

the pillows

Questions by Sean Cruz & Hiroyuki Kozuma

You've been together as a band for quite a while, what noticeable changes has the band gone through, or as individual members of the band, what changes have you gone through?

There wasn't much chemistry when we first formed the band, but now we all understand each other in terms of music and as human beings

Everyone has a different level of success. What determines success for the Pillows?

We didn't do this to become millionaires. We hate popular pop music of Japan. Because we are a band that we like alternative sound, I think that there is probably a limit. However, only the Pillows always have the wish of exceeding the limit somewhere in our minds.

We feel that we have already succeeded as of now.

Following that question up, you've mentioned previously that you would like to make it in America? You've already performed at SXSW in Texas, and in 2006 had your own tour, so thinking back to what you just said, what determines success for The Pillows in America?

We think that we have already succeeded though wishing that everybody listen to our music more.

We hope we can visit the United States comfortably without worrying traveling fees when a new album can be released as well as Japan.



Now a couple of the band members are also involved in other bands. Is that a normal thing for musicians to be involved in multiple bands, and have there ever been any conflicts between what you do for the Pillows and what you do for other bands?

I think that there is various types of bands, like having the sense and the rules suitable respectively between lovers, too.

There is no stress for The Pillows even if each member participates in another activity.

Many people who know you in America were first exposed to your music via the anime series FLCL. Is that a project you would like to take on again, having The Pillows perform songs for an anime series?

We're not thinking about that at the moment.

What was your first reaction when Gainax came and asked to use your songs in FLCL?

We weren't interested in the anime so much, We didn't think that it was very important because it wasn't very detailed. We didn't know that Gainax was a large-scale studio. Because we were glad to hear that the director simply liked the Pillows, the sound track was admitted due to his offer.

We wish to express our gratitude now.

People who know us from FLCL are huge numbers of people.

In America you often see celebrities in the news for things like drug and alcohol abuse, while in Japan that type of news is very rare, why is that?

We don't know why.

Why do you have so many in opposite?

Other than music, are there any side businesses that you're involved in, perhaps owning a restaurant or designing clothes?

We design our own tour T-shirts, but that's about it.



Now this might be an impossible question to answer, but out of all the songs that you've done, name your favorite Pillows song.

Hybrid rainbow is our favorite song.

Which other artists would you like to tour or record songs with?

Ben Kweller, Breeders

When did you know that you had "made it" as a band?



In 1999, the tour tickets came to be sold out soon, and we were able to live without worrying about money.

Are there any noticeable differences between Japanese audiences and North American audiences?

There is no significant difference between Japanese and American fans.

How many instruments have you gone through in your career?

No comment.

Where was the most interesting place you've been to while on tour?

We enjoyed Mexico very much. Everything exceeded the imagination.

Have you made a mess of any hotel rooms while you're on tour?

No we didn't. (Laughing). Because we are not Keith Moon*. We want to use the hotel beautiful and cleanly.

*Editor's note: Keith Moon is the Drummer for The Who

Who are your musical influences?

Ben Kweller, Breeders, noodles, ELLEGARDEN, STRAIGHTENER, HiGE

What advice do you have for aspiring musicians?

Be your own judge.



The Pillows are Sawao Yamanaka, Yoshiaki Manabe, Shinichiro Sato. The Pillows released a Singles collection, "Lostman go to Yesterday, on Nov 14th". <http://www.pillows.jp/> for more info.

