

SPOTLIGHTS

25 BASILISK

Overview
Character Profiles
Story Primer
Shinobi: The live-action movie
By Miyako Matsuda & C.J. Pelletier

32 URUSEI YATSURA

An interview with Robert Woodhead
An Introduction
By Zac Bertschy & Therron Martin

35 VIZ MEDIA

An interview with Alvin Lu
By Zac Bertschy

ANIME STORIES

55 BEWITCHED AGNES

Okusama Wa Maho Shoujo
By Miyako Matsuda & C.J. Pelletier

58 BLOOD +

By Miyako Matsuda & C. Macdonald

60 ELEMENTAL GELADE

By Miyako Matsuda

63 GALLERY FAKE

By Miyako Matsuda & C.J. Pelletier

65 GUN SWORD

By Miyako Matsuda & C.J. Pelletier

67 KAMICHU!

Kamisama Wa Chugakusei
By Miyako Matsuda

69 TIDELINE BLUE

By Miyako Matsuda & C.J. Pelletier

ANIME VOICES

- 4 Letter From The Publisher
- 5 Page 5 Editorial
- 6 Contributors Spotlight
- 98 Letters

NEWS

- 8 Anime Releases (R1 DVDs)
- 10 Related Products Releases
- 12 Manga Releases
- 17 Anime & Manga News

MANGA PREVIEW

- 53 ES: Eternal Sabbath

ANIME WORLD

- 73 Convention Guide
- 73 Interview
Hitoshi Ariga
- 80 Making The Band
10 Tips from *Full Moon* on Becoming a Popstar
- 82 Fantasia Genre Film Festival
Kamikaze Girls
The Taste Of Tea
- 84 The Modern Japanese Music Database
Part 35: Home Page 19: Triceratops

REVIEWS

- 86 Books
Howl's Moving Castle Novel
Le Guide Phénix Du Manga
Love Hina, Novel Vol. 1
- 87 Live-Action
Lorelei
- 88 Manga
- 90 Related Products
CD Soundtracks
Otaku Unite!
- 91 Anime

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Over seven years of writing and editing anime reviews, I've put a lot of thought into what a review should be and should do, as well as what it shouldn't be and shouldn't do.

Obviously, the purpose of a review is to inform the reader as to whether or not he or she might like the anime in question. Obviously the reviewer's opinion may differ from the reader's, and there's no way for the reviewer to even know who exactly will be reading his review. So how does a reviewer say to a reader, "you will like this show!"? He can't.

What he *can* do is give the reader the information he needs to come to his own conclusion. As long as the reviewer does this, his own opinion doesn't really matter, it doesn't even need to be in the review. The reviewer's opinion usually just serves to help flesh out the review and give an example of what one person may think of the anime. I believe strongly that a good reviewer can say "I hate this show, it sucks" while at the same time telling certain people that they might enjoy it, without ever needing to say "however, you may like it."

How can he do this? As I said, it comes down to giving the reader the information he needs to come to his own conclusion. When the reviewer states his opinion of the anime he must explain why he feels that way. What was it about the anime that made him hate it or love it? He must also, as objectively as possible, describe the anime's technical merits. Is it well written, is the animation any good, is the art colorful or somber, is it exciting or slow-paced, etc. In doing so, he can give the reader the necessary information to decide for himself, "Hmm, the reviewer hates this show, but from what he says, I think I might like it."

Some say that a reviewer must write to the intended audience of a show. To this, I say **bollocks**. If a reviewer properly describes the show and explains his feelings, the intended audience won't need to be pandered to in order to figure out for themselves whether or not they could like the show. For example, if he says, "I don't like this show because it lacks plot and character development while focusing too much on action and fight scenes, with fast-paced animation and ever stronger opponents," lovers of tournament anime will know that this is an anime for them. He doesn't need to say, "Tournament lovers, this anime is for you, the fight scenes are awesome, the animation splendidly detailed and there's always a new, stronger opponent around the corner. No time is wasted with complex plots, it's all about the fights!"

Provided he knows what he is doing, there really is no need to put a positive spin on the show or to take into consideration the show's intended audience.

So don't just skip straight to the ratings, they won't help you figure out if the show is any good.

On another note, this issue of *Protoculture Addicts* marks a huge change over our past issues, I hope you notice and appreciate the changes. *Protoculture Addicts* 88 is a step towards *Protoculture Addicts* issue 89, the issue that will be a culmination of a year's worth of work and fine-tuning. That being said, please let us know what you think of this issue so we know what we did right and possibly what we didn't do right.

Christopher Macdonald

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PAGE FIVE EDITORIAL

When I’m on the prowl with my girls, there’s certain attributes that draw me towards certain men. Baseball caps supporting a sports team? That’s good. Collegiate-wear? Always a good sign. A worn and tattered *Cowboy Bebop* shirt? Ooh... not so good. Truth be told, I don’t think I would ever want to date an anime fan.

Wait, wait, put down those hatchets! It’s not as simple as you think. Don’t get me wrong—I have great respect for anime fans. After all, we’re pretty awesome. But... they’re not at the top of my Most Eligible Bachelors list.

For starters, remote control ownership. It’s not just a Man thing—girls love having clicker possession just as much as anyone else. Problem is, if you’re dating an anime fan and the next episode of his favorite series is on...? Game over. Even if the season finale of *Project Runway* is on. *American Idol*? Forget it. Unless you both adore the same series, it’ll be a harsh battle until the end.

Then there’s the matter of wine and dining. What girl doesn’t like a man to take her out for lavish meals and classy entertainment (read: the latest Depp film)? The fact of the matter, though, is that anime is a ridiculously expensive hobby, and everyone knows it. Considering the financial woes of most high school and college-aged males, it’s a miracle if they can buy a couple of discs a month. Spending \$30 on a girl is a huge strain, considering that could buy three graphic novels or almost two DVDs. Heck, the last time I threw down money, I couldn’t help but see the next volume of *Fullmetal Alchemist* being shoved into the cash register.

And then there’s the hentai. It’s true, all everyone watches porn, even if they vehemently deny it, or at least have a stash on their computer (all of mine is located in a folder in My Documents labeled “Resumes,” because who wants to read boring resumes and cover letters?), but when a boyfriend watches porn, girls can always tell each other that the porn stars are ugly, plastic, STD-ridden, or whatever insults come to mind. That’s simply not the case when your man is ogling a two-dimensional girl, because try as you might, the only insult you could come up with is, “Yeah? Well... she’s not real!!” Weak sauce. If you’re going to have to cope with your boyfriend’s porn habits, you may as well give yourself a fighting chance to whip out some good derogatory comments.

Suppose you and your anime-loving boyfriend navigate past all the previous hurdles, though (multiple TVs, independently wealthy uncle, hentai AVIs that keep mysteriously deleting themselves). You’ll still have one minor snag—stuff. That’s right, material goods. At first, it’ll seem cute buying the same DVDs, getting the same books, but after awhile, you’ll be tempted to only buy one copy. After all, if *he* has a copy, then you can just borrow it whenever you want, or vice versa. The only downside is when it comes to breaking up, because your anime collection is essentially getting halved—and kiss those Limited Edition boxsets good bye!

Really, it’s all more hassle than it’s worth. Sure, it may seem like a good idea at the time. Common interests, someone to watch shows with, someone to cosplay with, someone to chatter with about last night’s episode of *Naruto*, but think wisely before you act. After feeling the power of the remote control in my hands, I don’t think I could ever date an anime fan ever again.

Bamboo Dong
Associate-editor

JONATHAN MAYS



Jonathan is a chemistry student at the University of Missouri—Columbia, which makes such things as following the Japanese music scene a little more interesting. He would like to return to the higher population and lower humidity of San Diego but only if he could take his friends and the spectacular new University Rec Center with him.



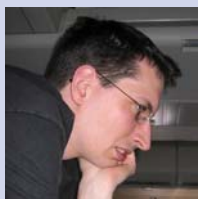
Jonathan plays the viola, which may add to his credibility, or subtract considerably from it. Perhaps more significant is that he played soccer for a long time, and despite a particular distaste for heading the ball, he certainly lost more than his fair share of brain cells along the way. Now resigned to a future that does not include a stint with Major League Soccer's DC United, he instead reads ESPN religiously and talks hockey with anyone who will listen.

Jonathan never really meant to start writing about Japanese music; at first it was simply a way to take his mind off the frustration of a bum wrist that caused him to put down the viola for a while. He has been fortunate, however, to be in the right place at the right time. Over the last few years he has talked with Koda Kumi, Puffy AmiYumi, and many other artists from Japan, enjoying every moment of it. Except for one time when he had such a bad cold that one artist saw fit to hand him a cough drop.

It was actually a trip to the lightly attended 2005 Pacific Media Expo that led to some of Jonathan's favorite interviews. He knew little about Singaporean Corrinne May and less about San Diegan Jane Lui before he arrived, but he will remember their sense of perspective for a while. For someone whose interests weave in and out of anime, Jonathan feels the setting, and lesson, could not have been more appropriate.

Sample file

& OTHERS



Christopher Macdonald is the editor-in-chief of *Anime News Network* and the publisher of *Protoculture Addicts*. Originally a network engineer by profession, he became involved with *Anime News Network* in 2000 and left the comfort of his previous job to focus full time on *Anime News Network* in 2003. Since then the website has grown to be a major force in the anime industry and has branched out to publishing with *Protoculture Addicts*.



Miyako Matsuda

left Japan in the 80s for California, where she worked as inker and touch-up artist for Eclipse Comics, volunteered as translator in many anime conventions, sold her own artwork in art shows and collaborated with *Protoculture Addicts* magazine as contributing editor and translator. In 1999, she moved to Canada to join the permanent staff of *Protoculture Addicts*.



Claude J. Pelletier

studied history, wanted to be a librarian, but ended up publishing a science-fiction fanzine named *Samizdat* (in French), several Quebec Science-Fiction anthologies (in French) and, finally, an anime and manga magazine. He founded *Protoculture Addicts* in fall 1987 as a *Robotech* fanzine, but it quickly evolved into the magazine it is now. In 2000, he published *Anime: A Guide To Japanese Animation*, which is a 300-page filmography of the first thirty years of the anime industry in Japan.



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The Fucccons - It's a Fucccon World (Vol 2)	ADV	B	110	\$19.98	17+	04/25/06	
Angel Links - Collectors Edition Anime Legends (Vol 1-4 of 4)	BEI	B	325	\$39.98	13+	04/25/06	
Brain Powered - DVD Collection Anime Legends (Vol 1-3 of 3)	BEI	B	675	\$49.98	16+	04/25/06	
Arjuna - Collectors Edition Anime Legends (Vol 1-4 of 4)	BEI	B	325	\$39.98	13+	04/25/06	
Eureka 7 - Special Edition (w/Tshirt, CD, Manga) (Vol 1)	BEI	B	125	\$59.98	13+	04/25/06	
Eureka 7 (Vol 1)	BEI	B	125	\$24.98	13+	04/25/06	
Patlabor : The Movie - DVD Collector's Limited Edition Set	BUV	B	100	\$89.99	13+	04/25/06	
Patlabor : The Movie (Vol 1)	BUV	B	100	\$29.99	13+	04/25/06	
The Galaxy Railways - Eternal Hope (Vol 6)	FUN	B	100	\$29.98	15+	04/25/06	
Sunabozu (Vol 2)	FUN	B	100	\$29.98	15+	04/25/06	
Fighting Spirit - The Japan Featherweight (Vol 11)	GEN	B	115	\$29.98	13+	04/25/06	
The Melody of Oblivion - Final Score (Vol 6 of 6)	GEN	B	100	\$29.98	16+	04/25/06	
Saiyuki Gunlock (Vol 1)	GEN	B	100	\$39.98	16+	04/25/06	
Kannaduki no Miko - Solar Priestess + Artbox (Vol 1)	GEN	B	100	\$39.98	16+	04/25/06	
Kannaduki no Miko - Solar Priestess (Vol 1)	GEN	B	100	\$29.98	16+	04/25/06	
Gunparade March - Economy DVD Box Set	MB	B	300	\$59.95	13+	04/25/06	
Gunparade March (Vol 1-3 of 3)	MB	B	325	\$59.95	13+	04/25/06	
Loveless - Hope on the Run (Vol 3 of 3)	MB	S	100	\$19.95	13+	04/25/06	
Karas - The Prophecy (Vol 1 of 2)	ME	B	100	\$19.98	16+	04/25/06	
Boys Be... - Summer (Vol 2)	TRSI	B	100	\$29.99	13+	04/25/06	
Inu Yasha (Vol 41)	Viz	B	75	\$24.98	13+	04/25/06	
Shadow Skill - The Fall (Vol 4)	ADV	B	100	\$29.98	13+	05/02/06	
Misaki Chronicles - Continuum (Vol 3 of 3)	ADV	B	100	\$29.98	14+	05/02/06	
Haré+Guu (Vol 3 of 7)	AN	B	100	\$29.95	13+	05/02/06	
Kodocha - Sana's Bombshell (Vol 6)	FUN	B	105	\$29.98	13+	05/02/06	
Case Closed - Case 1 DVD 2 (Vol 1.2)	FUN	B	100	\$29.98	13+	05/02/06	
Fullmetal Alchemist - Pain and Lust (Vol 9)	FUN	B	100	\$29.98	13+	05/02/06	
Kyo Kara Maoh! (Vol 7)	GEN	B	100	\$24.98	13+	05/02/06	
Tetsujin 28th (Vol 5)	GEN	B	100	\$29.98	13+	05/02/06	
Girls Bravo (Vol 6 of 6)	GEN	B	100	\$24.98	13+	05/02/06	
Saiyuki Gunlock - + Artbox (Vol 1)	GEN	B	100	\$39.98	16+	05/02/06	
Starship Operators - Truth (Vol 3 of 3)	GEN	B	125	\$29.98	13+	05/02/06	
Starship Operators - Truth + Artbox (Vol 3 of 3)	GEN	B	125	\$39.98	13+	05/02/06	
UFO Ultramaiden Valkyrie - Crash Course in Crazyness! (Vol 2)	ADV	B	100	\$29.98	13+	05/09/06	
Mobile Suit Gundam Wing - Collection 2 (Anime Legends)	BEI	B	650	\$49.98	13+	05/09/06	
Mobile Fighter G Gundam - Collection 1 (Anime Legends)	BEI	B	650	\$49.98	13+	05/09/06	
Saber Marionette J to X - Compl. Coll. (Anime Legends) (Vol 1-6 of 6)	BEI	B	655	\$39.98	13+	05/09/06	
Banner of the Stars - Complete Collection (Anime Legends)	BEI	B	325	\$39.98	13+	05/09/06	
Dragon Drive - Complete Collection 1	BEI	B	500	\$39.98	7+	05/09/06	
Mai-HiME (Vol 2)	BEI	B	100	\$24.98	13+	05/09/06	
Animation Runner Kuromi 2	CPM	B	45	\$19.99	13+	05/09/06	
Fighting Spirit - Look of Determination (Vol 12)	GEN	B	115	\$29.98	13+	05/09/06	
Gankutsuo: The Count of Monte Cristo (Vol 4)	GEN	B	100	\$29.98	16+	05/09/06	
Super Dimensional Fortress Macross (Vol 3)	ADV	B	125	\$29.98	13+	05/16/06	
Kaleido Star - Better Angels of Our Nature (Vol 3 of 7)	ADV	B	100	\$29.98	13+	05/16/06	
Godannar - International Affairs (Vol 5 of 7)	ADV	B	75	\$29.98	15+	05/16/06	
Dragon Ball Z - Saga 1 - Ultimate Sacrifice (Vol 9)	FUN	B	62	\$24.98	13+	05/16/06	
Baki the Grappler - The Hunted (Vol 7 of 12)	FUN	B	70	\$29.98	13+	05/16/06	
Baki the Grappler + Artbox (Vol 7 of 12)	FUN	B	70	\$39.98	13+	05/16/06	
Sonic X - Beginning of the End (Vol 10)	FUN	D	80	\$14.98	ALL	05/16/06	
Fafner - Next Evolution (Vol 6)	GEN	B	75	\$29.98	13+	05/16/06	
Green Green - Co-ed Casualties (Vol 1)	MB	B	100	\$19.95	16+	05/16/06	

Fantastic Children, Vol. 1



A strange group of kids called "The Children of Befort" are searching for the girl who is the key to their happiness. For 500 years they wandered from life to life seeking for her reincarnation. Yet, they cannot live for more than 11 years to the natural cycle of death and rebirth. Tohma is a kid on a small island reaching out to find friends. Helga is an orphan seeking a place where she can truly belong. When they both meet, their lives will change forever.

Eureka Seven, Vol. 1

Eureka Seven tells the story of a young boy named Renton, whose life just plain sucks. That is, until a giant robot crashes into his house. Piloted by a girl named Eureka, this encounter will lead Renton to be pursued by the military and pulled into a web of drama, intrigue, and non-stop action. Renton's time to daydream is over.



Patlabor The Movie 1



From critically-acclaimed director Mamoru Oshii (*Ghost in the Shell*)! At the dawn of the millennium in Tokyo, advanced robotic vehicles called Labors are heavily relied upon to build fortifications to protect Japan from global rising sea levels. A maverick team from the Metropolitan Police led by Noa Izumi and Azuma Shinohara uncover a devilish scheme to infect Tokyo's 8,000 Labors with the BABEL virus.

As a powerful typhoon approaches Tokyo and the apocalyptic vision of a dead man begins, the team must locate and destroy the source of the virus, the giant Babylon Project Tower in the heart of Tokyo Bay, before 8,000 Labors go berserk!

Kannazuki no Miko, Vol. 1

Shy, timid Himeko happily attends school with both the popular and beautiful Chikane and her childhood friend, Souma, blissfully unaware of what's in store for her. However, the destiny of these three changes on Himeko's 16th birthday when the mark of the sun appears on her chest. What does this solar mark represent? At the same time, why has a black aura of agony burst forth from Souma? Who is the enemy? The legend of the eight-headed beast returns to Japan!



Saiyuki Reload Gunlock, Vol. 1



The epic journey westward by Sanzo, Goku, Gojyo and Hakkai continues in this sequel to *Saiyuki* and *Saiyuki Reload*! In this first volume, the group must face some of their most deadly challenges yet! A peaceful temple hides a corrupt secret. Will Sanzo fall victim to the deadly truth? After that, a den full of disgruntled bears is on the hunt, and Sanzo and the others just happen to be in the crosshairs. To top it off, the group must cross an impassable river, see through deadly illusions and a newly unstoppable Kougaiji is waiting for them. Will they ever make any progress on their journey? Contains 4 episodes.