

7th Stage Special Interview - Kimura Ryohei

What did you think about the shooting for this pamphlet?

The theme was “carnival”, but there was a lively party atmosphere. Even though it was a formal suit, I wanted to bring out Yamato’s style in some way, so I decided to dress it down. I hope I was able to achieve that result.

How did you feel when you first heard about the 7th STAGE?

Since I had seen the movie version, I wondered “What the heck, how are we going to do that!?” so I was a little anxious, but I knew it would be fun. However, when I was at the MetLife Dome last April for another project I could see my breath, so I just hope everyone will be dressed warmly.

Please tell us your impressions of "Uta no☆Prince-sama! Maji LOVE Kingdom" after having watched the completed film.

I received the video and watched it while I was working, and I found myself getting absorbed in it. At the time of recording the voice lines, the images had not yet been fully created and I hardly knew what was going on, so I was surprised when I saw the finished animation. It felt like I was watching a real live performance rather than a theatrical version of the anime. Since the series has been running for such a long time, it would normally be difficult to casually tell people who don't know about it to watch it, but the elaborate production throughout the entire show was so entertaining that even first-time viewers are sure to fall in love with "Uta☆Pri" at once.

How was the performance of the special unit song "Kaleidoscope" in which Yamato participated?

I have always been interested in futuristic performances such as those using Segways, so the transition from roller shoes to flying hoverboards was really cool. I also liked the blast at the moment of flight that gives the impression of a mixture of colors, which fits the song “Kaleidoscope”. When I perform live at a large venue, I think, "What should I do to make sure everyone can enjoy the performance from any seat?" It is not something that can be duplicated, but I was impressed by the spirit of the three performers as they left the center stage and ran around the whole venue to please the audience.

The integrants of the group consisted of 2 ST☆RISH members and 1 HE★VENS member. What kind of things did you feel through the songs and drama parts?

First of all, when I thought about the cast, I felt very secure in the fact that I would be working with two people who have been involved in the series for a long time. However, I think that Yamato would not only want to create something good together but would also want to show that "HE★VENS is here!" While valuing such core elements, if we get the chance to perform this song, I hope to convey the colorful joy of the three of us. As for the drama part, I think Yamato must have been happy to have the two of them accompany him on his training. I'm sure it's not that the two of them don't work out regularly, but even so, they're still going "Eh!?" at the amount of exercise. I wonder if you have to go that far to control that hoverboard (*laughs*). Being an idol is certainly not easy.

Yamato is a quarrelsome person, but once he approves of someone, he shows his happy and agreeable side. What do you think are the qualities that make Yamato like someone?

It's just my guess, but I think Yamato probably comes to like someone when he thinks, "This guy's got a lot of passion." Of course, he probably felt it through ST☆RISH's performances, but I think he saw it more through the training and rehearsals they did together. I think Tokiya and Cecil were all the more interesting because they are people who do not have that side of them easily visible on the surface. I don't think Yamato is the kind of guy who would hug them or do something like that just for the sake of performance. At that moment, I thought, "He must have come to like them a lot, and they must have had a good time together".

By the way, what is Kimura-san's image of the "strongest" idol?

I think the only people who can call themselves "the strongest" are those who do everything they can. Whether it's studying or working, there are times when you find yourself thinking, "Ah, I could have done a little more", right? What is amazing about Yamato is that he is able to work hard to the point where he has no regrets without needing to be encouraged by others. I believe it can be motivating to have such members in a group.

What was the most memorable part about the performance of the group songs?

HE★VENS is interesting, cool, and has a bit of a "chūnibyō" feel to it, but I think the bond between the members is real when they can share that. The structure of the live performance also makes me feel that after gaining experience in the special unit,

they are coming back to the group and its true essence. "GIRA×2★SEVEN" is really fun to sing, so I hope people will join me in shouting out the "Girax4" part.

In addition, do you have any favorite "fanchants"?

The "I love you" part of "Ai wo Sasageyo ~The Secret Shangri-La~ la" is for you to shout your love as loud as you can. There is no pitch or anything, so even if you are not good at singing, don't worry. HE★VENS will entertain everyone. There is no pitch or anything, so even those who are not good at singing can do it. HE★VENS will entertain all of our spectators.

All the costumes were unique, but were there any that caught your attention?

I would like Yamato to show off his muscles in either a shirtless outfit or a shirtless suit, and the costumes for "Egoistic" would also suit him well. I also really like it when artists perform in various glittering costumes and then change into T-shirts for the encore. Why is that? I wonder if it's because they look more relaxed and it gives a feeling of intimacy. When I saw the three groups wearing the same T-shirts at the end of the concert, I felt that we had all worked together to create one live, and it made me feel many different emotions.

What were the most memorable moments from the 6th STAGE, the first "Uta☆Pri" live performance you made an appearance in?

Terashii (Takuma Terashima) was always smiling and I thought it was cute. I'm sure it's because Otoya, played by Terashii, is cute. Also, when I saw (Uchida) Yuma's performance, I could feel that he really loves to sing and dance on stage. As someone who has known him since before he made it big as an actor, I was very happy. As for myself, well... High places are something else (*laughs*). Being that my duet partner (Shimono-san) was a pioneer in this field, I was able to fly as a sign of respect, and I am glad I was able to do something Yamato-like as a result.

What do you want to say right now to the idol who will be your partner in the live performance?

"Yamato, lend me your strength!" I hope I'm excused for not following Yamato's workout routine but I will prepare in my own way so as not to lose to the size of the venue.

Finally, a message to "Uta☆Pri" fans who purchased this pamphlet!

The movie version of "Uta☆Pri" will be hard for us to top, but I hope to spend enough time together to live up to your expectations. To do so, we need.... the passion of you all. Please have a good time at the live concert!

