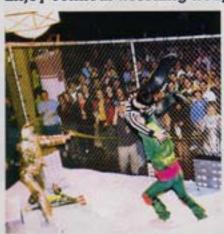


ANIME INSTINCTS

Enjoy comical wrestling troupe for super happy fun enjoyment!



"At first, it had nothing at all to do with wrestling," says David Borden, the brains—if that's the right word—behind the satirical sensation Kaiju Big Battel. "We called it Foxy Boxing, and it was mostly about breaking shit." Seven years and more than two hundred matches later. Kalju (which means "mystery beast" in Japanese) has become an elaborate and athletic celebration of siliness. Part WWE SmackDown!, part Saturday Night Live sketch, the bouts feature characters in getups ranging from underwear to \$3,000 foam space suits tossing one another around a steel cage; they're all portrayed by Kaiju operatives who prefer to keep their identities secret. The league doesn't even bother to hide the fact that all its fights are staged—chareographed body-slams and food fights give way to the pointless but entertaining demoition of cardboard cityscapes. Despite obvious Eastern influences. Kaju sprung from the imaginations of Borden. 27, and his brother Rand, 32, and their obsession with Japanese cult flicia like Ultraman and Godzila. It's now morphed from a Boston phenomenon into a traveling show that's preparing a national tour. A recent event at the 800-capacity Wassaw nightclub in Brooklyn ended with the "fatal" wounding of veteran fighter Club Sandwich at the hands of up-and-comer Kung-Fu Chicken Noodle, who brandshed a three-foot toothpick. "As pop culture gets more predictable and absurd," says David, "so do we." ALEX RAFAEL

Anime Instincts

by Alex Rafael

Spin, October, 2002

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