

One on One  
with  
ASH of NSDP



**About** 2 months ago I was given a CD of a band called N.S.D.P (Night Spit Death Pain) from a friend. N.S.D.P. consist of members Kuro on Bass of famed Japanese rock band Sophia, Shue on Drums who has performed with Tomoyasu Hotei and Brian Setzer to name a few, Yui on Guitar who is also with the female heavy metal band Cyntia, & Keiji on Keyboards.

Looking at this intriguing album cover with a photo of a woman's mouth and white something dripping from the edge of her lips..Sleaze? I think so, PERFECT! So I decided to play it on JSHOXX Radio at [www.babelentertainment.com](http://www.babelentertainment.com) for one of our newer review shows. Listening to the album and seeing our listeners reaction during our live broadcast, this was a band to definitely keep an eye on. I scored an interview with vocalist of Atsushi of N.S.D.P., who right away when meeting him has an international rock star status about him. Confident, charismatic, & cocky enough where it's welcoming which I feel every vocalist should have to be able perform and capture a crowd on stage. I hope you enjoy this one on one with N.S.D.P. vocalist Atsush

**Shion:** What is N.S.D.P. to you?

**Atsushi:** Band of "IKI". It's hard to explain about IKI in English. It's like a cool, good... Everybody ask me this question, but it's hard to explain it.

We are a rare band. That is a gathering of professional musicians and playing in the underground.

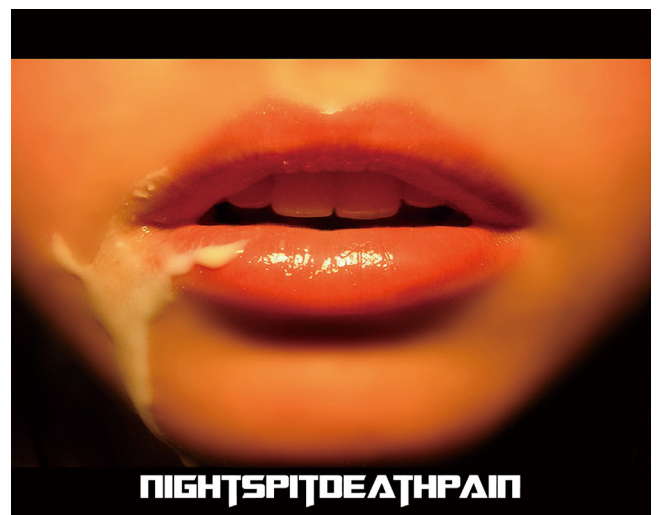
\*\*Note <-IKI- is a aesthetic feeling of EDO people, means sophisticated, stylish, cool, one of a kind, & extraordinary (in a good way), etc.>

**Shion:** As the front man for N.S.D.P. who did you gather your influences from as a vocalist?

**Atsushi:** Nobody really, just being Original. If I have to force myself to come up with something it would be probably be American Hard-Core style bands such as CONVERGE from Boston, and THE USED. I really can't come up with anyone as my influence as a vocalist.

**Shion:** Since you really don't have anyone in particular as an influence, where do you grab your inspiration from on becoming a vocalist and expressing your lyrics? Is it the feeling of being on stage, girls, party like a rock star atmosphere?

**Atsushi:** (Opens his shirt to show his chest with a portrait tattoo of Che Guevarra) I read the biography of Che Guevarra a lot when I was in high school. I was deeply influenced by his way of life. He was a revolutionist, and I was impressed with his death too. But not just historical figures, but also everyday people inspire me. Even a simple conversation with my friends can inspire me as a performer/vocalist.



NIGHTSPITDEATHPAIN

NSDP First Album Cover



LtoR: KURO, KEIJI, ASH, SHUE, YUI



**Shion:** The cover of your debut self titled album N.S.D.P. was a perfect fit to crank on our Triple Nipple Threat show on JSHOXX Radio. Can you explain this amazing cover?

**Atsushi:** Kuro (bassist) and I were discussing the Jacket options. Kuro had his mind focusing on whether or not it would be accepted in Europe or the U.S. so his first pick was KABUKI. I basically said that was LAME, so we went back to the drawing board, and he brought back 3 pictures. One of them was the one you see now and I was like YES! That's It!! No Doubt

**Shion:** Well the cover got my attention, it is very international.

**ATSUSHI:** Yes, when you show this photo to anyone, they all basically think the same thing. It's a common universal way of thinking and understanding of the world. The actual story behind the CD cover is that it's actually Vanilla Ice Cream. The first time I saw it, I remember thinking how great it was! It has that EROS affect and it reminds me of Yui (Guitarist) mouth although it's not LOL. Regardless we feel that is Yui's mouth on the cover even though it is not LOL.

**Shion:** You are currently working on a second album, what can we expect?

**ATSUSHI:** The first album is like round 1 where a boxer is feeling his opponent throwing left and right jabs. This second album will be a full on Upper Cut! It will be different than the first album in both good and I guess a bad way. More Japanese lyrics are on this album, and it's basically showing everything we got. We are still determining if it should be another mini album or full album. I personally want to release a full album. So far we have recorded 13 songs. Usually bands pick the songs to be placed on the album and just record it. I'm a little more complicated than that. After we recorded the 13 songs, I want to go back and make more changes. I did the rearranging on several songs, which ended up pushing the release date for this summer. We have a date but have not disclosed it yet.

**Shion:** Your music style is pretty different than the standard music that comes out of Japan. What are your thoughts on the current Japanese music scene?

**ATSUSHI:** I don't have any positive nor negative feelings regarding the Japanese music scene. Most Japanese musicians say "Not Good" or "It sucks But for me, it's not that bad. A successful musician has money, and music of the rich sell. Same goes with the record companies. Record companies with large financial backing have more sales. For the musician that has no money, even if his music is some of the best out there, it will not sell much because there is no money to start it. This is the way I see it now. I really don't see anything outstanding in the Oricon charts today. But, I'm fine with it. For me I don't need to be in the media. Real cool music like kick ass Rock N Roll does not need to be on major media. It is however inevitable that T.V. is a propaganda tool. It's advertisement, and again takes money. They put on T.V. what one pays for. PAY TO PLAY. I'm not angry or upset about it, that's just the way things are. What we can do, is play our lives on stage in front of an audience and watch it unfold. Word of Mouth is what it is about and how it is today with the Japanese scene today. It's actually healthy.

**Shion:** So you have no ambition to become major?

**ATSUSHI:** Whether I am Major or Not means nothing to me. What does it mean to be major? I really don't care about that. Of course I want to perform on a huge stage with a massive crowd but not through being "MAJOR" in Japan.

**Shion:** Do you have certain message of philosophy you try to share with your fans?

**ATSUSHI:** As the vocalist of N.S.D.P. my message to the fans is basically instead of tearing down barrier walls, let's just make a door. If we change the wall to the door, you have the freedom of entering it or not. For example there are walls in our life, it's unavoidable. Such as different nationalities with language barriers, different way of growing up, etc. We are different in the way we think and act. Instead of trying to break the walls down which can cause some to be very offended, just build a door, and for those that want to enter, great! If not, don't open the door. For those that say lets break the wall and become one! I don't think that's right, and it needs to be done by individual choice. Everyone has a personal wall or shell that protects them from one another. We need to cherish that. If we break those walls, we become Victim/Aggressor. Just basically leave the wall alone, and look for the door. I think this is the best way to understand other cultures. Of course its whether the ones on the other side of the door want to let those in as well. We definitely need to learn to accept differences. In doing so I feel we can all grow as well and find some amazing points about ourselves. So again, dont break the wall, lets agree to make a door together so we can understand each other welcomingly. That's a good idea right? Dont you think it would make the world a better place? Keep our differences and cherish them. We dont have to all become "ONE" I think. That is what I want to express to our fans through our N.S.D.P. music.

**Shion:** Wow, that's a pretty deep thought and message. I think it's a great way to look at things. When first listening to your music and watching your PV, N.S.D.P. does not come off as a Japanese Only band. It sounds more international. Was this your idea for the band when joining is that you wanted it to be an international band, or were/are you focused on Japan? Or is this just for fun?

**Atsushi:** Thank you, and all of that is correct. Of course my thoughts are to stay in Japan and play music, but also want to challenge overseas at the same time. Im doing this for fun too.All of it correct and all incorrect I think is the basic thoughts of musicians. It's hard to explain To think whether I am doing music for overseas or just Japan is unnecessary these days.We are doing this, because we want to be a rock band.If you like it, join us, please. Lets make good music together. That' what it is about for me. That's the one thought I have when playing with N.S.D.P. for both the members and fans, and to the future fans of overseas and Japan. Because we live on a planet called Earth, I want to do it on a global scale. I want to create great music and have a place for fans and listeners of N.S.D.P. to have a space when they come to our live shows to escape from some of their difficult times or daily hardships. I really desire to make this happen. If someone can listen to or come to an N.S.D.P. live show and forget about their problems for that time being I would be very happy. I hope they can find some hope or motivation through our music. That's maybe one of my main reasons for playing music.

**“ Instead of trying to break the walls down which can cause some to be very offended, just build a door, and for those that want to enter, great!”**

**Shion:** Speaking of N.S.D.P. live performance, what can new fans expect when attending an N.S.D.P. concert?

**ATSUSHI:** Just come to an N.S.D.P. show. Come and Join us! The album is one of our products, so is our live performance. When coming to our live you are helping us create a new product. This is what a live event is. The CD is made with 5 of us band members, but a live performance is made by all of us attending. So, I want you to come to our lives so we can work together and lets make it together.

**Shion:** So I take it you prefer live rather than studio work?

**ATSUSHI:** Oh yes, I definitely prefer live over studio. Being in the studio can be suffering. To make something in the studio is tough for me. In fact I was in the studio today, and it was tough. The stage on the other hand is not free, but is a relief. We have the audience around us which makes me not suffer. In the studio it s just me and the members. It becomes difficult to extend what we do. That's why we suffer and end up arguing. However this is how we can create good music. The live though has our audience, and it is a great relief to play openly.

**Shion:** A few Major artist make up N.S.D.P. Can you tell me something about each member of the band?

**ATSUSHI:** Yui (guitar) I think she is a performer before a guitarist Not to take anything away from her guitar playing technique at all, but I feel it is important to mention both qualities. For example if I tell her I'm looking for certain type of performance, she can play the roll perfectly. She is our number one performer.

SHUE (drummer) He is a great drummer. He actually plays for many famous musicians such as Tomoyasu Hotei & Brian Setzer to name a couple People outside the music industry don't really know about him, but within the music industry he is very famous and well known. He is a top class musician in Japan. He is also very childish (laughs) Although he is in his 40's he acts just like a kid. He takes offense easily, just like a child (laughs). But I think this quality is why he can remain a great drummer. I love his personality. He stays young at heart and is open minded. If there is someone who he does not like, he cant 'stand it and will complain or say something immediately. He is just like that Pure.

Kuro (bass) Kuro is the daddy of N.S.D.P. when Yui is playing guitar, he is the one giving her direction. Since she is a performer, Kuro is the one to lead her or is the one to give advice. When SHUE gets angry it is Kuro who calms him down. So Kuro is the coordinator of N.S.D.P. and he provides us psychological support. I believe he is the right person to play bass for this band. The bass is the backbone of the band. It supports all sounds. His personality is just like the bass guitar. However, when he starts drinking, he turns into a funny old man, so I have to take care of the drunkard (laughs). Anyway he is the emotional support for N.S.D.P. Im not talking about their style of playing, but the things you can feel when listening to our music. He is also the bassist of the major group SOPHIA, which is a very famous band in Japan. I've been a fan of their music since I was a little kid. He was my heart throb (laughs). I'm very glad to be able to play in the same band as him.

Keiji (keyboard) is the heart of N.S.D.P. He is the pipeline between all the members, much like a mother. N.S.D.P. cannot live without him. He is also a great music arranger. Kuro and I make the music, but recently I have been making all the music, including lyrics. All the members encourage me to do so, to basically do what I want. Then Keiji will take it and arrange it. It's like we are making a salad. Im the one who brings the ingredients, then Kuro prepares the tomoatoes and lettuce to be served, and Keiji picks the plate, and dressing and presents the salad. He is the final touch. That is how we work.

**Shion:** What do you think they would say about you ATSUSHI?

**ATSUSHI:** Man that's a hard question. I actually received an email right before this interview. Here I'll show you his text message (shows me phone with a message from Kuro (bass) it reads) Don't be squished by the word "possibility it is an undeniable fact that your singing gives us that supportive push. I don't really know what they feel about me exactly, but here is one thing Kuro has said to me.



**Shion:** How does it make you feel to receive that message from someone who has performed the big stage and has so much experience?

**ATSUSHI:** I'm glad of course, but nothing special. Because...I'm a ROCK STAR! It really doesn't need to be mentioned. I feel like they count on my talent and youth. Maybe not so much talent (laughs) but YOUTH. They have expectations for my ability that give me support. I feel it, and I believe in it. At the same time they might think I'm too Cheek or Young, but they warmly watch over me. Like if I were their own child.

**Shion:** I take it you are the youngest?

**ATSUSHI:** Yes, everyone else is an old man (laughs) (except YUI who is a gorgeous Young Rock'n Guitarist)

**Shion:** Could you send us off by giving our readers a final message?

**ATSUSHI:** There are as many rock bands out there like the number of stars in the sky. It can be really tough trying to find that band you really like. But now you have read this article. So, listen to our music, try it. If you love our music, you are welcome to join us. If you hate our music, your comments are also welcomed. Either way, love or hate we want you to experience our music. If we have a chance to meet you at our live show whether here in Japan or the U.S. that would be great.

**Shion Final Notes: Catch NSDP Live May 31st in Dallas, TX at A-KON. For ticket information visit**

**[www.a-kon.com](http://www.a-kon.com). Exclusive U.S. only merchandise will be available so look for the Babel Entertainment Booth!!!**

# NSDP

