

Kaiju Big Battle's wacky monster mash becomes Hub smash

By JONATHAN BLOOM

Ever wondered what a wrestling match between a baked potato and a space bug would look like? Be interested. Be very interested.

Kaiju Big Battle (yes, they spell it «i») is a performance troupe that creates those zany matchups, combining pro wrestling and Japanese monster movies. In its tongue-in-cheek manner, Kaiju proclaims to be "the world's only live monster wrestling spectacle." The group isn't likely to get any argument about that, as Kaiju events defy convention and, perhaps, description.

Kaiju is an underground sensation. Its events are part concert, part comedy, part performance. Tonight's show at the Mass Art gym, "Mansuri Mass Mayhem," features four bouts, a DJ and an opening band, Les Savy Fave.

Though the matches take place in an actual ring, the wrestling is not real. Like its pro wrestling brethren, the group plans out each show from its Jamaica Plain studio.

"First we script it, then we divvy out parts and rehearse. We've been working on this one for about a month," said Kaiju's PR man, David Borden. "No one's going to get hurt, but it certainly

looks like they will."

The Kaiju stable holds around 30 characters split into three crews. Not surprisingly, the Heroes are the good guys. They battle Dr. Culbe's Posse and Team Space Bug. The characters range from wiled to bizarre. For example, Kung Fu Chicken Noodle is a can of soup with arms and legs, and Uchu Chu is a bug from the video game "Space Invaders."

The group was started by students at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in 1995. Though few original members remain, the group's art school heritage is evident in the elaborate sets and costumes. In an ode to Japanese monster movies, the ring is filled with crushable cityscape. For tonight, Borden promises "more crushable cityscape than ever before and lots of props that will get destroyed by the end of the night."

But Kaiju has evolved. These days, the group puts on more professional shows, with better lighting, sound, costumes and business savvy than ever. "When it started, we all were in art school. But that's changed now that we need people who can do more than just paint."

The performers' day jobs "run the

gamut," said Silver Potato, the mon de Battle of an advertising agency employee by day, baked potato by night.

When asked what fans can expect, Borden describes "There's acrobatics, high-flying wrestlers and 8-foot steel cages. In a nutshell, it's a comedy-based performance."

Silver Potato promises to dedicate his trademark move, "The Spud Salt," to Herald readers tonight. Potato also threatens to use his other trademark move, "The Twice-Baked Potato," in tonight's Kaiju Big

Turn to Page 23

Hub monsters ball promises wild time

From Page 19

Battel Championship Belt Contest, the main event. "The Twice-Baked Potato is vicious," he said. "I don't know if I can describe it. You have to come to the show to see that one."

The group's kitschy Web site (www.kaiju.com) may give viewers an idea of the Kaiju experience. "The Web site explains it best, if it can be explained," said Borden.

But it's probably best to see for yourself tonight at Mass Art gym, 621 Huntington Ave. DJ Bruun will be spinning when the doors open at 7:30. The \$10 tickets are available at Strawberries, www.tickets.com and at the door. Keep in mind that Kaiju's last event attracted 1,200 people and the gym only has 700 bleacher seats (many people stand). Remember to bring your friends so you don't have to try explaining it to them.

Kaiju Big Battel's wacky monster mash becomes Hub smash

by Jonathan Bloom

The Boston Herald, April 6, 2002

Ever wondered what a wrestling match between a baked potato and a space bug would look like? Be interested. Be very interested.

Kaiju Big Battel (yes, they spell it -el) is a performance art troupe that creates those zany matchups, combining pro wrestling and Japanese monster movies. In its tongue-in-cheek manner, Kaiju proclaims to be "the world's only live monster wrestling spectacle. "The group isn't likely to get any argument about that, as Kaiju events defy convention and, perhaps, description.

Kaiju is an underground sensation. Its events are part concert, part comedy, part performance. Tonight's show at the Mass Art gym, "Matsuri Mass Mayhem," features four bouts, a DJ and an opening band, Les Savy Fav.

Though the matches take place in an actual ring, the wrestling is not real. Like its pro wrestling brethren, the group plans out each show from its Jamaica Plain studio.

"First we script it, then we divvy out parts and rehearse. We've been working on this one for about a month," said Kaiju's PR man, David Borden. "No one's going to get hurt, but it certainly looks like they will."

The Kaiju stable holds around 30 characters split into three crews. Not surprisingly, The Heroes are the good guys. They battle Dr. Cube's Posse and Team Space Bug. The characters range from weird to bizarre. For example, Kung Fu Chicken Noodle is a can of soup with arms and legs, and Uchu Chu is a bug from the video game "Space Invaders."

The group was started by students at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in 1995. Though few original members remain, the group's art school heritage is evident in the elaborate sets and costumes. In an ode to Japanese monster movies, the ring is filled with crushable cityscape. For

tonight, Borden promises "more crushable cityscape than ever before and lots of props that will be destroyed by the end of the night."

But Kaiju has evolved. These days, the group puts on more professional shows, with better lighting, sound, costumes and business savvy than ever. "When it started, we all were in art school. But that's changed now that we need people who can do more than just paint."

The performers' day jobs "run the gamut," said Silver Potato, the nom de Battel of an advertising agency employee by day, baked potato by night.

When asked what fans can expect, Borden deadpans, "There's acrobatics, high-flying wrestlers and 8-foot steel cages. In a nutshell, it's a comedy-based performance."

Silver Potato promises to dedicate his trademark move, "The Spud Salt," to Herald readers tonight. Potato also threatens to use his other trademark move, "the Twice-Baked Potato," in tonight's Kaiju Big Battel Championship Belt Contest, the main event. "The Twice-Baked Potato is vicious," he said. "I don't know if I can describe it. You have to come to the show to see that one."

The group's kitschy Web site (www.kaiju.com) may give viewers an idea of the Kaiju experience. "The Web site explains it best, if it can be explained," said Borden.

But it's probably best to see for yourself tonight at Mass Art gym, 621 Huntington Ave. DJ Brian will be spinning when the doors open at 7:30. The \$10 tickets are available at Strawberries, www.tickets.com and at the door. Keep in mind that Kaiju's last event attracted 1,200 people and the gym only has 700 bleacher seats (many people stand). Remember to bring your friends so you don't have to try explaining it to them.