

HEADLINERS

MEET HEADLINER MISUZU TAGA



BY GINA WALLACE

Gina Wallace is the principle international educator for Essential Nails. She is a ground-breaking tutor who passionately believes in high standards in nail education. She presents and teaches on the Home Learn videos, is a three-time UK nail art champion, a former salon owner and is webmaster of www.ginawallace.com where she promotes the Home Learn range of courses and the Nail Trainer.



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In the past I've covered industry figures from the USA and UK who have made it to the top of the industry ladder with their outstanding feats of magic in the nail enhancement category. However in this article I'm shifting to the creativity side with the introduction of someone who is utterly inspiring in the hand-painted nail art arena and resides in Tokyo, Japan.

Headliner Misuzu Taga, known simply as Suzie, is a petite woman from Tokyo who houses amazing innate artistic abilities and her free-hand work is admired worldwide. So if it's freehand nail art ideas you've been looking for, Suzie has a creative mind that is not only inspiring, but coupled with her ultra feminine attitude which is reflected in her work.

SUZIE'S WORLD

Suzie Taga was born in the very small and remote town of Fukui, Japan in 1974. In Japan, the culture is fairly strict and even now, women are still extremely feminine, subservient, gentle creatures. However, Japan is also an industrious country where quality means everything. Perfection is something that is expected...not just something you strive for, so the competition in nail art is much more fierce than it is in the UK or the States.

UK BOUND

When she was much younger, Suzie was interested in painting

and drawing and as she grew older, she was inspired to be a cartoonist. She studied print-making at a University in Japan and then did her masters work in the UK by residing with a host family in Nottingham, England. She was happy working in that field, never thinking it would lead her into the beauty industry. In fact, she wasn't interested in the beauty industry at all as it didn't excite her.

While living in Nottingham she would occasionally hand-paint flowers onto the nails of willing volunteers as a hobby to practice her fine art skills. One of these volunteers showed Suzie's nail art to her local nail salon owner, Linda of Touch Nails and Beauty in Nottingham. Linda instantly recognised the value of Suzie's talent and knew she could utilise it in her salon. She immediately hired her to work one day a week while Suzie continued to study at Nottingham Trent University. "It was a great opportunity and I loved working with all the lovely girls and clients," recalls Suzie. After two months in the salon Suzie started nail extension and natural nail care training to become a nail technician... and the rest is history.

UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION

Eventually, her natural talent landed her in the nail art competition arena where to date she's won three times in the UK and once in the gel category in Japan. When asked what emotions she felt the first time she won, she replies, "I was very happy to be a winner but even happier when Craig Salma (the runner up who is extremely talented) came to congratulate me." I was one of the judges of that particular competition and remember the outstanding work both Suzie and Craig displayed that day. I had to view their nails three times each because my scores were only one point away from one another, but until this moment, I had not realised it was Suzie's nails which I scored in the top spot! What swayed me was that her

