

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

New York State of Mind

by Dan McDonald

Another summer in the books. Another season of trips to the beach, visiting family and traveling the country. In my experience, visiting other parts of the country makes me reflect on what it means to be a New Yorker.



On the last official weekend of summer, I traveled out of state with a group of old friends to watch a college football game. Fans of the opposing team invited us to their tailgates in the vast parking lot, took pictures of our group decked out in our college colors and even directed us to the best places to sit in the cavernous, yet nearly empty, football stadium. Coming from New York, I was pleasantly surprised by the kindness, hospitality and openness of the opposing team's fans. Perhaps all these years in the Big Apple mean that my guard goes up whenever a stranger approaches me.

On the ride home, the noise of rowdy, cheering fans gently faded away. "So, what does it mean to be a New Yorker?" I thought. First, it certainly isn't defined by one's nationality, native language, ethnicity or religious views. I can't recall the last time I heard a New York accent on the streets of Astoria. Perhaps we do suspect the motives of strangers who strike up a conversation. We have the world at our fingertips, but frequently long to escape. We echo the sentiment of columnist Jimmy Breslin when he called New York "The city that I love and hate both equally." And don't forget, New Yorkers know you probably can't get a decent bagel anywhere outside of the five boroughs.

Another summer has come and gone, taking with it the stories of the 8.6 million people who call this city home.

(Dan McDonald is a newspaper columnist, editor and Japanese translator. Interested readers can contact him at dan9605@hotmail.com)

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Agata Morio sings as scenes from the movie "Looking for Sato Keiko" are projected behind him.

Red Colored Elegy

Sachiko's happiness found even in New York Morio Agata Motion Picture Show Performance and Talk

Agata Morio, the accomplished singer-songwriter of the 1972 debut song "Red Colored Elegy", which sent shockwaves throughout Japan upon its release, gave two live performances with accompanying talks on September 29 at the Producers Club Grand Theater in Manhattan.

Two years ago, Agata created and screened parts of his documentary, "Looking for Sato Keiko" in an attempt to tell the story of his 45-year long relationship with music.

In the documentary, Agata, driven by his natural curiosity, persistently pursues his first-grade homeroom teacher, whom he both envies and reveres. The teacher, in just two years' time, exposes the young boy to an astonishing new way to see the world, and plants a seed of desire for self expression in his heart.

Even now, inspiration from his teacher, Sato Keiko, flows throughout Agata's creative works.

The movie passionately portrays



Red Colored Elegy (1970-1971/GARO) by Seiichi Hayashi



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Haiku is a poem following the syllabic pattern of 5-7-5.

- Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:

Across the still lake
through upcurls of morning mist
The cry of a loon

- O. Mabson Southard
- HOW to APPLY
Website: <http://www.artofhaiku.org>
E-mail: HaikuGrandPrix@gmail.com
7 Japanese, 7 English and 7 "Under 18 Div." haiku will be selected each month.
For more detail, go to <http://www.artofhaiku.org>
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And the back numbers, too!!

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