

MELT-BANANA

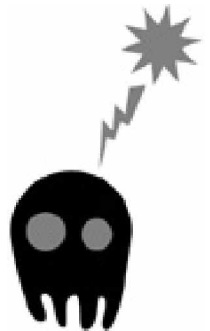


MELT-BANANA ...from Tokyo/Japan.

MELT-BANANA zählen mit ihrem unglaublich INTENSIVEN Sound zu einem festen Begriff bei Fans, Kritikern wie auch Musikern jeglicher Musikrichtungen die sich nicht von komplexen Strukturen und Arrangements abschrecken lassen.

Zahllose Singles und Samplerbeiträge, 9 ½ Alben, Tourneen in den USA, Asien, Australien und Europa. Mit ihrem harten, experimentellen und einmaligen Sound zählen Melt-Banana zu einem großen Stück Musikgeschichte.

So wundert es wenig, daß zahlreiche Fans von Melt-Banana selbst musizieren, da sie als Musiker die hohe Komplexität und den Anspruch von MxBx zu erkennen und zu schätzen wissen. Nicht zufällig geben sich solche Künstler wie u.a. LOU REED, JOHN ZORN, TOOL, MIKE PATTON, FANTOMAS, UNDERWORLD, MELVINS oder WIRE als Fans von MELT BANANA zu erkennen, haben mit ihnen zusammengearbeitet oder sind zusammen getourt.



„...hysterisch kickende Schlagzeugrhythmen, Gitarrensounds wie ein entgleisender Schnellzug, eine Stimme, hoch und klirrend, Bassläufe die ins Gedärme boxen.“ Das stellt sich schnell die Frage ob MB eine Noise-Band sind? Oder eine Punk-Band? Techno? Pop? Nein, diese Frage stellt sich nicht wirklich: Diese sympathischen Japaner musikalisch „festzunageln“ um ihnen ein Etikett zu verpassen funktioniert einfach gar nicht.

Nicht selten sind Menschen die lieber etwas ruhigere Töne bevorzugen, nachhaltig von einem MELT-BANANA Konzert beeindruckt. Liegt es an der sympathisch-magischen Ausstrahlung der einzelnen Musiker, der Lautstärke, die Überraschungseffekte innerhalb der Songs oder die scheinbar perfekte Beherrschung der Instrumente um explosionsartig von einem Genre in das nächste geschleudert zu werden? Innerhalb von Sekunden denkt man an Art, Noise, Punk, Metal, RiotGRRL, GrindCore, PopCulture oder an einem Soundtrack in dem man gefangen ist.

Innovation statt Stillstand, ist und bleibt die Devise von Melt-Banana.

Auch wenn über MELT-BANANA schon so vieles geschrieben wurde, die Band vermutlich mehr als 2000 Shows gespielt hat, man kann sicher sein, bei den bevorstehenden Konzerten neues zu erleben.

MELT-BANANA bestehen hauptsächlich aus Yasuko Onuki (kurz **Yako** genannt) und Gitarrist **Ichiro Agata**, dessen Sound oft so klingt als wenn sich zwischen den 6-Saiten eine Batterie von Turntable, Synthesen und Samplern befindet.

Unter dem Projektnamen „**Melt-Banana Lite**“ haben die beiden 2009/2010 einige Konzerte gespielt und ein Live-Album namens "ver.0.0." veröffentlicht, bei welchem sie - experimentierfreudig wie eh und je - diesmal vermehrt zu Sampler & Synthesen statt zur Gitarre gegriffen haben. Aufgrund der andersartigen Instrumentierung in völlig andersartigem, elektronischem Gewand, ein spannender neuer Ansatz des Melt-Banana HYPERTENSION Sounds - dennoch unverkennbar MELT-BANANA.

Auf der Euro Tour 2010 ist als Bassistin selbstverständlich wieder **Rika Hamamoto** dabei, die – kaum größer als ihr Instrument – mit sehr massiven und punktgenauen Bass-Riffs zu spielen weiss. Ebenso faszinierend schnell wie auch verblüffend präzise spielt Schlagzeuger **Takiya Terada**.

„You cannot just listen to Melt-Banana; you must experience Melt-Banana“

A band who have justifiably been championed across the world, Tokyo's MELT-BANANA have been responsible for some of the most complex punk rock ever made.... that far outshines ninety-nine percent of most other bands out there. The band once described their live show as "Shooting machine gun and laser beam, chaos in order". And I think that pretty much sums them up. - **Olli Siebelt, BBC**

MELT-BANANA are in a league of their own. There are other extreme hardcore bands out there who are experimental and unique but MELTBANANA are more than that. They are giants amongst infants. Masters amongst pupils. Kings amongst serfs. Nobody can do what they do and nobody can adequately use words to describe them. -**Jeb, Crass Menagerie**

...die nächste Tour abwarten, dann mit der Erwartung zum Konzert gehen, dort etwas wirklich Unfassbares zu erleben....was dann wiederum genauso eintreten wird, denn live blasen Melt-Banana fast alles gnadenlos vom Acker, alleine schon weil es wahrscheinlich keine zweite Band im Universum gibt, die auch nur annähernd dasselbe machen würde wie diese vier hier.“ -**BROKEN VIOLENCE**

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IN YOUR SPEAKERS magazine:

MELT-BANANA

Dismissed as inaccessible noise by their harshest critics with each new release, Tokyo, Japan's premier punk outfit **Melt-Banana** still manages to command an impressively loyal following of devoted fans, which seems only to grow with time. Touring independently and relying principally on opening acts local to the cities they visit, **Melt-Banana** are able to earn new fans, one blistering set at a time, by the hearing damaged handful. It's an interesting marketing strategy: you'll find crowds outside of venues, and you'll overhear people asking each other if they've ever heard **Melt-Banana** before. Many decline to have heard a song, while some have never heard of the band at all. The bottom line: a lot of people see **Melt-Banana** perform almost by accident. One minute they're out in support of their hometown heroes, and the next they've been leveled by the pure unadulterated power of acute, high-BPM, high-decibel mayhem that could only be approximated accurately as cathartic shellshock. Those excitedly conversing outside in half-deaf shouting after **Melt-Banana** shows are like new people entirely. So it's for no shortage of incredibly good reasons that die hard fans insist skeptical initiates go and see the band perform before dismissing **Melt-Banana** for their seemingly impenetrable records. In a world where many musicians struggle to replicate their studio trickery on the stage, Melt-Banana's only problem is being unable to replicate the manic, futuristic cartoon frenzy of their live shows on record. **You cannot just listen to Melt-Banana; you must experience Melt-Banana.**

And then there is **Melt-Banana Lite**: seemingly a rejection of the more pop-flavored structures explored on their 2007 album *Bambi's Dilemma*, the group's current live side project/opening act would best be described as Animal Collective on crack (if Animal Collective still played noise music). Trading guitars for samplers and motion-controlled oscillators, founding members Ichirou Agata and Yasuko Onuki don headlamps, kill the house lights, and proceed to construct intricate electronic speed dirges from unknown source material, that are at times utterly nihilistic and at others strangely inviting, all while their drummer struggles to keep pace with all the madness. I recently sat down with Yasuko Onuki to discuss the new directions being taken with **Melt-Banana Lite**, what the future holds for **Melt-Banana**, and, among other things, giant spiders and videogames. Catch the full interview below, and please, by all means, go see these people perform!

Read the full interview here: <http://inyourspeakers.com/content/interview-melt-banana>

SIDNEY OPERA HOUSE:

Strap yourself in for a rock n' rollercoaster ride with the fastest band in Japan – Melt-Banana - a musical bullet-train of hectic punk-pop noise-rock that makes The Ramones sound very, very slow. *“as thoroughly outrageous and dizzyingly hilarious as ever. The band never misses a chance to catch the listener off guard with a little well-placed insanity.”* - All Music Guide
Adrenaline-fuelled excitement tempered with a self-deprecating sense of humour makes Melt-Banana one of the most entertaining bands of their genre.

...live performance is where they truly shine - with an action-packed set full of originals, quirky covers plus a suite of songs that last mere seconds. For seventeen years they've stood outside time, fad and fashion – sticking resolutely to their unique take on the power of rock n' roll to transport us from the everyday.

JAPANATOR :

“Right now, as I'm typing this **concert** review, one question is ringing through my mind as my ears ring their post-**concert** protests: how could I have possibly survived the awesomeness that is **Melt-Banana**?

The **concert** was epic enough to warrant that question. There was an energy level present in the crowd that I never thought was possible for my sleepy little hometown of Rochester, NY...”

Please check the “www” for thousands of articles and reviews of this amazing band !



MELT-BANANA

"MELT-BANANA Lite LIVE: ver.0.0"

MELT-BANANA is a band based in Tokyo JAPAN, consisted by Yako who sings and Agata who is playing the guitar. So far, they have been exploring music world, putting out 9 albums and more than 20 singles, taking a part in many compilations. MELT-BANANA's sound is pretty intense. And their music attracts people who are venturers of music and who desire to feel something from music and who just love music. So that, they also have many fans in musicians. Some people say that MELT-BANANA is a musician for musicians, but I don't think so. It is the fact that many of well-known musicians like MELT-BANANA, such as Lou Reed, Underworld, John Zorn, the TOOL, Mike Patton, the Melvins, the Wire, etc... But without such a distinction, anyone can enjoy MELT-BANANA if they have a passion to see the possibility of music.

These days, MELT-BANANA is performing some of their shows under the name of MELT-BANANA Lite, and they have released its live album called "MELT-BANANA Lite LIVE: ver.0.0" in 2009. This album is a live recording of it. MELT-BANANA Lite is not usual MELT-BANANA: there is drums, vocal, and no guitars but samplers and synth. It is different but, at the same time, I definitely feel MELT-BANANA when I listen to it. Sometimes their sound is talked relating to Japanimation by their fans, and MELT-BANANA Lite also has that taste with their hyper tension. Compared with regular MELT-BANANA, I think the way how they approach in MELT-BANANA Lite is different, but it seems that the core part of music is the same. It is like, watching the ocean view under water, not watching from the land. One of their fans said that MELT-BANANA is a punk band who wants to play noise music, and MELT-BANANA Lite is a noise band who wants to play punk music.

MELT-BANANA Lite will show you another face of MELT-BANANA, with more flexible, more concentrated, and free minds. It seems that they step forward trying to find a new possibility of music for them.

Yako said to me, "There are so many things to do as there are so many interesting things, but the important thing is to figure out what I really want to do now. Life is short and we don't have enough time to get everything, you know. ". Where are they heading? You will see at their shows of upcoming tour.

Yes, MELT-BANANA is touring in EUROPE in the fall 2010. Check out their shows. It will be interesting to see to where MELT-BANANA is heading and find out what is in their minds now.

(text by R.Fujimaki)

MELT-BANANA

Live Album

“MELT-BANANA Lite LIVE: ver.0.0”



(cat#: AZCD0008)

Track list:

01. Feedback Deficiency
02. T for Tone
03. Slide Down
04. One drop, One life
05. Dig a Pit
06. In Store
07. Cat and the Blood
08. Chain Keeper
09. Dog Song
10. Lock the Head
11. Last target on the Last day
12. Humming Jackalope, waiting for the storm...

Live recorded in Tokyo, in the summer 2009

All songs by MELT-BANANA.

Artwork by Resource Graphics.

Performed by MELT-BANANA
as MELT-BANANA Lite.

Release on A-ZAP Records : <http://www.a-zap.com/>

Main Distribution by REVOLVER USA : <http://www.midheaven.com/>

Japan Exclusive Distribution by Disk UNION : <http://info.diskunion.net/distribution/>

UK Distribution by FORTE : <http://www.fortedistribution.co.uk/>



MELT-BANANA Discography

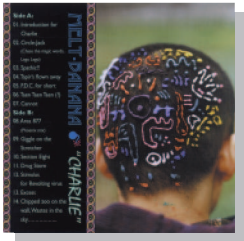


**MELT-BANANA 1st ALBUM
"SPEAK SQUEAK CREAK"**
-Originally release on 1994/09/09
on NUX ORGANIZATION, JAPAN.
-Produced by MELT-BANANA & K.K.NULL.
-Engineered by Steve Albini.
-Recorded in Chicago.
-Reissued on A-ZAP RECORDS in 2001/04.



**MELT-BANANA 2nd ALBUM
"SCRATCH OR STITCH"**
-Japanese edition was released on 1995/10/21
on meldac.
-US/EURO edition was released on 1996/05/21
on Skin Graft Records/Nux Organization.
-Recorded in Chicago, engineered by Steve Albini,
mixed by Jim O'Rourke.

**MELT-BANANA 3rd ALBUM
"CHARLIE"**
-Released on 1998/10/12 on A-ZAP RECORDS.
-Recorded at 101mg Sound in Tokyo.
-Produced by MELT-BANANA.
-Special guest drummer: Natsume.



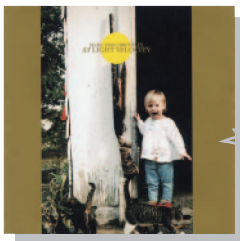
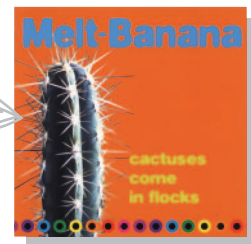
**MELT-BANANA 4th ALBUM
"TEENY SHINY"**
-Released on 2000/10/31 on A-ZAP RECORDS.
-Recorded at 101mg Sound in Tokyo.
-Produced by MELT-BANANA.

**MELT-BANANA 5th ALBUM
"CELL-SCAPE"**
-Released on 2003/06/23 on A-ZAP RECORDS.
-Recorded at 101mg Sound in Tokyo.
-Produced by MELT-BANANA.



**MELT-BANANA 6th ALBUM
"BAMBI' S DILEMMA"**
-Released on 2007/04 on A-ZAP RECORDS.
-Recorded at 101mg Sound in Tokyo.
-Produced by MELT-BANANA.

**MELT-BANANA 1&1/2nd ALBUM
"CACTUSES COME IN FLOCKS"**
-Originally Release in 1994
on Chocolate Monk in Scotland
as a cassette-tape release.
-Produced by MELT-BANANA.
-Reissued on A-ZAP RECORDS on 1999/09/21.



**MELT-BANANA Live ALBUM
"MxBx1998/13,000 miles at light velocity"**
-Released on 1999/02/21 on TZADIK.
-MELT-BANANA live Album recorded
on September 1998, in USA.
-Produced by John Zorn.



**MELT-BANANA single compilation ALBUM
"13 Hedgehogs (MxBx singles 1994 - 1999)"**
-Released on 2005/05/09 on A-ZAP RECORDS.
-including MxBx' s early singles from 1994 to 1999.