

Kpop europe

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Issue #1

WE BRING K-POP TO EUROPE!



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K-POP IN SERBIA

An introduction to Hangulija

Hangulija [pronounced: hangul-ee-yah] is a blog for people who enjoy and want to learn more about the Korean language and culture. The blog is written by two girls from Serbia who love the Korean language and tradition, as well as good music and dramas. For the time being the blog is written in Serbian, although there are plans for writing posts in English as well.

The readers have a variety of topics to choose from, like the regular monthly columns "Dašak jutarnjeg mira" (Breath of morning calm) about Korean tradition and customs, DOND aka "Drama OST-a nikad dosta" (Can't get enough of these drama OSTs) that features great drama OST songs you shouldn't miss, "Otkrivamo za vas..." (Discovering for you...) where the bloggers recommend a movie of their choice, talk about a certain K-drama type or Korean artists of a specific music genre, and "Hangulija noraebang" (Hangulija song of the month) where the two bloggers

choose the song they have enjoyed the most during the past month.

In 2013, the blog has started off as a place for its creator, Hangulija, to share her experience of learning Korean language and help others who are learning it in Serbia and the Balkan region where there



is not much exposure to this fascinating and melodic language. That is why Hangulija decided to make flashcards with interesting Korean phrases that were picked up from K-dramas, variety shows and K-pop songs, including their translation in Serbian. All the Korean language blogposts are followed by commentaries and additional links for readers

to find supplementary explanation of certain grammar points.

In 2014, Hangulija was joined by Hallyurina, her real-life friend and an expert in K-music and K-dramas, who shares the same passion for the Korean culture. Hallyurina's posts about her trips to South Korea give you a great overview of what to expect when visiting this faraway country. She will also give you her piece of mind about burning K-pop scandals as she knows the K-pop industry very well. At the end of 2014, the two bloggers prepared their first giveaway and their very own Hangulija awards 2014 with the help of the regional Facebook K-pop community.

Hangulija and Hallyurina hope for more fans to join them on their journey of learning about Korean culture and language, and enjoying quality Korean music and dramas. They welcome comments from people who share similar interests as they do. Visit their blog on <http://hangulija.wordpress.com!>

IMPRESS

Kpopeurope is Europe's largest multi-lingual K-pop network. The page was created by K-Pop fans for K-Pop fans. The basic idea is to promote various facets of the Korean pop culture in Europe. We unite fans and writers from several countries to spread news in different languages. We want to motivate K-pop fans to share their interests with us to create a larger audience for K-pop in Europe. "We

are a team, a group of people, who are interested in Korea and Korean popular music." In our team we have experienced authors, who have previously written for other European news magazines and websites.

Do you want to know more about us or share the latest information with us? Send us critics? Or just have chat with us about your favorite idol? Drop us a message or visit our Facebook page! Picture copyright information: No

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4MINUTE COMEBACK

Flirting with the lunatic concept

For weeks now 4MINUTE has teased us, one video being especially mysterious: "4minute Revamped." Now they are back! And fans are going "Crazy" for their new video and images for the mini album.

release of the teaser images comes days after 4MINUTE released a ballad song, "Cold Rain." "Cold Rain" was pre-released from the "Crazy" mini-album in January, and showed a different side to the girl group. Could this comeback prove to be

will make you sing along: C-R-A-Z-Y! Michin geotcheoreom geurae michin geotcheoreom (Like you're crazy, yeah, like you're crazy)". This might be the perfect song for your daily workout! Check out all the other songs



Cube Entertainment released the six teaser images and a video teaser right before 4MINUTE's mini album, "Crazy" that was released in February. The images feature the members, but the video hints further to the concept and style of the upcoming title song. The

their best yet? The first song is the mad-as-a-hatter title track "Crazy." Framed by a frantic melody, the raps come fast and furious. Gayoon's beautiful vox softens the piece. Jihyun really kills it here, belting out the pre-chorus with Jiyoung. This track has incredible energy and

too. The tracklist is as follows: 1. Crazy, 2. One Verse, 3. Tickle and 4. Stand Out. We have collected the teaser photos for you on the next pages in case that you have missed their release.

Amber f(x): Solo Debut

With shortened promotions for f(x)'s last album release, fans of the group were left wondering what would become of the members. With recent spotting's of Sulli at media events and individual members activities – Amber joining the TV Show "Real Men" – it seemed the worst of it was over. And fans can now look forward to something very exciting for the group, it has been reported in an ex-



clusive report by X Sports News, that f(x) member Amber is gearing up to release her very first solo album in February. According to a source in the music industry, Amber will be releasing the new album during the second week of February before setting out on her promotions. It is said that SM Entertainment is currently on standby for the official release, after wrapping up all of the song recordings and music video filming for the f(x) member's solo.

THE FASHION FREAK



HyunA the fashionista

Ever the fashionista, HyunA rocks this black and white theme, showing us why she's always the centre of attention!

THE

HIPSTER

JiYoon the hipster

She's street, she's hip, with looks
that will send you to the moon!
Yes, it's the one, the only, the sexy
JiYoon



THE KEEN THINKER

The keen thinker

Check out GaYoon, striking a pensive pose, mulling over what killer note to hit next. Don't be challenging her to a game of wits, because there will only be one winner.



THE FEISTY LION



What's up JiHyun?

She may look puzzled, but she's just toying with us. Like a feisty lion toys with its prey. We're all yours!

THE COOL MISS



You are Miss Cool

SoHyun proves that she's Miss Cool with this stylish off-the-shoulder look, sporting enough bling to make anyone jealous.

EUROPEAN COVER DANCERS

4 Minute's "Crazy" - dance cover by TopGirls

There are seriously a lot of cover dance group out there! Recently, we got a message from a new girl group from Poland called TopGirls. The three girls (Kasia, Natalie and Gosia) are presenting us a dance cover of 4MINUTE's „Crazy“.

Here's a personal message from the girls: "Hello!! We are covering group from Poland and we just made dance cover of 4minute - crazy. We really hope you will enjoy our cover. Thank you so so much for support!" Try to watch the video in HD if you can. Also, if you enjoyed their cover like their video as well! Check out their YouTube video on our Facebook or YouTube channel!

If you are now interested in becoming a famous dancing star too, we are trying to give you some hints for that: "Before you can become a famous dancer, you need to be a good dancer!" You can develop your dancing skills by taking classes and entering competitions. Another thing that you should question yourself is to determine what



makes you special as a dancer and performer. You need to be unique or special in order to develop a commercial career. For example, you may be able to do difficult dance moves, you may be exceptionally limber, you may be a great jumper or you may be an extremely sensual dancer.

If you don't have a signature dance style or persona yet, work on one. You will also develop your skills and value when you audition for high profile dance roles on the stage or for a film. Generally, you will need to find out famous places where you can receive the right training. If you are interested in dancing professionally on the stage, you will need to go to different places, then e.g. if you are interested in dancing for movies, TV or music videos. Continue to improve your dancing skills and to develop your uniqueness. Train hard and develop your talent - but last and most important: Have fun! A lot of fun!

Newcomer: Ellipsis

Poland is not only famous for the Krowka candy, but also more and more talented K-pop cover groups emerge from this country in the center of Europe. Today, we are honored to introduce Ellipsis, a 5-member girl group from Krakow who received significant YouTube attention with their 4MINUTE cover for the K-pop Dream Concert in the Netherlands! Check them out and support/like/share their talent if you feel their groove like I do.



EVENTS & PROMOTIONS

K-Pop Korner in the UK

Some of you might have already heard of K-Pop Korner, the awesome online radio program that broadcasts K-pop within Europe! Each week on Wednesday 7 PM, they have new interviewees on, from mainstream stars like Nell, Kim Greem, Crayon Pop, and Lim Kim, to cool indie singers like Gonne Choi and Morrie, as well as other groups that really deserve lots of attention, such as Mogavi and Love X Stereo, plus there are special guests like Sam Hammington. This year they even had Minzy's sister on, Minyoung Gong! Adam who is the founder and moderator of that show has a personal statement for the fans out there: "Hi everyone, Adam from K-Pop Korner here. Just wanted to say a quick thanks to all those that have supported the show since it started in 2013, and for those of you that haven't heard of us before, we're Europe's only radio show dedicated the wonderful world of Korean music – pop, dance,



With 원영조, The Burgundy and Hyuna Choi.

rock, indie...any genre! It's not all about Gangnam Style, you know?" Watch out for more great music and interviews in 2015. Plans always change, but we're hoping to

line up NU'EST, Dami Im, IU, and U-KISS, amongst many others. Keep yourself up to date by following them at <http://www.facebook.com/kpopkorneruk>.

CUBE's CONCERT IN THE NETHERLANDS CANCELLED - ANOTHER SETBACK FOR K-POP

Another bad news for K-pop fans in Europe. After the K-Culture Festival 2014 was cancelled last year due to miss-organisation, another event had to follow that destiny. Just recently by end of January, the organiser of the so-called "Kpop Dream Concert" in the Netherlands, AM ENTERTAINMENT, announced that they had to cancel the promising event. The concert, originally set to star idols A Pink, BTOB, 4 Minute, and G.NA has been cancelled due to some disagreements between the organizers and the company. Al-

though it's been cancelled, they're looking at organizing it for a later date. Due to the disappointment of many fans AM ENTERTAINMENT published the following statement:

"We regretfully have to announce that the concert will not happen on the 4th of April. Unfortunately we were not able to overcome the indifference we've run in to. We will still be working hard to make K-pop happen in the Netherlands; after the successful campaign and the great responses of the fans several parties from South-

Korean have contacted us exhibiting their interest in the European market. (...) Although this is a setback for all the K-pop fans in the Netherlands and Europe, we are positive that eventually we will make it happen."

This setback is again questioning the businesses that are done with K-pop in Europe. It seems that obstacles within the market or differences between involved concert organisers are not easy to overcome. In either way, this won't comfort the disappointed fans.

BIG BANG COMEBACK

Are they still alive?

In terms of controversies over comebacks, I think Big Bang takes the cake - preferably not Red Velvet - for the most anticipated comeback in Korean pop for this decade. VIP's may have cause for complaint, but the group has been consistently active over the years, concerts in Japan and the groups solo activities have kept the Big Bang love alive for the wait. But with "Fantastic Baby" as overplayed as it gets, rumours of a Big Bang comeback have given way to suspicion and excitement from VIPs. G-Dragon and Taeyang recently participated in a roundtable for media outlets in South Korea as part of their promotions for their sub-unit GD x Taeyang. During the interview session, G-Dragon addressed the timeline

for the upcoming Big Bang album, and confirmed speculation that the group would finish out the year without a comeback. "I think the Big Bang album will be postponed until next year," G-Dragon responded when asked about the group's highly anticipated comeback. He then went on to address the concerns of fans, whose anticipation for Big Bang's next album increased after G-Dragon previously stated that it would be released in 2014. According to Enews, G-Dragon kept the exact time frame vague. "I've been talking about the comeback since last year, and because of what I said, I've been getting cursed at, so I can't exactly say when it'll be," he explained. He followed this response with the explanation that

he has been working on the Big Bang album and admitted that it may seem like he is making excuses about the delay. On January 1st, G-Dragon made another statement about the group's upcoming return. "We have very big plans this year. BIGBANG will be back with a new album, new tour, good music and good performance," he said without unveiling an exact date for the group's comeback. Excuses aside, this does look promising, and with the group members near to the age of military enlistment - could we be expecting the last Big Bang album this year?



ZION-T AND CRUSH

New album release

Many readers of Kpopeurope are fans of the singer Zion.T and his fantastic work, his smooth and charismatic voice has taken not only Korean fans, but international K-pop enthusiasts by surprise. Much to fans delight Zion.T has collaborated with Crush to produce an album that will sweep up R&B fans. Their latest collaboration "Just" leaves listeners astound

ed by the vocals and composition. Zion.T and Crush released their project album "Young" through numerous online music distributors and revealed the music video for their title song "Just" through Amoeba Culture's official YouTube. Classically brilliant and effortlessly cool, these two from VV:D give more than you can imagine. [kerenza]



iKON DEBUT

YG's next unsure promise

YG Debuts are often the topic of conversation in the Korean music industry, with many a broken promise of returns from their big artists. With Winner's debut delayed and a girl group that was supposed to be near to debut too – iKON seem quite a way off from their intended release. On October 22nd, CEO Yang Hyun Suk of YG Entertainment, confirmed to Star News that, "As soon as 'MIX & MATCH' is over, iKON will spend just a little more time on production and preparations and will debut right away in January of 2015 with a debut track... iKON will only be debuting with a single track and will continue to release singles for a while in order to shorten the time it takes for them to debut compared to Winner."

With January over, and the start of the new year in full swing, we can only hope that YG will release the boys in the first half of this year. With iKON member Bobby appearing across media outlets in Korea – the group has already received hype and a growing fan base. With YG though – is anything certain?

EXO COMEBACK

Endless waiting for the second full album

After reports that EXO would be making a January comeback, SM Entertainment has denied the rumours. They did, however, confirmed that EXO is working on their next album. "EXO has been preparing for their comeback, but the date has not yet been set," the entertainment agency's representative told media outlets. "EXO is doing their

best to prepare for the second full album, and is working hard to meet the expectation of fans." an agency representative told media outlets. Furthermore it has been reported that EXO's second full-length album will have both Korean and Chinese versions; as of yet unknown whether EXO will be making a comeback in the first quarter of 2015. However, what fuels EXO

fans is the promise of a near comeback due to the teaser that SM released at the start of this year. With two members leaving last year, we can expect to see the group back as 10 – EXO-L's are surely looking forward to a far more drama-free year.

