

## WHAT IS BAKUON?

Interview to Yasuhito Higuchi, director of the Bakuon film festival.

### The purpose of the "Bakuon"

**Sugae (S):** I have been watching the films in this festival all along and I feel "Bakuon" (=the explosion of sound), is something that swallows you up, not just a one-way emission of image. You can watch them subjectively. Why did you name this film festival "Bakuon"?

**Higuchi (H):** Doing it at full volume, that was basic idea. We do it at top volume at Baus theatre, using their equipment. Also I thought the name gives it a boost and it's easy to understand. The idea was very simple. In the beginning, we weren't thinking of screening ordinary films as "Bakuon" at all. But when we played one, just to see what it's like, surprisingly, it was more interesting than all the others. Music related films are about how much closer you can get to the sound you imagined, but usual films contain various kinds of sound, too. So many unexpected things occur when played at explosive volume. I realized that that's the best part of Bakuon films. The thing is, not every film screens well as "Bakuon" but I couldn't find any other replacement. Now, the word "Bakuon" is almost widespread. (laugh)

### The power of "Bakuon"

**S:** Recently I read interesting comment about "Milk", in your blog. You said, "people to the power" instead of "power to the people" I thought it is close to the image of "Bakuon".

**H:** At the end of "Milk" there's a scene where Sean Penn is killed right after he gains power, which left me with a strong impression. Sean Penn (Milk) threatens the Mayor at the Mayor's office, right? If he (Dan White) were to return, he wouldn't get any more votes. Then the mayor claimed, "You've got power". "Bakuon" also possesses that kind of dangerous power, in my opinion. That's why it can be easily misunderstood, and if you forget that "Bakuon" is not all about the power of film, "Bakuon" would go somewhere crazy. That's why "People to the power". "Bakuon" possess power as well as we do. How we deal with power will overlap with the way we face with "Bakuon", the power of the sound. That is our issue every time.

### Way to watch "Bakuon"

**S:** There are different kinds of people who come to Bakuon with different interests. Is there a certain way to watch Bakuon films? For beginners, could you suggest the best way to enjoy the festival?

**H:** I would say films are completed when watched by people. They don't belong to the creators nor the audience. It exists between those two. This isn't limited to films and applies to various things as well. In creating something, it seems as if the creators is the most important and the audience is merely a receiver of the product. Yet, in reality, viewing is also making. We use Bakuon to try and realize interactive part of film, the power of viewing, I hope people watch while keeping it in mind. That is the ability to notice things that the creators cannot see in making it. So, in other words, watching "Bakuon" is taking part in creating a film.

**S:** What kind of people would you want to come and take part?

**H:** There's no particular type, anyone can do, but taking that one step and completing their own films would change something in himself or herself. I think that's the point. Watching and completing, the procedure can change a person, so, I hope that everyone won't give up watching the films.

**S:** Actually, I was talking about "Bakuon films, changing the world" with Mr. Mukawa from Baus theater. I'm glad that I was able to interview you today.

**H:** This year we want to tell the audience the quiet sounds and the sounds hidden in the film. It's not just "play loud". However if we dwell on that particular subject, fun of being sloppy would be lost. So, we must consider importance of the audiences' first impressions...I'll try to keep the balance.

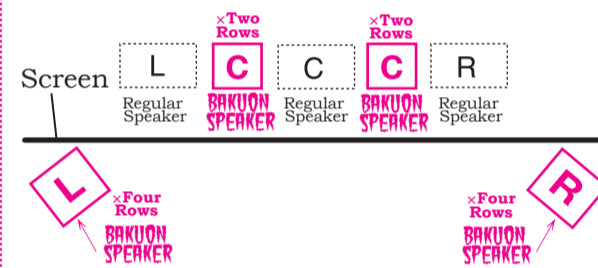
**S:** I hope that all kinds of people will continue to watch the "Bakuon" films. Thank you.

interview by Mizuho SUGAE  
text by Mugi TAKATA

## Bakuon Trivia Pt.1

Getting in to the Baus Theater, you will see massive speakers placed in front of the screen. These speakers are mainly used for live performances in the Baus theater and it became a symbol of Bakuon. Those speakers are consisted by 4 units of amplifier. Instead of using the regular speaker, we use them in order to raise the pressure and volume. However just raising volume would not produce pleasant sounds, therefore we plug in to the mixer for adjustment. Thus doing so, it enables us to control the balance of sound, restrain the noise and create original Bakuon sound.

**"We use totally different speakers when playing Bakuon films"**



Instead of using the regular speaker, we use power amplifier and live speaker in order to raise the pressure and volume. Furthermore by placing LR speakers in front of the screen, the sounds reach directly to the audience.

▼ Audience ▼



# Bakuon Film Festival 2010

2010.5.28.Fri.-6.12.Sat.  
at Kichijoji Baus Theater