Interview with “Nathan”

**NL:** Nathan Lee

**SN:** Sakiho Nakafutami (interviewer)

**SN:** Hello, Nathan. Thank you for taking the time to interview with me. I have four main questions. First before that, you identify as a fan of….

**NL:** Anime.

**SN:** Thank you. So first question is what does being a fan of Japanese anime mean? and how might you define Japanese anime fandom?

**NL:** Oh, first I think being a fan of anime can range anywhere from casually watching it to watch and, you know, every day I feel like a huge fan. A lot of people might have different answers to that question, but I think it really just depends on, you know, “do you like watching anime?” I think that is just a question. And another thing is… what was the question again? The second part.

**SN:** Second part? How might you define anime fandom?

**NL:** You know, if you are a part of anime community, you know, if you actively, you know, participate at least in reading or like watching comments about anime, stuff like that.

If you somehow involve yourself with in the community like sharing theories or sharing, you know, your own comments and stuff, that would be how I might define, you know, being like a part of the anime fandom.

**SN:** Do you have an idea of identifying you from weaboo?

**NL:** You mean like separating me from weaboos? Well, first, I don't like considering what I watch, sorry, you know, just watch anime and blindly think that must be like Japanese culture, you know, a lot of people a kind of make that a mistake or they watch anime and they think that whatever they see in anime is an accurate representation of Japanese culture. Obviously this is not true. It's kind of like the same thing or people who watch like Hollywood movies think that America is also like that. It's really not like that, you know what I mean? So you know, I think just knowing where the balances knowing, you know, what the difference between real-anime like we're anime ends and a real life begins is a good way to separate yourself from blindly believing, you know, incorrect foot.

**SN:** So we're going to move the second question. So what behaviors, activities or events do you partake in as a fan of anime?

**NL:** I personally don't really do that much regarding anime. All I do is kind of just like watch when I feel like it and then maybe I almost never participate in the discussions. I just kind of read discussions or read you what other people are thinking because for me that's interesting. Besides that, there's not there's not really that much I do. I'm not one of those people who cosplay, you know, when you dress up like characters you like or anything. I have gone to anime convention before. That was really interesting but I personally haven't done that much to really participate in that kind of event so...

**SN:** How about.... Don’t you buy something like figures or posters?

**NL:** So my roommate is a kind into buying you know like figurines and stuff. Even outside of anime, like he bought like little smashed characters you know the game, super smash brothers. He brought that. Some animes that he like really really enjoyed, he definitely bought the figures for. I personally don't want to do that just because I don't feel like... don't get me wrong. There's nothing wrong with buying figures right? If you like something you want to support the creator, buy one of these, go ahead. At least for me, I don't like see the value for buying a figure because for me it doesn't do anything except for standard. So I’m not one of those, you know, I'm not a part of the fandom of those people, but there is not absolutely nothing wrong with it, you know. It like.... I can say my roommate does that, you know, my roommate really enjoys it. So you know, all the better.

**SN:** I’m going to move the third question.

**NL:** Okay.

**SN:** So what are some issues or problems you see or experience in anime fan community?

**NL:** Okay. Number one absolutely has to be the people who think of Japanese culture based on what they’ve seen in anime. I have so many really terrible experiences right? People either trying to correct me or trying to tell me something about Japanese culture that I knew straightforward of

This one is probably the most like, um, uncomfortable when people try to speak Japanese based on like things that they only heard in anime What they don't realize is in anime I don't I don't personal the reason why didn't put an anime characters tend to speak very, very informally and use words that are like, kind of equivalent to… kind of harsh curse words in English. And I use that, you know, like I was taking Japanese one in high school. And as a joke, my friends said to my teacher like “teme,” right, and she looked at him and she wanted to just kick his ass out of the class. And so that's kind of like an example, but I have witnessed this multiple times; I have witnessed people who mistake anime culture or anime like, what do you call it... routine anime things, Japanese thing or you know, people who like think, “oh I’ve seen this because of anime

I should be able to do like this in real life,” right? But, one, you know you're not even in Japan, so you know, you can't really apply that mentality. And two, even in japan, you cannot do what you see in anime, right? You’re going to go to police, right? So, there's just a lot of like mistaking what is, and is not a part of Japanese culture regarding anime and I think...definitely the biggest mistake is people not taking the time or just unaware, right? It might not be their fault that they don't know, but people not going out-of-the-way to know what's the difference between anime culture and Japanese culture, you know.

**SN:** Yeah, thanks. And then the last question.

**NL:** Okay.

**SN:** How do you think being a part of this fandom has affected your personality?

**NL:** Well, for starters I'm learning little Japanese right now. And I think initially my interest in Japanese culture actually sparked from anime.

**SN:** When did you start watching anime?

**NL:** I definitely started watching when I was in my primary school because my brother would come home and he’d be like “hey do you want to watch this show with me?” And we were just watching like is like shonen shows; the shows that are actually is it towards boys. And we were watching, you know, “Naruto,” everyone knows “Naruto,” stuff like that, and as a kid, which was really cool to see all of this like-

**SN:** I watched it too.

**NL:** Yeah, like it was really cool witness all of these cool animation techniques, cool powers, right? Outside of traditional american or western animation, so that's like initially what sparked my interest in Japanese culture. And the more I watch anime, the more cool anime I found, right? It’s a kind of like digging myself into a deeper hole but not like a bad way right?

Like I very much enjoyed watching anime. I very much enjoyed my experiences, you know, watching anime like it created good memories for like me, my friends and my brother, stuff like that.

And if I weren't for, you know, watching anime, maybe I wouldn't have met you anything, you know, so that’s too.

**SN:** Thank you.

**NL:** No problem.

**SN:** I think I’m done. Is there anything else you would like to share?

**NL:** Oh, just you know, if someone wants to join anime, definitely don't show them the weird stuff. There’s definitely weird shows, you know?

**SN:** Yeah, Japanese anime has a lot of weird stuff.

**NL:** Yeah, like if I'm...if someone wanted like an example of good, American movies, I'm not about to start them off Fifty Shades of Grey or something, you know, so yeah, that's it, you know. Just make sure where to separate reality from anime. That’s all.

**SN:** Thank you so much.

**NL:** No problem. Thank you for inviting me.