, the collection has grown, adding NAOTO SEVEN, h.NAOTO Blood, DARK RED RUM, h.ANARCHY, h.jelly, h.NAOTO EAST, h.NAOTO FRILL and Channel H to his fashion empire.

Taking the time out of his busy Sakura-Con debut, which included an awesome fashion show and merchandise-filled booth, h.Naoto answered some of our questions both in the panel and in a brief interview.



**Q:** You have a store in San Francisco; how about opening a store in Seattle. Is that a possibility?

**h.Naoto-san:** Yes of course, I'd love to.

**Q:** WHEN?!

**h.Naoto-san:** Maybe I'll put it inside of the Mariners' stadium! (that one got lots of laughter)

**Q:** What got you started in fashion, and when did you know you wanted to design clothes?

**h.Naoto-san:** When I was in junior high school, there was a band in Japan called Gome-Gome Club. My big sister really liked them; she had their CDs and watched their music videos. I thought their stage-costumes were really flashy and conceptual, plus they had make-up and dancing! Their vocalist, Carl Smokey Ishii, handled the costume design as well as the CD jackets; he was an artist and a musician, and I held a lot of respect for him. It made me want to try my hand at fashion and was really the trigger that made me decide to do that.

**Q:** What are some of the challenges you face as a designer and how do you hope to improve on your work?

**h.Naoto-san:** I just turned thirty-five years old. The way that I think about fashion now is completely different – my brand is twelve years old – it is different from when I was in my twenties. Back then, I was still really young and the way I look at design has changed as I have become older. Now I feel that it is not only design – not only about fun designs – but about adult design and fashion. I think that my future is more in designing fashion for adults. For people like me, who are thirty-five, and for many of my friends – Yoshiki from X-Japan, Gackt, and others – they're nearing forty. I think not just flashy fashion but also focusing on materials, the cut and the design – I feel that this is what is necessary in the future.



***h.Naoto continued...***

**Q:** Now that you have so much going on, your brand being twelve years old, what new inspirations do you have for your brand and designs?

**h.Naoto-san:** That's a difficult question... I think it is the artists mainly, in movies and music, the people really who wear my clothes and other styles – the lifestyles they live. I also look at myself wearing these clothes; I can say whether something works or not and make adjustments. I also often put something on a model and make little adjustments here and there. It is really the image and using the imagination that inspires me; looking at people wearing clothes.

**Q:** What do you find is the best way to get over designer's block?

**h.Naoto-san:** Whoa, that's difficult to answer... I think I am like that right now. I think I have been in that phase for the past three to five years.

[There was shock amongst the audience members who understood Japanese, before the translator was able to say anything.]

Really.

I am now thirty-five, and looking back at what I did in my twenties I have produced everything that I have seen until now. The boss of my company actually told me this when I was scouting out brands, he said, "Until you are in your twenties, you can take the experience you have built up in those twenty-some years and create fashion based on that. It is when you reach your thirties that you have to find new things within yourself that you have to put out and design." In order to do that you have to experience new things – see new movies, read new books, meet new people, visit new places – in order to generate this new experience to generate this new that you can put out. Maybe that's what I've been in these last three to five years, maybe I've been in one of those dry spells. So maybe I need to study and try new things. So maybe I am in, what do you call it, a block, a fashion block/designer's block... So by visiting Sakura-Con, and other expos and events, I am seeing many different worlds outside of Japan and get a chance to see how people are wearing their clothes throughout the world. I think that this is really inspiring me.



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***h.Naoto continued...***

**Q:** Your clothes tend to have a darker color palette; what is the role of brighter colors in your clothes and how do you decide to incorporate them?

**h.Naoto-san:** I really like light colors, I want to use them but the brand image has a dark and gothic image so I have to try and not use them. If I would try to use them then people's idea of my image would change. I have been using mainly black for over ten years, it has been a long time, so it may be time to incorporate some colors. Maybe I will make a new brand – maybe a new Tokyo collection or new clothing location or something like that and start to incorporate that.

**Q:** As a designer, how do you see American fashion in comparison to Japanese fashion in today's society?

**h.Naoto-san:** I look at American fashion and see that it is really practical, it includes the most necessary elements that you need as clothing. Whereas Japanese fashion has a lot of really unnecessary stuff – for example, someone will be wearing a backpack on top of a backpack, on top of a backpack – like three backpacks! Why anyone wants to do this is hard to understand. It is not simple, but more decorative. They put more stuff on their heads like ribbons and wear more rings. Maybe the Japanese have a certain sense of inferiority about their bodies – some people are short or small and they don't feel they have a western-style nose, a Barbie-doll face – so I think that the Japanese aim for this kind of cuteness, with make-up and plastic surgery. Then I look at Americans and a lot of them are like – all they have is denim and T-shirts and that's very cool. I think that is one difference. Looking out at those at Sakura-Con, I don't think any of it is that simple. You guys here are definitely not dressed in a simple way.



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**h.Naoto continued...**



**Q:** As a designer no matter what kind of style you do, if it is casual, punk or goth, you always have a very strong presence as a designer. It is very easy to say, "I think h.Naoto designed this." What kind of elements do you like to include in your clothing?

**h.Naoto-san:** Another difficult question... Hmm... I think what I do is kind of like cosplay. I don't wear punk or gothic – of course I don't wear Lolita, but I take my imagination and I try to approach things through imagining what is punk-like, or gothic-like or Lolita-esque. I think that designers who design Lolita clothing really think about baby clothing and imagining how that is supposed to be. I am not like that, I really take a different approach and break out from the idea that Lolita must be just like this. I don't listen to all that much gothic music but take my own imagination of what gothic could be like and add individuality and personality to my work.

**Q:** How do you create a new look or line? Do you sketch or play with fabric?

**h.Naoto-san:** I sketch sometimes and I also pick up various images and photos and stick them up on a piece of paper. I select, create and write about designs using a combination of images and photos.

**Q:** Have you made any changes in your clothes for what you have selling in America?

**h.Naoto-san:** Size. Not all has been resized, but an emphasis has been on larger sizes. Most of the designs are the same.

**Q:** How hard is it for you to plan a new line?

**h.Naoto-san:** It is not difficult. It really comes down to whether the customers will really accept it, that is the hard part.

**Q:** How many looks do you create for a line and how many do you end up not using? How hard is it to decide which aren't included.

**h.Naoto-san:** I make many for a line, more than sixty items for sure. I cut maybe about 10% of what I originally make.

**Q:** What are the fun and then most tedious things about being a designer?

**h.Naoto-san:** I like drawing pictures but I just don't have much time for it. It's really fun when nobody is around and I can relax and explore my imagination. It isn't fun checking sales numbers or planning and calculating sales budgets.

**Q:** How do you come up with names for each of your lines?

**h.Naoto-san:** Sometimes I stumble upon them or they upon me. Sometimes I am inspired by the look of a brand. I don't attach names that are hard to understand.



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***h.Naoto continued...***

**Q:** If you could collaborate with any fashion designer, whom would you collaborate with?

**h.Naoto-san:** Chanel. With me collaborating, we would end up with an evil bottle of Chanel no. 5 or bathing the headquarters in Paris in red paint. Maybe I'd create Coco Chanel T-shirts. Their clothing is really pretty though, and sometimes for me, I don't think I could design that. I really look up to them. I think I'd like to work with Alexander McQueen also. It would be fun to do collaborations with major brands.

**Q:** If you could create something for a client and had an unlimited budget, what would you create?

**h.Naoto-san:** If I had an unlimited budget, I probably wouldn't do fashion... I would make a city. I would call it h.Naoto Town and it would be like Disneyland but in gothic black. Yeah, I would make h.Naoto Town.

The interview would not be complete without learning that h.Naoto's favorite anime and manga is One Piece.

**Website:** <http://www.hnaoto.com/>

**h.Naoto San Francisco Shop:** <http://shop.hnaoto.us/>

KINCS Fashion Co., Ltd. (formerly S-Inc)  
Company Shops (shipping from Japan)

**Web Shop:** <http://kincs.ws/e-shop/app>

**International Shop:** <http://www.s-inc.ws/>

**h.Naoto's Sakura-Con Reports:** <http://www.kincs.jp/info/sinc/14655>

*(Earlier reports are at the bottom of the page)*



# Photo Retrospective - Sakura-Con 2012







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# レストランのレビュー

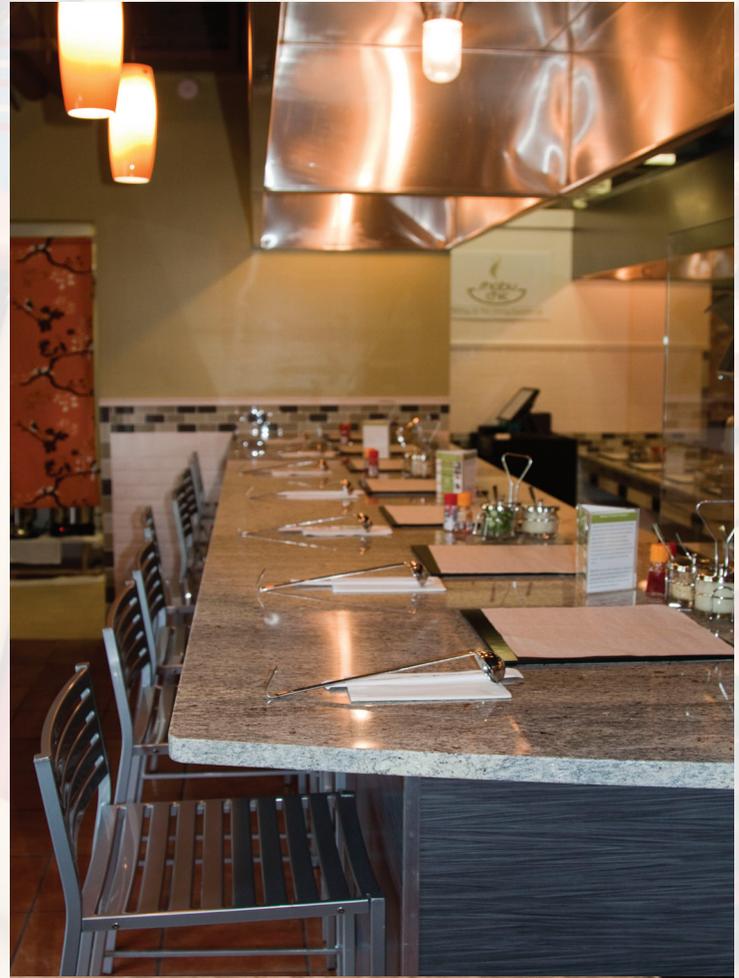
## Restaurant Review



The name – shabu-shabu (しゃぶしゃぶ) comes from the swish-swish sound that chopsticks make as they swish food around in this style of Japanese hotpot cuisine. Shabu Chic is the first restaurant of this kind in the greater Seattle area. Owners Ken Ha and Karen Mu realized that Seattleites would enjoy such a restaurant and found a perfect location in the International District of downtown.

Shabu Chic seats thirty-two guests, twenty seats at the counter and twelve family-style group settings.

Shabu-shabu is prepared in an individual or family-sized hotpot induction-cooker placed in front of the diner(s). The hotpot is filled with broth that comes in a variety of flavors: spicy miso, sukiyaki, or traditional kombu seaweed. Next, the diner chooses which combination of ingredients they would like to cook; from thinly sized meat, to towers of delicious vegetables, the diner can eat at their own pace, choosing when to drop the ingredients into the hotpot and for how long to cook them. Meat cooks quickly, while certain veggies take a while longer; swishing them around in the pot helps the cooking process.



*Continued from previous page...*

When your chosen ingredients are ready, simply pick them out with chopsticks or a fork and pile them in a bowl with rice, to be eaten slowly, or immediately dip them into the accompanying dipping sauce. Shabu-shabu is light, healthy and great to eat in all seasons, though particularly when it is cold and rainy – perfect for Seattle weather.

There are two types of traditional sauces served at the restaurant: the sesame-based goma sauce, which is great for dipping the beef slices or chicken dumplings, as it is more savory and the ponzu sauce, which is a light, citrus-based soy sauce, great for vegetables. Condiments, great for the broth and/or the dipping sauces, such as daikon radish, chili flakes, chili oil, green onions, and diced green onions are also provided. Every time you visit, you can try a different combination of broth, sauces, ingredients and condiments, to tantalize the taste buds.

I sampled Shabu Chic's sukiyaki broth along with the rib-eye beef, veggies, and dumplings – yeah, I was hungry. The food was delicious and I enjoyed seeing shabu-shabu here in Seattle. The atmosphere is fun and staff members are friendly and helpful. Owner Ken Ha was generous to hang around and answer my many questions about the cuisine and about possible future expansion from having longer hours and opening additional locations. Prices are very reasonable.

Sampling shabu-shabu cuisine is definitely an experience that everyone should try.

Shabu Chic

1032 S. Jackson Street, Suite 202B  
Seattle WA 98104

website: <http://www.shabuchic.com/>

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# Upcoming Events

*Mark your calendars with these upcoming local events!*

**Chinatown Dragon Fest 2012**  
Saturday, July 14th, 2012, 12-8pm  
Sunday, July 15th, 2012, 12-6pm

Dragon Fest—back this summer with vibrant Lion and Dragon dances, rhythmical Japanese taiko drumming, Chinese martial arts demonstrations, Asian drill teams, Indian dance performances, and much more! Centered in the heart of Seattle's historic Chinatown-International District, the festival attracts more than 25,000 people over two days and features a line-up of over thirty cultural performances.

<http://www.cidbia.org/events/mcdonald-s-presents-seattle2012s-chinatown-id-dragon-fest-2012>

## ***A special ANCEA/Sakura-Con Cosplay Contest at Dragon Fest***

Dragon Fest and Sakura-Con are calling all Anime enthusiasts to participate in our 2012 Dragon Fest Anime Cosplay Contest! Whether you're into Final Fantasy, Naruto or Pokeman - we invite all Cosplayers to strut their stuff on the Dragon Main Stage in Hing Hay Park to win some awesome prizes! You may preregister by downloading an application or sign up on the day of the event at the Anime Registration Booth. Competition begins at 7PM. On the day of the competition, all contestants must check in at the Anime Registration Booth between 4-6:30PM. Please note - A short character description is needed from each contestant for the emcee to announce on stage. Download the application here: <http://www.cidbia.org/events/2012-dragon-fest/df-2012-anime-costume-contest-application.doc>



**Ayame Kai Holiday Craft Fair**  
November 17th 2012 10am-4pm  
Blaine Memorial Church  
3001 24th Street  
Seattle, WA 98144

A fun and local craft festival with an Asian theme.

**Annual Seafair Cosplay Parade**  
Sunday, July 22, 2012 6:30pm

Every year our presence in this parade grows! Come out and show your cosplays to the world. Team Sakura is proud to return for what has become a highlight of our summer. \*Cosplay-friendly event.

Please contact [TeamSakura@sakuracon.org](mailto:TeamSakura@sakuracon.org) with questions regarding this event.

Keep in mind that there will be many small children and elderly people watching this parade, so make sure your costumes are family friendly and adhere to Sakura-Con's costume policy. Remember that weather may also be hot, so bring plenty of water!

Check-in is at King Street and 10th Avenue in the International District. There will be someone there to point you in the direction of our place in line. Follow the cosplayers (^\_^)

## **15th Annual Aki-Matsuri – Fall Festival**

September 8th (Saturday) and 9th (Sunday), at the Bellevue College's main campus located in Bellevue, Washington.

<http://enma.org/>

Aki Matsuri is a celebration of Japan's rich cultural heritage. A large number of local artists and craftspeople practicing Japanese-style arts and crafts, performing arts, martial arts, and Japan related businesses & organizations will be participating during the entire two day event. The Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association is a non-profit organization staffed by a team of community minded volunteers who are interested in preserving and furthering the arts and crafts of Japan for the enjoyment of all community members in the Greater Seattle area and Pacific Northwest.

If you want an idea of what Aki Matsuri is like, refer back to the Sakura Conduit Newsletter of Fall-Winter 2010 and Spring 2012 located on our publications page: <http://sakuracon.org/press/publications.php>

Sakura-Con will be there selling tickets!

For more information about ANCEA/Sakura-Con  
e-mail: [info@sakuracon.org](mailto:info@sakuracon.org)  
or visit  
[www.sakuracon.org](http://www.sakuracon.org)

**Mascot Winners for Sakura-Con 2013**



**Newsletter Credits:**

Coordinator Klaudina Pasko  
Copy Editor Bonnie Huffington

Thanks to all contributors  
and thank you to all Sakura-Con  
Photographers!!

Don't worry... Sakura-Con will be back in no time!  
See you March 29th!