

Promotion: Pro Wrestling SHINE (プロレスリングシャイン、abbrev. SHINE)

A young joshi promotion founded in 2015, Pro Wrestling SHINE has in recent years quickly gained prominence as the leading joshi promotion in Japan. Based in the greater Tokyo area, young and ambitious leadership combined with the newly-acquired backing of significant corporate sponsorship has seen SHINE take the puro world by storm. Since holding their first international show in late 2018, which saw them partner with a semi-major American promotion to rave reviews from both critics and the general public alike, SHINE has gone on an international assault, appearing on and co-promoting shows with men's and women's promotions in Japan and around the world. Entering 2022, SHINE finds itself riding high despite always-turbulent internal affairs.

Factions: 6

GOLD TIGERS
ACE ALLIANCE
BROKEN DESTINY
DARK ANGELS
BLUE DRAGONS
SHINING PIXIES

GOLD TIGERS (ゴールドタイガー)

Founded: August 11, 2017

Leaders: Yuka Taniguchi, Yūki Ōshiro

Members: 4

One of the two most notable factions currently in SHINE's main event scene, GOLD TIGERS originally came to be as an offshoot of both BLUE DRAGONS and SHINING PIXIES. The group was founded during the now infamous Ota Ward show of 8.11.2017. During the main event of this show, a tag match for the DOUBLE DREAM championship, Yuka Taniguchi and Yūki Ōshiro, each on opposite sides, simultaneously turned on their partners, with Taniguchi thrust kicking Chika Haraguchi and Ōshiro doing the same to Hina Nozawa. The two founders had been showing signs of discontent with their roles in their respective factions and, despite the move's unpopularity at the time, forged a faction the way they saw fit. Taniguchi and Ōshiro immediately went on a tear, winning those same tag belts during the Winter Tag League. The faction has since held all but one belt promoted in SHINE and simultaneously carried the tag belt of a semi-major American promotion, taking a shock victory during the 2018 show that proved to be a masterstroke for both promotions. Originally showing villainous behavior from all the frustration caused by their perceived mistreatment, and despite not currently holding any belts, GOLD TIGERS now find themselves fan favorites as a result of a brutal war with DARK ANGELS, which has been going since New Year's Day 2021, the final day of the 2020 Winter Tag League, with no signs of letting up.

ACE ALLIANCE (エースアライアンス)

Founded: December 31, 2015

Leader: Hifumi Kurata

Members: 6

One of the oldest and most successful factions in SHINE's young history, ACE ALLIANCE was founded upon Hifumi Kurata's arrival in SHINE at the penultimate round of the inaugural Winter Tag League on New Year's Eve. The faction's membership has been essentially unchanged since summer 2016, except for the arrival and departure of young wunderkind Ami Hino between late 2018 and New Year's Day 2020, when Izumi Aoyama's incessant mind games starting the previous summer finally brainwashed her impressionable young mind into betraying Kurata during the final match of the Winter Tag League. At one point during 2021, ACE ALLIANCE held every belt in SHINE except for the DOUBLE DREAM championship. However, they went on a losing streak during the fall and by October 2021 they were left with just the SHOOTING STAR championship, which is still held by Saki Matsumura. Given its long-term stability, ACE ALLIANCE can never be counted out for long and it's sure to bounce back during 2022. However, at STAR POWER VI, BROKEN DESTINY appeared to be sizing up the faction like wolves on the prowl, as Kurata dropped the SHINING STAR championship in a brutal match via submission, and she has been out of action since then with a torn AC joint in her right shoulder, handing over leadership duties to Matsumura in the meantime. Whether or not she proves capable or vulnerable remains to be seen.

BROKEN DESTINY (ブローケンデスティニー)

Founded: February 29, 2020

Leader: Yū Nakashima

Members: 5

The youngest faction in SHINE, BROKEN DESTINY was founded by former SHINING PIXIE Yū Nakashima, who, like so many others, had become disillusioned with her position in her faction. At one point in time, Nakashima had been the leader of the PIXIES, but often showed a worrying tendency to become mentally unstable when under stress, which caused the appearance of some alarming characteristics. After beginning to feud with Miyako Mizuno starting in June 2019, largely as a result of Mizuno's desire to protect the younger members of the faction and keep the group on a squeaky clean course, the bitter rivalry that ensued nearly destroyed SHINING PIXIES several times until things finally came to a head on Leap Day 2020, at SHINE's twice-a-month Korakuen show. During a match that would ultimately change the course of SHINE in 2020, Nakashima seemed to figuratively be on the ropes against Mizuno, but shocking interference from Mio Maeda, widely considered one of the most clean-cut members of SHINE, led to a disqualification for Nakashima, a few fractured ribs via a chair being dropkicked into Mizuno's torso, and the creation of BROKEN DESTINY later that night. Since then, the faction has grown to include disgruntled members of other factions. The momentum from this sudden switch propelled Nakashima all the way to a SHINING STAR championship reign in September 2020, where she grabbed a handful of ring gear to claim victory in a highly controversial finish. She dropped the title to Hifumi Kurata at BRIGHT WINTER SHINE 2021, and she has been sizing up the faction since then—making her ambitions public at STAR POWER VI as the entire faction watched Kurata tear her AC joint as she tapped out and lost the SHINING STAR championship. Only one thing is certain—BROKEN

DESTINY will stop at nothing to win, no matter how dirty they have to play...and woe to whoever is unlucky enough to cross their path.

DARK ANGELS (ダークエンジェル)

Founded: May 14, 2016

Leader: Izumi Aoyama

Members: 7

DARK ANGELS. It's a name that makes most joshi cower in fear or flee in terror. SHINE's most notorious faction doesn't care. If BROKEN DESTINY will do anything to win in the ring, Izumi Aoyama and her squad will do anything to win in AND out of the ring, and the evidence is utterly damning as Aoyama relishes her reputation. The faction is notorious for using psychological warfare away from the ring, often with disturbing results. The most disgusting and high-profile example of this manifested itself throughout 2019 and "paid dividends" on New Year's Day 2020, when during the main event of the 2019 Winter Tag League final, the young superstar Ami Hino snapped and betrayed Hifumi Kurata, costing them the DOUBLE DREAM championship...and Hino her own mind, as she was effectively brainwashed into the deed through near-nonstop mind games, although lately she seems to finally have started breaking through this haze and realizing the mistake she made.

DARK ANGELS originally terrorized the independent scene in Japan before arriving in SHINE in early 2018 with the same core as it maintains now, save for three additions: Atsuko Nishiyama from BLUE DRAGONS, Dài Lín from SHINING PIXIES, and Hino. Aoyama and Hino currently hold the DOUBLE DREAM championship, having cheated their way to victory in the 2020 Winter Tag League, defeating Ai Kimura and Yukiko Miura in the final and kickstarting a vicious war with GOLD TIGERS in the process. Yuka Taniguchi's attempts at at least pulling Hino back from her near-hypnosis haven't borne fruit so far, although it seems that something is changing inside the still-young superstar that may provide hope for her yet...

BLUE DRAGONS (ブルードラゴン)

Founded: March 23, 2015

Leader: Chika Haraguchi

Members: 3

One of the two original factions in SHINE, BLUE DRAGONS has long been number two in the pecking order after SHINING PIXIES. Founded by longtime veteran Chika Haraguchi, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers of the early 2010's and instrumental in SHINE's rise, the group used to be much larger before a number of departures and a shock betrayal occurred upon the completion of the SHINING STAR tournament in spring 2019. At its peak, right before this sudden wave of change, the group contained a whopping nine members before four members left the company over contract disputes. Another was forced to retire due to mounting injuries, Atsuko Nishiyama cost Chika the tournament in a stunning act of betrayal, and Ai Kimura surprisingly jumped ship to GOLD TIGERS while holding the EAST ASIA championship and immediately won the TURBO SPEED championship for an unprecedented reign before having to vacate both titles in December 2020 due to injury. Since the departures, the faction has fallen on hard times, having only held one title since then—in 2021, Haraguchi pulled off an unbelievable upset by running the table in the SHINING STAR tournament and

then went on to win the SHINING STAR championship at STAR POWER VI, putting Hifumi Kurata out of action indefinitely due to tearing an AC joint as she tapped out. Whether she will hold the title for long into 2022 remains to be seen, as despite DARK ANGELS' preoccupation with GOLD TIGERS, and repeated attempts by Yuka Taniguchi to redeem her, the dark young superstar Ami Hino is hot on the trail of Haraguchi...and she will do whatever it takes, whether she's good or evil.

SHINING PIXIES (シャイニングピクシー)

Founded: March 23, 2015

Leader: Miyako Mizuno

Members: 5

The other original faction in SHINE, SHINING PIXIES has always been at the forefront of the promotion. No other faction carries as much weight in the ring. Originally led by Yū Nakashima, the faction has headlined countless shows promoted by SHINE and other promotions. Many members of the roster, good and evil, have been PIXIES at one point or another in their careers—many made their debuts in the faction before departing shortly after, which did little to damage its credibility (most factions are now seeking out or developing their own talent). Every other faction except for BLUE DRAGONS currently has at least one former PIXIE among their ranks, with former PIXIES leading two of the other factions. Nakashima ultimately nearly destroyed the faction she worked so hard to create at the Leap Day 2020 Korakuen show, shockingly stealing former poster child for good behavior Mio Maeda in the process and leaving Mizuno in charge to protect the remains of her faction, even if it cost her four broken ribs and two months of her career. Since then, two more members have been added. No other PIXIE has made the jump to a different faction since then—a testament to the protective nature of Mizuno. SHINING PIXIES enters 2022 holding the TURBO SPEED championship, but they can never be counted out of the main event scene for long, and they are sure to draw the attention of every other faction as a result. Only one question remains: how long can Mizuno protect her fellow PIXIES and prevent them from succumbing to the temptations of dirty play?