

## The Hotshots - Biography

1995

Chie and Enocky (the guitarist from a surf band called "Jackie & The Cedrics") formed the band together.

1997

They released the first single "Lovie Lovie" from their own label. The second single "Why don't you haul off and love me" was released from Dionysus Label (the single caught attention of NRBQ, and they recorded an album with Terry Adams as a producer).

They toured in America, playing 7 shows (The Casbah in San Diego, The Foothill in Long Beach, The Blue Cafe in Long Beach, Jack's Sugar Shack in Hollywood, The Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco, The Chameleon in San Francisco)

1998

"Woop-Ass Joe" joined the band. They made an appearance at "Grease Ball", an annual big rockabilly festival at Bimbo's in San Francisco. They recorded their first album at Ecco-Fonic Studio in L.A. with Deke Dickerson (Hightone Records) as a producer.

1999

They released the first album "Wise Up, Watch Out" from U.S. Dionysus Record. They were featured for 4 pages in U.S. "V/SEARCH" Swing! Special.

2000

American tour (as an opening act for NRBQ) at Knitting Factory in Hollywood, Winston in San Diego. They recorded an album at Sonora Studio in L.A. with Terry Adams in NRBQ as a producer. Many guests joined the recording including Terry himself on the piano, the legendary R&B drummer Earl Palmer, and Skip Heller on the guitar.

2001 New bassist Kenji joined the band.

2002 They released an album "Feel You Around Me" from their own label, which was the rehearsal recorded at the home of the band members.

2003

They released the third album "Jubilee!" from U.S. Sundazed label. Jimbo joined the band as a drummer. American tour (Wild Weekend in CT, Iron Horse Music Hall in MA, Blues Cruise in NY, and North by Northwest in PA).

Chie Kodama (Chie Pet) Vocal, Guitar

She grew up listening to Oldies in Japan while the rock'n'roll was in its revival. She got into Rockabilly in her teens, and traveled U.S. at the age of 18. She traveled through the continent visiting Sun Studio, Rollin'Rock Studio, and her rockabilly heroes Johnny Carroll and Mac Curtis in Texas. The following year, she shared a flat in L.A. for a few months with Dee Lannon, a female Rockabilly/Country singer. Dee introduced her to various music clubs. Chie received influences from Big Sandy & The Fly Rite Trio (the drummer Bobby gave her the nickname "Chie Pet"), Dave & Deke Combo, Russell Scot, Rosie Flores, and other American roots music.

Music Influence: Buddy Holly, NRBQ

Yuichiro Matsusita (Woop-Ass Joe) Guitar

"Whoop-ass Joe" got his nickname because he puts many other guitar players to shame by opening up a can of whoop ass and leaving the competition in the dust! He is one of the rare country guitar masters in Japan. He started playing guitar at the age of 11, playing Surf Rock with the influence from Nokie Edwards from Ventures. In his high school year, He won a prize at a nationwide guitar contest.

Music Influence: Danny Gatton, Albert Lee, Chet Atkins, Les Paul.

Kenji Ooyama Bass

He was a big fan of Michael Jackson as a kid. He got into R & B, and formed a blues rock band in high school. He performed in many bands in different genres such as rock, funk, soul, jazz, bossa nova. Through his club performing days, he met Hot Shots and hit it off with its music. He joined the band and started playing in roots music and rock'n'roll scene. He played as a support bassist in The Sprague Brothers (High Tone) Japan tour in 2002.

Music Influence: James Jemerson, Bob Moore

Masayuki Kawamoto (Jimbo) Drums

He started playing drums at the age of 19 impressed by Sex Pistols and Damned. He formed "The Titans" in his college days. The band started out playing The Ramones' cover songs, and eventually started playing original songs influenced by rockabilly and garage punk, and released a few singles and albums from U.S. Get Hip label and Repent label, and Lance rock label in Canada. He formed "Firestarter" in 1997 with ex-member of "Teengenerate". They performed as an opening act for Rubinoos, Flashcubes, and Vibrators tour in Japan. His nickname Jimbo was named after a (looser) character in an American comic by Mel Bergman from "The Phantom Surfers".

Music Influence: Keith Moon, Clem Burke (Blondie), DJ Bonebrake (X), Jackie T-Bird (Jackie & The Cedrics).