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**CLASH-KILLING JOKE-MAGNUM
THOMPSON TWINS**

Found



SO MANY times the rumours blossomed and then faded away. It had been seriously reported in Japanese magazines that the Clash would never play in Japan until a promoter made available halls without seats.

In Japan, most of the halls for concerts are owned and controlled by local governments, and naturally they would not allow any rock group to do a concert without seats. If once they've got a rule, they are rather conscientious and strict in keeping it.

Once Johnny Lydon said that all Japanese were like ants: working so conscientiously for the organizations and so loyal. In a way, he is correct, but that is the reason why the kids here need the bands like the Clash, Sex Pistols and so on.

Those kids who can't stand living under the rules and organizations wanted their brothers to play in Japan. Anyway, the time finally came that the Clash had to compromise and play in beautiful theatres with 3000 seats in Tokyo and Osaka.

Topper and Paul arrived in Tokyo on Jan 21. Paul was

accompanied by his girlfriend Pearl Harbour. She told me she had half Filipino blood, and that's why her appearance is a bit familiar for us. Then, Mick and Joe arrived on the 23rd, the day before their first concert in Tokyo.

They had been in the studio recording their new album in New York until the last moment. It seemed Joe was really exhausted and could not recover from the jet lag. At the first concert at Shibuya Kokaido he kept pouring water on his head, and it was obvious he could

not concentrate himself on his singing. Later, a bucket was brought on stage and put beside him for in case.

Since I had seen the Clash's concerts before, at Music Machine, Lyceum and Brighton Top Rank, I could easily tell that this was not the real Clash tonight. But for those people who had been dreaming of the day for years, it was the best ever. All the reviews published in newspapers next day praised the Clash with one accord as the only real band. Though Joe was not in good shape, other three tried hard to stay strong.

The shirt that Joe wore on that night caused a dispute among fans and journalists. His shirt was patterned with a Japanese red sun flag, and around the red sun there were signatures of various people. I only know such flags were produced during World War II, so I had to ask my mother to find out what it was. Joe wore the same shirt at the concert next day at Osaka's Festival Hall. After the second concert, I asked Joe if he had found out the real meaning of the design on his shirt.

"Yeah, someone told me. The flag used to mean Good Luck for the soldiers who were going off to the war".

All right, Joe, you are not wrong. But you should realize that during that war, it was taboo for us (I mean for my mothers) to say the soldiers to come back alive. We were forced to encourage them to die for Emperor and Japan. And

that flag was the symbol of the imperialism of Japan at that time. I'm afraid the shirt will draw any misunderstanding. Our right wing people may think of you as insulting because you wear our flag as a shirt. Or they may treat you as belonging to their side thinking you are praising the

war and imperialism, Joe was puzzled for a moment. "Shouldn't I wear the shirt again in Japan?"

Oh, no, you are brave enough, I know, to use the shirt to provoke our kids. They don't know much about it. But at least, they will try to find out what it meant originally.

"It's true. I will keep wearing the shirt to provoke them" he smiled. His tooth



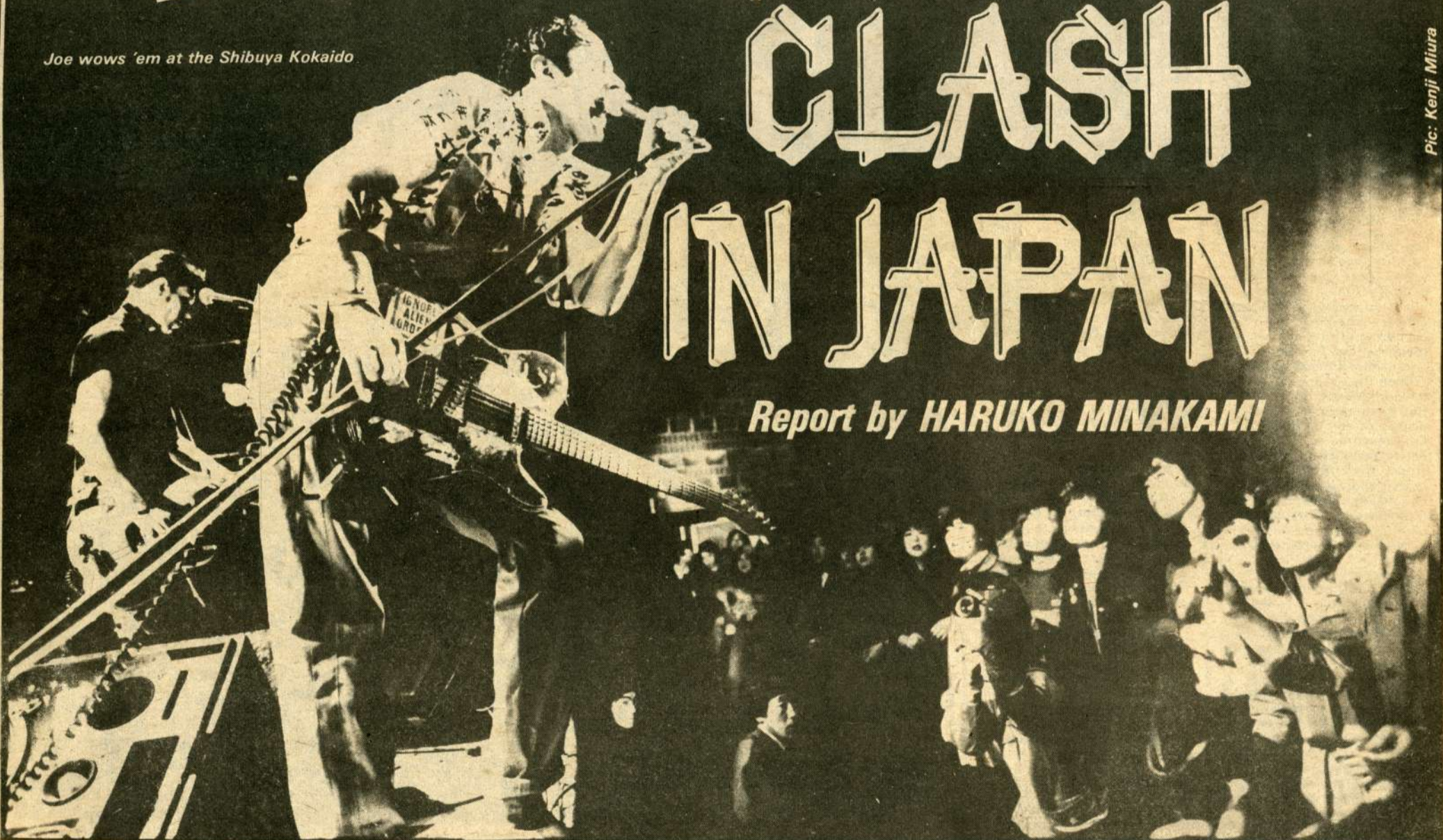
Paul asks Jap punks Anarchy for autographs



Mick enjoys a delicious cup of Orange Blossom tea

Pic: Haruko

Joe wows 'em at the Shibuya Kokaido



Pic: Kenji Miura

CLASH IN JAPAN

Report by HARUKO MINAKAMI

पषनिपट

स्वमुच अकेला प्रथम प्रघास 7 और 12



कलाकृति गतिशील सूट संस्थान

was fixed and his smile was beautiful than before. But he never wore it again after that. What's the matter, Joe? I believed you would never be afraid of anything.

ON THIS tour, the Clash did nine concerts, seven dates in Tokyo (one of them was a matinee) and two in Osaka. I went to Osaka with the band on the Bullet train to cover their show. Joe was very cheerful that night and the concert was fast-paced. The Osaka audience went wild and it seems that encouraged the band too.

The audience at every Clash concert were allowed to watch standing up in their places, which is very rare in Japan. usually if we stand during a concert, security people come and force us to sit. But at the same time there were always gaps or fences between the stage and audience to avoid the audience rushing to the stage. I really miss the days when I used to watch them putting my chin on the edge of the stage.

Back at the hotel after the Osaka concert, three girls went to Joe and complained that they had to buy tickets on the street at £50 each. Joe apologized to them — though it's not his fault at all — and promised them they could see the next show for free.

January 26 was the day off. On the way back to Tokyo by Bullet train, Mick, Joe, Paul, Pearl and a few of the road crew visited Kyoto, our old capital, to see a couple of temples. Carrying heavy cassette tape recorders, they climbed a passage to reach the Kiyomizu-dera, one of our most famous temples, built 600 years ago.

Paul and Pearl disappeared to a small shrine there after someone explained that the shrine was for lovers who wanted to get married. In this modern computerised country, we do still believe in the power of wishing and what gods can do. When a person or a couple want their love to ripen, they go to this sort of shrine and pray.

Joe was standing very still on the stage of the temple. It is well known as "The Stage Of Kiyomizu", where Noh plays used to be acted. 600 years later, a rock musician was standing there. He stood there for ten minutes or so. It seemed he was so moved by the wooden figures of the temples and bought a picture guide book to learn more.

Then he got an Omikujji (fortune telling slip of paper) which showed bad luck, especially it warned to keep away from women who would bring him misfortune. Sorry, Joe. Ce n'est pas moi.

While I was watching him standing still, I had the impression that he had lost weight. I did interview with him very first time in June of '78. I still keep the picture taken then. But whenever I see the photo, I realize now his cheek is thinner and his face is pale. On the way back down the mountain, they stopped at a sword shop and they were fascinated by some cross-shaped knives. Kosmo bought many for his friends. Knife and cross, isn't that symbolic of the Clash?

In the taxi to Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), I mentioned to Joe that Yukio Mishima (Japan's well known novelist who committed suicide in 1970 by Harakiri) wrote a novel about this temple. Paul already knew that. Joe started showing an interest in Yukio, but he is not the first British musician to be interested in him. People like Bowie or J.J. Burnel are also enthusiastic about him.

Kinkakuji was shining under the winter sun. Walking the quiet garden of the temple, one of the roadies murmured, "It's a long long way from Ladbrooke Grove".

ON January 27 at their second Tokyo concert at Nakano Sun Plaza, the Japanese punk rock band

Anarchy visited the Clash back stage. The two bands met once last March in London while Anarchy were recording at Air Studio with producer Mikey Dread.

On the first album of Anarchy released in 1979, they played 'White Riot', 'Tokyo's Burning' and 'Safe European Home' with Japanese lyrics. In fact these were not translations but they put their own lyrics to the Clash songs.

Anarchy have released four albums in Japan and each of them has sold 50,000 to 100,000 copies, while the Clash album has sold 30,000 to 50,000 in Japan. It is a fact that the popularity of Anarchy is somewhat of a substitute of the Clash, but it is also true that the popularity of Anarchy helped their fans become aware of the Clash.

This time in Tokyo, Anarchy gave their latest album 'Ready, Steady, Go' to the Clash. And Anarchy told me that they were so pleased when Paul asked them to autograph the cover. Lead vocalist of Anarchy, 22 year old pimply boy Nakano said "I've never seen them live before. As a vocalist I was very moved by Joe. He is 29, but yet so powerful and strong. People tend to treat him as a heavy punk rocker, but I found him so sweet and gentle."

"But the only point I don't agree with him is that he's a bit over pessimistic. While we were talking he pointed out that there was the shadow of the CIA behind the death of Bruce Lee and Bob Marley. I'm rather optimistic about everything".

That night the Clash sang 'London's Burning' changing the lyric to 'Tokyo's Burning'. Anarchy could not hide their surprise. And a few young ignorant fans said to Anarchy, "Hey, the Clash stole your song!"

Next day, I bought some paperbacks for Joe, Temple Of The Golden Pavilion and Confessions Of A Mask both by Mishima Yukio and Hiroshima Note by Kenzaburo Ohe. And the latest Newsweek with the Red Brigade on the cover. To make a balance I brought another paperback for Mick titled Almost Transparent Blue written by a young novelist here.

A few days later, Joe told me that he had bought another book himself after reading through two of Mishima's novels. It was Biography Of Mishima. I remembered that Joe had asked me "when did he commit suicide?". It was 1970.

Besides being a well respected novelist in Japan, Mishima was also a famous right wing philosopher, praising the beauty of men's spirit and body, and he was said to be a homosexual.

If I believe the article of Caroline Coon in Punk Rock 1988, Joe's brother was a member of the National Front and committed suicide 1971. He must have found something in common between Mishima and his lost brother. So we can't put him on the same horizon as Bowie or J.J. Mishima died as a criminal (he injured an army officer) but his spirit is still alive. "He is running too far ahead of me. I'm afraid that I can never catch him" Joe said modestly.

I eyeswitnessed so often the way Joe treated our kids kindly and warmly. Our teenagers have a habit of bringing small packets of presents to their favourite musicians. Sometimes candies, small dolls, good luck charms or just letters. It seems Joe was not ready for it. He started crying and turned to the wall when a girl gave him a small present at Tokyo station when he was getting on the Bullet train.

When Joe left Japan, he got a new suitcase filled it full with letters and presents from Japanese fans, and shipped it back to London.

THE LAST concert in Tokyo, at Nakano Sun Plaza was filmed by NHK (our BBC). But, unfortunately, Joe had a bad throat because he caught flu. In the beginning I didn't notice it. Toward the



Pic: Sho Kikuchi

Joe whoops it up at the Takenokozoku

end his voice lost the energy and the volume he usually has, and I noticed Mick was worrying and trying to let him rest by choosing songs with Mick's vocals.

After the whole set was finished, they were back on stage again with Pearl Harbour and announced that the concert would continue, for her. Though she's not such a well known musician in Japan, kids already knew that she was going out with Paul and her Asian look made us feel friendly to her. In fact, she reminded me of Sheena of Sheena and the Rokkets.

Joe had painted on his left arm in Japanese character 'Kill Mickey Mouse', on his right arm 'The World Is One' in gold ink. Mickey Mouse meant the American materialism that has been invading Japan. Whenever he went out to town in Tokyo, he commented on that. But I know he was into one certain kind of Japanese materialism. He liked the gold and silver pens he used for painting his arms. He bought 20 of each colour.

On Sunday afternoon, Joe went to see the Takenokozoku in Harajuku. Musicians like Madness and Stray Cats have been there before. There are 2000 kids dancing on the blocked street with rockabilly music and with real 50's American Graffiti fashion, surrounded by 3000 onlookers. I did not accompany him but as our picture tells, Joe enjoyed walking among them.

L plates, the new bike law, and you.

If you ride a bike or scooter on a provisional licence you will be affected by changes in the law from March 29th.

These changes give riders of machines over 125cc until October 1st to pass either the existing 'L' test or a new two part test. And soon you'll be unable to ride a bike on 'L' plates indefinitely.

EXISTING 'L' TEST OR NEW TWO PART TEST?

To take the existing 'L' test your application must be received before March 29th, otherwise you will have to take the new two part test.

WHAT DOES THE NEW TEST INVOLVE?

Part I tests your ability to handle and manoeuvre your bike.

Part II is much the same as the existing 'L' test and can only be taken once you've passed Part I. (If you drive a motorcycle or a scooter with a side car you will only have to take Part II.)

You'll stand a much better chance of passing if you've taken a course with one of the training bodies appointed by the Department of Transport.

Your local Road Safety Officer will give you the details.

HOW ELSE MAY THE NEW LAW AFFECT ME?

If you hold a provisional licence and ride a bike which was first registered

after December 31st, 1981, its maximum power output and power/weight ratio will also be restricted when the 125cc limit comes into force (scheduled for October 1st, 1982)*. And soon all motorcyclists will have to pass both parts of the new test within a limited period (probably two years) or they may face a year off the road.

HOW DO I TAKE MY TEST?

Part I of the test can be taken with an appointed training body as part of the course they provide.

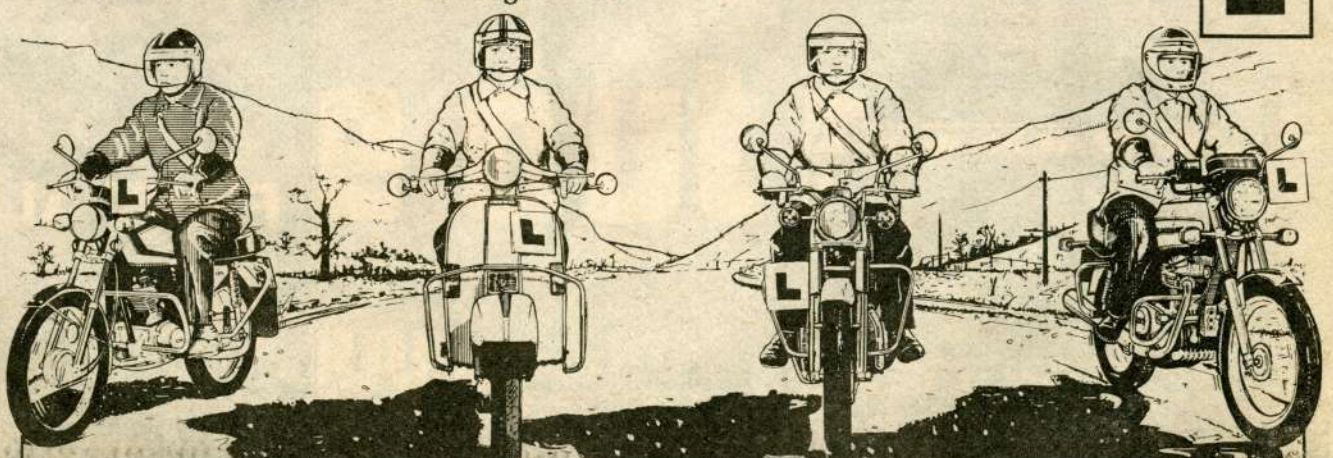
Part I can also be taken with the Department of Transport, who conduct existing 'L' tests and Part II of the new test. Ask for form DL26 at your Post Office.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TRAINING AND THE NEW TEST?

If you want to know more about training schemes contact your Road Safety Officer at your council offices (or in Scotland, your Regional Council office or police station).

If you want to know more about the new test send an SAE to Driver Enquiry Unit, DVLC Swansea, SA6 7JL for your free copy of "Your Driving Test"

PASS YOUR TEST STAY ON YOUR BIKE



* IF YOU HAVE A FULL LICENCE FOR A CAR, MOPED OR 3 WHEELER YOU WILL BE RESTRICTED TO 125CC (SCHEDULED OCTOBER 1ST, 1982). DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT.