

Article and interview from MusicVoice for promotion of DNA.

: <https://www.musicvoice.jp/news/271376/>

Below are from direct translations so may contain inaccuracies.

JAPAN's second single "DNA" has been released and there have been a lot of events. How was it?

I came to Japan right after my activities in Korea ended. I was happy that I had a lot of time to enjoy with my fans.

What was the most memorable thing during your stay?

We had an event for "DNA," and the voices of the fans were very impressive. It's the chorus part of "DNA," but it wasn't originally written; it was the fans who came up with it and wrote it. It was really nice to sing along with them.

It seems like you were able to be with everyone.

Yes! Although we were not able to appear together in the music video for "SMILEY-Japanese Ver.", we held the "NEW YEAR PARTY" in January and I was very happy to be able to work with him there. I was very happy just to have been featured, but I was even happier to be on the same stage as him at the "NEW YEAR PARTY", and we even went out to eat together after the show. Headphone deals you can't miss

What did you eat?

I ate a lot of yakiniku. It was the best meat I've ever eaten!

Now, "DNA" is a rock tune. What did you feel when you listened to the song?

I love anime, so if I had the chance, I wanted to try making a song that would be in the original soundtrack of an anime. When I first heard "DNA," I thought, "This is it!" It was a song that expressed what I wanted to do.

How was the recording of "DNA"?

The key point was the contrast. The melody is rock, but the lyrics have a very cute feel to them. It was a little difficult to express that contrast during recording. I struggled with whether to go for a cool feel or to

feature a cute feel. The atmosphere of the song is very important, so I focused on making it cool and mixed in the cuteness of the lyrics.

I thought the lyrics really expressed who you are, YENA.

That's right. I think the lyrics are very much like me. In particular, the line "Love sleeps in everyone's hearts" is my favorite because it makes me feel like I'm the main character in an anime.

How was it filming the music video for "DNA"?

It was the first time for us to have a rock concept, and the first time for us to shoot with a band. I was a little worried about whether we could show the rock image of YENA, but we had a band who played great, so it was like a live performance and it was a lot of fun, and I think we were able to show the rock image of YENA.

In YENA's music video you were performing with a guitar, so you can play the guitar!

I can't play it, but I tried my best to play it. There were only two days until the shoot, and since I'm good at "instant memory," I memorized the chords and went to the shoot, but I forgot the chords as soon as the shoot was over (laughs). But, if I were given another two days, I think I'd be able to play it.

Instant memory is amazing! Now, in the lyrics there is a line that goes, "But there was chemistry in the moment I met you," so what moment did you feel chemistry during your activities?

There are many. I feel like there is always chemistry between me and my Chigumi (the name for our fans). The cheers from the Chigumi at the event I mentioned earlier were really amazing, and that gave me energy.

Do you get nervous at live shows or events, YENA?

I get very nervous when I perform a new song for the first time. Also, because my Japanese is still not very good, I get nervous when I sing songs with Japanese lyrics or when I do MC work.

I think you speak Japanese well.

Thank you. I've been in Japan for about a week now, and I feel like my Japanese has improved. To be honest, I'm not very good at studying, but I guess I have a knack for memorizing things, because I can remember things quickly (laughs).

By the way, you said that you get nervous, but is there any way to relieve that tension?

I'm going to the bathroom! For some reason, it's a very relaxing place for me (laughs).

The single includes "SMARTPHONE -Japanese Ver.-" - how was the recording process?

There was a difficult part in Japanese. There is a rap part in the second verse, which I was able to sing easily in Korean, but in Japanese it was very difficult because the phrase was long. The lyrics are the same as the Korean version, but I realized how difficult it can be when the language changes.

How much practice do you usually do when singing in Japanese?

Two days! That's the time when I can concentrate best. Just like with the guitar chords, I forget them after that. If I want to remember them properly, I need more time.

How do you feel about rap itself?

When I was in IZ*ONE, I was told that "YENA's part is rap," and that's what made me start thinking about rapping. At the time, I told them, "I've never rapped before..." but they said, "Rap suits you best," so I ended up taking on the rap part in the debut song. That's when I realized the appeal of rapping, and now I'm having a lot of fun. But it's really difficult in Japanese, so I feel like I need to practice more.

In keeping with the title of the song, what is the most important feature or app for you on a smartphone?

This is the most important thing in my schedule book. I don't know what I'm going to do tomorrow without it, so it's very important. My manager always writes my schedule for me, and I'm really looking forward to it when it includes plans to be with everyone in Chigumi.

Please tell us about your future plans, YENA.

I haven't had a concert yet, so I hope I can. Also, I love to play, so I want to do the things I like with everyone at Chigumi. For example, playing games, or going outside to Universal Studios Japan, or I've recently become interested in fishing, so I hope I can go fishing.

Is there any fish you'd like to catch?

I like flounder sashimi, so I would like to say flounder, but I'm a little scared, so I'd like to gradually improve my fishing level and hope to eventually catch a flounder.

Finally, what are you pursuing right now, YENA?

I think most of my songs up until now have had a bright image, but from now on I would like to create songs with more diverse concepts and pursue them further.

Do you also write your own music?

I'm still in the exploration stage, but I'd like to give it a try someday!