



“Some people respect my work, but sadly, a few look down on what I do and tell me that I am just a busker”

And the least you made in one day?
Five pounds.

What kind of comments do you get from commuters? If I'm singing in Japanese it arouses intrigue from commuters and they want to learn more about Japanese culture. That's why people are interested in my J-pop (Japanese Pop).

Have you ever been chatted up? Sometimes people say hello to me. And I've received a couple of phone numbers from guys before.

What would you say was the worst thing about busking? It can lead to dangerous situations and people call you names and can be very intimidating.

What would you say is the best thing about busking? Meeting people. And I love making people smile.

Where is your favourite busking spot? I love all places but, if I had to choose, I would say Oxford Circus station.

Do you think buskers are recognised as serious musicians? Yes and no. Some people respect my work, but sadly, a few look down on what I do and tell

me that I am just a busker. Busking is hard work, but those who haven't tried it won't understand that.

Were you nervous on your first day of busking? Not really. Busking has made me respect other buskers so much more, especially Japanese buskers as you get some commuters who don't like us singing in a foreign language.

How does busking in London differ from Tokyo? I've busked in Okinawa, Yokohama and Tokyo in Japan but you don't get tips and you don't get to play for long. I think busking in London is more of a professional thing. Busking in Japan is usually just for fun.

Would you like to release an album? I am! It is called Princess GHIBLI and will be released on 13th April in Japan through the publishing company Media Factory in Tokyo.

Has busking changed your career plan? Ever since coming to London (to busk) my life has completely changed. Now I have endless ambition. I think my power and energy is influenced from people who respond warmly to my music. I am thankful to every Londoner. My dream is to one day make Japanese songs popular throughout the world.

Enter Yoko's world by visiting her at: Myspace.com/yokohallelujah

YOKO HALLELUJAH:

Praise her

Introducing Yoko Hallelujah, the cutest busker you may ever meet. Bored of the Tokyo scene, she came to the UK to busk as a means of making money but, as she found out, it wasn't as easy as picking up a guitar and singing. The ever-determined J-pop performer strummed from strength to strength though and is now excitedly awaits the release of her first album, Princess GHIBLI, out this April. If you see Yoko on your travels, give her a wink from us.

Do you busk to make a living or do you do it for recognition? I can't live off busking, it's too hard, which is why I'm trying to look for other music-type work.

How much money do you make, on an average day? It's so different every day.

Ok, so what is the most amount of money you have earned in one day? £111, which was very unusual! That was on January 1st – a great way to start the New Year.