

Japan's ex-PM Koizumi gets a superhero role

日前首相小泉為超級英雄電影配音



Japan's former premier Junichiro Koizumi, known for crooning Elvis Presley songs while in office, is lending his voice to a superhero movie, reports said.

Lion-maned Koizumi, 67, has provided the voiceover for the **extraterrestrial** hero who fights not political opponents in the Diet legislature but monsters and aliens from outer space, according to the movie's producers.

Koizumi, now retired from politics, used his offbeat **charisma** to rule Japan for more than five years until 2006, in contrast to his three conservative **successors** who each quit the post of prime minister within a year.

While in office, Koizumi displayed his media savvy by singing Elvis hits during a visit to Graceland, Tennessee, with then US president George W. Bush.

His next performance will be in *MegaMonsterBattle — Ultra Galaxy*, which is due to be screened in Japan on Dec. 12. His character fires a flash of light to attack evil enemies and shouts: "Pay for your transgression!"

"No one else can play this significant role except for former premier Koizumi, who once led the country," said Junko Kitazawa of Tsuburaya Production, which made the latest movie version of the TV series.

Koizumi first planned to decline the request to appear in the movie but eventually decided **to try his hand** at the role after his son, Shinjiro, who took over his seat in parliament in the recent elections, encouraged him to accept it, reports said. Koizumi's eldest son, Kotaro, is a professional actor.

The Ultraman television series first appeared on TV in 1966. Ultraman, a silver-suited masked hero, comes from outer space to save the Earth from gigantic monsters.

"The Ultraman series can be enjoyed by an entire family over three generations," Koizumi told Nippon Television. (AFP)

報導指出，辦公時喜歡哼唱貓王歌曲的日本前首相小泉純一郎，將在一部超級英雄電影中獻聲。

電影製作公司表示，有著一頭獅鬃捲髮、現年六十七歲的小泉，這次為宇宙英雄配音，對上的不是國會殿堂的政治對手，而是來自外太空的怪獸和外星人。

已退出政壇的小泉以其另類的個人魅力治理日本五年多，直到二〇〇六年才卸任，相較之下，繼任的三位保守的首相任期都不到一年。

小泉在位期間，和當時的美國總統小布希到田納西州的優雅園參訪時，曾當場獻唱貓王經典名曲，展現其掌握媒體的手腕。

而他的下一場演出將是在「大怪獸對決—超人力霸王銀河傳說」電影中獻聲，該片預計十二月十二日在日本上映。他的角色會發射光波

攻擊邪惡的敵人，並高喊：「為你們的罪過付出代價吧！」。

將「超人力霸王」電視劇集改拍成電影的圓谷製作的北澤淳子說：「沒有人比前首相小泉更能勝任這個角色，因為他曾治理國家。」

報導指出，小泉原本打算回絕該配音邀請，但最終還是在兒子進次郎的鼓勵下，決定嘗試這個角色；小泉進次郎在最近的國會大選中，承襲父志當選議員。小泉的長子孝太郎則是一名專業演員。

「超人力霸王」電視影集一九六六年在電視首播。「超人力霸王」是一個穿著銀色套裝的假面英雄，從外太空來打擊巨獸，拯救地球。

小泉對日本電視台表示：「『超人力霸王』影集老中少三代皆宜，適合闔家觀賞。」 (法新社/翻譯：袁星塵)

This handout picture taken on September 18, 2009 and received on Oct. 13, 2009, shows former Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi (C) smiling as he shakes hands with superheros Ultraman (L) and Ultraman King (R) after making a voiceover recording as Ultraman King for the latest movie *MegaMonsterBattle Ultra Galaxy the Movie* at a studio in Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

這張攝於九月十八日並於十月十三日公佈的資料照片中，日本前首相小泉純一郎（中）在東京某錄音工作室為電影「大怪獸對決—超人力霸王銀河傳說劇場版」中的超人力霸王長老配音後，微笑與超人力霸王（左）及超人力霸王長老（右）兩位超級英雄握手合影。照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **extraterrestrial** /,ɛkstrə'tɛstriəl/ adj.

外星的 (wai4 xing1 de5)

例：Many scientists believe that there must be extraterrestrial life somewhere in the universe.

(許多科學家相信，宇宙中一定存在外星生物。)

2. **charisma** /kə'ʃɪzmə/ n.

領袖魅力 (ling3 xiu4 mei4 li4)

例：James is well known for his charisma and boundless energy.

(詹姆斯以其領袖魅力和無窮的精力著名。)

3. **successor** /,sək'sesə/ n.

繼任者 (ji4 ren4 zhe3)

例：The chairman is stepping down next year, but we still have no idea who his successor will be.

(董事長明年將退休，但我們對誰會接班仍毫無頭緒。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

try your hand 嘗試去做

You **try your hand** at something if you make an attempt at doing it. The article says that Koizumi will **try his hand** at doing the voiceover for the movie.

Examples: "After years of working for his uncle, Bradley decided it was time he **tried his hand** at running his own business," or "Don't you think it's time you **tried your hand** at a different profession?"

若說你「try your hand at」某事，就表示你嘗試去做這件事。文章中提到，小泉將嘗試為電影配音。

例如：「為叔叔工作多年後，布萊利決定嘗試開創自己的事業」，或是「你不覺得你該轉換跑道了嗎？」。