Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan

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Ja-Pun kicks off farewell tour after quarter-century run

By Steve Parker, Seahawk contributor

After 25 years of entertaining audiences throughout Japan, Ja-Pun, the musical comedy show produced by High Energy Unlimited kicked off its farewell tour with a dinner theater performance here at the Officer's Club Nov. 12.

Ja-Pun has delivered its irreverent take on the *gaijin* (foreigner) experience in Japan to Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers, civilians and host nation Japan audiences from Misawa to Okinawa during its extraordinary quarter-century run. Now, as the final curtain begins to fall, the cast looks forward with mixed feelings to its final 25 year anniversary show to be announced in autumn 2011.

Not much in a military community lasts for 25 years, let alone a theatrical production, but Ja-Pun has survived and thrived and built a reputation for excellence one happy audience member at a time. When Ja-Pun put on its first show, Madonna's career was in its infancy, Bruce Springsteen was singing "*Born in the USA*" and most of the Yokosuka base current crop of 28,000 Sailors, civilians and family members were not even born yet. The show has changed over the years as the gaijin experience in Japan has changed. Gone are the references to *gomi* (trash) piles and high yen rates, and replaced with references of American Forces Network, heated toilet seats and, unfortunately, low yen rates. The laughs keep coming as one cast member says, "Because the material keeps rewriting itself."

One of the reasons that Ja-Pun is kept current is their rather unorthodox rehearsing style. One of the first things a new cast member requests is a copy of the script. A copy of the lyrics to the songs is liberally passed out and then some hemming and hawing ensues. Realization dawns and the new cast member eventually understands that he or she is asking for something that does not exist. What? There is no copy of the script? Well, actually, there is a copy. It's just not on paper. Ja-Pun went paperless even before the age of computers kicked in. The copy of the script actually only exists in the deeper recesses of the older cast members' brains. Brains that have been addled in the past by age, memory loss and unmentionables.

Cast members perform a skit during a recent Ja-Pun musical comedy production held at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo. After 25 years of entertaining audiences throughout Japan, Ja-Pun kicked off its farewell tour at the Officer's Club Nov. 12.

Photo by Akemi White

Take those addled, yet brilliant, brains and place them in a room with other natural showoffs. Force them to rehearse the same show they have been performing for an average somewhere north of 10 years and a sort of freeform improvisational-friendly competition emerges. This competition is loosely based on the version of the show everyone remembers performing last week or last month or three months ago and moves from song to song in a fashion reminiscent of a train wreck unencumbered by tracks. What emerges is about 90 percent *gomi*, but occasionally a nugget shines forth, everyone rolls on the floor laughing and a deep voice emerges from the corner recesses of the room.

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Yokosuka officers receive new Information Dominance Warfare pins

Story and photo by Mark Elrod, CFAY Public Affairs

In a pinning ceremony held here in the Fleet Theater Nov. 10, more than 20 officers from local tenant commands received the new Information Dominance Warfare insignia pin.

The Information Dominance Warfare insignia, approved by the chief of naval operations Feb. 19 of this year, was created to provide a common link among the Information Dominance Corps (IDC) communities and establish a qualification program to recognize highly qualified and diversified information dominance professionals.

"The Information Dominance Corps will create a cadre of information specialists, who come with individual community identities and unite to be managed as a corps, developed as a corps, and to fight as a corps," said Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance Vice Adm. Jack Dorsett in a press release from Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs. "This warfare pin represents a command identity for the Information Dominance Corps."

According to the release, The Information Dominance Corps consists of active and reserve Navy officers, enlisted and civilian professionals in information-intensive fields with extensive skills to develop and deliver dominant information capabilities in support of U.S. Navy, joint and national war-fighting requirements.

The fields include information professional officers, information warfare officers, naval intelligence officers, meteorological and oceanography officers, space cadre officers, aerographer's mates, cryptologic technicians, intelligence specialist, information systems technicians and civilian personnel.

According to Commander Navy Cyber Forces instruction COMNAVCYBERFORINST 1414.1, Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (EIDWS) qualification is mandatory for all enlisted active duty and full time support personnel who meet eligibility requirements and attached to IDC commands that have approved EIDWS programs.

Personnel who are assigned to squadrons, ships, or afloat staff duties are expected to qualify in the warfare mission of the command to which they are embarked.

Enlisted selective reservists must be in a satisfactory drill status, complete at least 12 days of annual or active duty training, be serving on active duty assignment, or be recalled and assigned to a command with a an approved EIDWS program.

Prior to initial enrolment in a EIDWS program, candidates must meet certain criteria such as; demonstrate effective leadership and have at least one observed evaluation with a rating of no less than 3.0, and be recommended as promotable or above; complete an EIDWS common core, or platform-specific Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) and command specific PQS; complete all qualifications required by their command for their pay grade; be recommend for EIDWS qualification by their command; demonstrate general knowledge of their command mission through written exams, hands-on demonstrations and oral examinations in a qualification review board.

For more information see the COMNAVCYBERFOR instruction.

(Left) CNFJ Flag Aide Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Skelton receives the new Information Dominance Officer Insignia pin from CNFJ Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence Capt. Timothy Pence during a pinning ceremony held at the Fleet Theater Nov. 10.

INSIDE

Yokosuka instructors conduct training at Sasebo facility

In an effort to save both time and money, TSD WP, based in Yokosuka, held firefighting-wet training in Sasebo Nov. 9, at the new JMSDF firefighting facility.

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Monkey Island: A getaway not too far away

Known to the Japanese as Sarushima, Monkey Island is a small island located about one mile off the coast of Yokosuka and is a popular hot spot amongst the local community.

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