

A Unique Comedy Culture



Photo: Courtesy of Honjo City Board of Education, Saitama Prefecture

Comedy in Japan can be a hard thing to understand for those unfamiliar with the deep culture which surrounds it, irrespective of the obvious difficulties a foreign observer might have with the Japanese language itself. Japanese comedy is not however impenetrable: it is accessible with a little effort and brilliantly funny once the codes are understood. Indeed, a number of non-Japanese residents have made their name on the domestic comedy circuit, while a number of Japanese comedians have made their breakthrough overseas. In this month's Feature, we look at Japan's unique comedy culture, the traditions which inform it and the multi-faceted nature of the broad comedy genre today.