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30 Years in the Making: Japan Pt 2

Unyuu Cosplay Interview The Crunchyrol Expo Experience Autumn 2018 Conventions



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🖴 Editor's Notes

Schwarzesmarken

- M Autumn 2018 Convention Schedule
- Emily Wallin-Kale, Luna Lady of Light Cosplay
- 😑 Anime for Autumn 2018
- 41 Anime Character Information
- An Interview with Unyuu Cosplay
- **59** Manga Releases for Autumn 2018
- **72** Who's That Seiyū of Summer 2018
- A Trip to Japan, Part 2 of 2
- 🔰 DVD Releases for Autumn 2018
- TOP The Crunchyroll Experience
- **111** Videogame Releases for Autumn 2018



photo courtesy of NanashiHQ

Cover photo of Unyuu Cospaly as Sheryl Nome of Macross Frontier.



Manga Preview

Issue 33, Autumn • September 22 – December 20, 2018

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Yee been trying to relax since the beginning of summer to no avail. The two main conventions I missed were FanimeCon this past May and Anime Expo in July. Both left me feeling empty inside, but it's to be expected. Though I've been to SDCC, it became obvious that I'm much more of an anime fan than anything else now. The one convention that surprised me the most was Comic Con Palm Springs in August. I honestly didn't expect much from it. I attended one day and was completely satisfied. One other convention that I wasn't expected to attend was Crunchyroll Expo in San Jose. I was convinced to go and had no regrets. You can read up more about this in this month's article "My Crunchyroll Expo Experience." There's also an article of my Japan trip this past April that continues with my experiences south of Tōkyō to Kanagawa and Kyōto.

- Ed Gomez

Graphic Designer Publisher & Editor-Genki Life Magazine



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Our staff is comprised of volunteer fans. We're always looking for contributors to this magazine in the fields of writing, reporting, reviewing, photography and graphic design. If you would like to contribute to this magazine, please e-mail me at: glm@studioartmix.com or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GenkiLifeMag

Genki Life Magazine

PANELSI ARTESTSI VENDORSI GUESTSI NOREI OCTOBER 27, 2018



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Schwarzesmarken

シュヴァルツェスマーケン TV・January 10 - March 27, 2016 ixtl・Liden Films

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muv-Luv http://www.muvluv.moe/

Director: Watanabe, Tetsuya **Music:** Elements Garden

Cast:

Theodor Eberbach = Suzumura, Ken'ichi Katia Waldheim = Tanaka, Minami Irisdina Bernhard = Yamamoto, Nozomi Gretel Jeckeln = Yasuno, Kiyono Anett Hosenfeld = Anzai, Chika Lise Hohenstein = Nanjō, Yoshino Sylwia Krzasińska = Murase, Michiyo Pham Thi Lan = Katō, Emiri



There are two kinds of people that might watch *Schwarzesmarken*: those who have played the *Muv-Luv* trilogy and those who haven't. And depending on which side you fall on, your view on this anime will be quite different, although both sides will have their own problems with it, albeit totally different ones.

So before I get into this, there are a couple things I'd like to clarify for those who are unaware. *Muv-Luv* is a three-part visual novel series released between 2002 and 2006, the last part of which, *Muv-Luv Alternative*, is widely considered to be one of the greatest visual novels ever made. However, ever since its release now ten years ago, the company behind it, âge, have done literally nothing other than create a myriad of side stories, spinoffs and fan-discs based on the

Theodor Edelbach, Katia Waldheim & Irisdina Bernhard Muv-Luv universe. They've never even tried to come up with a new franchise for a whole decade now, instead they've decided to just keep milking their one and only masterpiece until it can be milked no more, which is... understandable I guess, but still pretty saddening. In any case, the Muv-Luv trilogy has never gotten an anime adaptation and perhaps never will, but in 2012 there was actually an anime release... based on one of its countless spinoffs called *Total Eclipse*. Not only was this a rather strange decision since any anime-only viewers would miss out on tons of plot elements due to being unfamiliar with the main series, but also *Total Eclipse* turned out to be an incredibly mediocre anime in and of itself, focusing just as much on fanservice as actual story progression, if not more. And now, four years later, history repeats itself, as yet another one of the franchise's spinoffs has gotten adapted, namely Schwarzesmarken. But of course for any anime-only viewers, the exact same problems as last time still remain. The good news however is that the story of Schwarzesmarken is largely separate from the one of the main story of Muv-Luv. This is because a) it's a prequel, taking place almost 20 years before the events of Alternative, b) the character cast is completely different, and c) it plays out on the other side of the planet,

in Germany instead of Japan. So in that sense it works out fairly well as a standalone anime... but far from perfectly. This is because *Schwarzesmarken* intentionally leaves out just about all initial exposition about the state of the world itself, any detailed information about the BETA's functionalities and tendencies, as well as a lot of the planet's history ever since the BETA's initial sightings on Mars in 1958 and their eventual invasion of Earth in 1973. And this is all simply because the anime assumes that you already know all that from playing through Alternative. So it's not that the story won't make sense for anime-only viewers (it will), but you'll miss out on a lot of depth and detail. It also works the other way around as you'll be able to relate a lot more to events which have previously only been mentioned briefly in Alternative as it plays out in real time here instead of something which just happened far away and almost 20 years prior from the game's perspective.

Overall though, Schwarzesmarken is still a pretty big improvement over Total Eclipse at the very least. The tone is a lot more on point with what Muv-Luv is supposed to feel like, with a lot of death, drama, politics and tragic events (though not as much sci-fi). There is also pretty much no fanservice at all this time around which I'm very thankful for. So atmospherewise Schwarzesmarken is a lot more similar to the main series, but there are still some clear differences. The most notable one would probably be the direction the plot goes in, and specifically who the real enemies in the story are. In the main series, it's naturally the BETA that everyone is fighting since humanity's mere existence is on the line, but in Schwarzesmarken they almost feel like the secondary threat a lot of the time. Of course there are still a lot of battles between the human TSF squadrons and their alien invaders, but in this case there seems to be just as much internal conflict as external. This is because this takes place in Germany in the early 1980s, which of course means that it's in the middle of the country's split in two, i.e: West Germany and East Germany. The squadron the story primarily follows is the East German Army's 666th TSF Squadron, a.k.a. the

Genki Life Magazine 🕨 Autumn 2018

"Schwarzesmarken." They do their part in fighting the BETA on a daily basis, but they see their western neighbors as just as much of a potential threat as the aliens themselves, and the west is of a similar mindset. It's almost like a three-way war going on, except that the two human sides are having more of a cold war standoff and throwing insults at each other most of the time, but occasionally end up clashing head-on as well. This is unsurprisingly also used as a consistent and reliable method for generating drama, as some characters find themselves on different political sides despite caring for each other on a personal level. And on top of that there's also the good old truth that killing off main characters is not exactly something Muv-Luv has ever been afraid to do, and although it might not exactly be on the level of the main series, Schwarzesmarken is still not afraid to do the same. It gives the post-apocalyptic story a much greater sense of

> Gretel Jeckeln & Anett Hosenfeld

realism and intensity that way, and it definitely pays off.

Schwarzesmarken is definitely not a bad anime by any means, but I still find it a bit difficult to actually recommend it to people. Because if you haven't played through the Muv-Luv trilogy prior to it, then you should definitely go do that first, and if you have played through it then try as you might but you'll find that it's almost impossible to not end up subconsciously comparing Schwarzesmarken to the main series as you're watching it. There will constantly be this nagging voice in the back of your head saying "I wish I was just replaying the real game instead." Schwarzesmarken isn't bad, but just by being part of the Muv-Luv universe the expectations on it will be so much higher than it ever has a chance of living up to, and Alternative is just such an incredible work of art that Schwarzesmarken

ends up looking a lot worse than it actually is simply by being compared to something so unreasonable. I think the only way you can truly see Schwarzesmarken for what it is is by first playing through the visual novels and then literally forcing yourself to go into the anime with the lowest expectations possible. If you tell yourself prematurely that it's probably going to suck, then you might be positively surprised. But if you don't, you'll probably just be disappointed. Though pretty much all these problems would be solved if age just decided to actually adapt the real Muv-Luv series already ... which I've actually heard some rumors as of late that it might happen in the future after Alternative's localization Kickstarter project turned out to be such a huge success a few months ago. Maybe in another 5–10 years, who knows. One can only hope. HaXXspelten MAL

Liz Hohenstein, Sylwia Krzasińska & Pham Thi Ran



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> **September 25** Oklahoma City, OK Diamond Ballroom

September 27 New York, NY Gramercy Theatre

October 1 San Francisco, CA The Regency Ballroom

www.spyair.net

October 3 Houston, TX White Oak Music Hall

> October 5 Dallas, TX Canton Hall

Convention Schedule Rutumn 2018

Anime Weekend Atlanta

September 20–23 Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center/ Cobb Galleria Centre Atlanta, GA www.awa-con.com/

Anime Fargo

September 21–23 Ramada Inn, Fargo, ND www.animefargo.org

CampAnime

September 21–23 YMCA Camp Woodstock Woodstock Valley, CT www.campanime.com

MegaCon Tampa Bay

September 21–23 Tampa Convention Center Tampa, FL www.megacontampabay.com

Ramencon

September 21–23 Century Center South Bend, IN www.ramencon.com

Senshi Con

September 21–23 Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, AK www.senshicon.org

Santa Rosa Toy

& Comic Con September 22 Sonoma Country Fairgrounds Santa Rosa, CA *santarosatoycon.com*

Snake River Fandom Con

September 27–29 Mountain View Event Center Pocatello, ID www.srfandomcon.com



Kraken Con

September 28–30 Oakland Convention Center and Marriott, Oakland, CA www.krakencon.com

Ottawa Geek Market

September 28–30 Nepean Sportsplex Nepean, ON, Canada www.geekmarket.ca

Realms Con

September 28–30 Omni Corpus Christi Hotel Corpus Christi, TX *www.realmscon.com*

SiouxperCon

September 28–30 Sioux Falls Convention Center Sioux Falls, SD www.siouxpercon.com

Vaughan Fan Con

September 29 Civic Centre Resource Library Vaughan, ON, Canada www.vaughanpl.info/programs/ view/2387

F.A.C.T.S.

September 29–30 Flanders Expo Ghent, Belgium www.facts.be

GeeCon

September 29–30 Darwin Convention Centre Darwin City, Northern Territory, Australia *www.geecon.org.au*

Windsor ComiCon

September 29–30 Caesars Windsor Windsor, Ontario, CA www.windsorcomicon.com

Anime Senpai

October 5–7 Gateway Center Collinsville, IL *www.animesenpai.org*

Tsubasacon

October 5–7 Big Sandy Superstore Arena Huntington, WV www.tsubasacon.org

Vancouver Halloween Parade & Expo

October 5–7 UBC Robson Square Vancouver, BC, Canada *www.vanhalloween.com*

Amaicon

October 12–14 Wyndham Indianapolis West Indianapolis, IN *www.amaicon.com*

Conapalooza

October 12–14 MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center Kingsport, TN www.conapalooza.com

FanExpo Vancouver

October 12–14 Vancouver Convention Centre Vancouver, BC, Canada www.fanexpovancouver.com

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Convention Schedule Rutumn 2018 continued

Kantaicon

October 13 AAF Tank Museum, Danville, VA www.kantaicon.com

Nomikai Dallas

October 13 Premier Event Center Lewisville, TX www.nomikaidallas.com

Yushi-Con

October 13 East Stroudsburg University, Science and Technology Building East Stroudsburg, PA www.yushi-con.com

Kaijucon

October 13–14 Wyndham Garden Gainesville Gainesville, FL www.kaijucongnv.com

Retro Con

October 13–14 Greater Philadelphia Expo Center Oaks, PA www.retrocons.com

Aki Con

October 19–21 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport,Seattle, WA *www.akicon.org*

Anime Banzai

October 19–21 Davis Conference Center Layton, UT www.animebanzai.org

Anime Fusion

October 19–21 Crowne Plaza Minneapolis Plymouth, MN *www.animefusion.net*



Anime USA

October 19–21 Washington Marriott Wardman Park Washington, DC www.animeusa.org

Bakuretsu Con

October 19–21 Hampton Inn Burlington Colchester, VT www.bakuretsucon.org

KimiKon

October 19–21 Enercare Centre Toronto, ON, Canada *www.kimikon.ca*

Armageddon Auckland

October 19–22 ASB Showgrounds Auckland, New Zealand www.armageddonexpo.com

YumeconUSA

October 20 Foothill College Los Altos Hills, CA *yumeconusa.com*

Paris Manga & Sci-Fi Show

October 20–21 Paris Porte de Versailles Paris, France www.parismanga.fr

WasabiCon

October 20–21 Lexington Hotel & Conference Center - Jacksonville Riverwalk Jacksonville, FL www.wasabicon.com

Kumoricon

October 26–28 Oregon Convention Center Portland, OR www.kumoricon.org

Los Angeles Comic Con

October 26–28 Los Angeles Convention Center Los Angeles, CA *www.comicconla.com*

Lumi-Con

October 26–28 Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel Tampa, FL *www.lumi-convention.com*

HallowCon Arkansas

October 27 Hiliday Inn Airport Conference Center Little Rock, AR www.hallowconarkansas.com

Epic ACG Fest

October 27–28 Albany Community Center Albany, CA *eacgfest.org*

Pacific Media Expo

October 27–28 Hilton Los Angeles North/ Glendale & Executive Meeting Center, Glendale, CA www.pacificmediaexpo.org

Shikkaricon

October 27–28 SPIN Community & Fitness Philadelphia, PA www.shikkaricon.com

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Youmacon

November 1–4 Cobo Center / Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center Detroit, MI www.youmacon.com

Anime NebrasKon

November 2–4 Coco Key Hotel Resort & Convention Center Omaha, NE www.animenebraskon.com

Banzaicon

November 2–4 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center Columbia, SC www.banzaicon.com

Hibanacon

November 2–4 Jury's Inn Milton Keynes, UK www.bibanacon.co.uk

NekoCon

November 2–4 Hampton Roads Convention Center Hampton, VA *www.nekocon.com*

Supanova Pop Culture Expo: Adelaide

November 2–4 Adelaide Showground Wayville, South Australia, Australia www.supanova.com.au/events/ adelaide-2018/about/

Thy Geekdom Con

November 2–4 The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA www.thygeekdomcon.com

Rai Con Winter

November 3 The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Glasgow, UK www.raicon.co.uk

Emerald Coast Con

November 3–4 Ramada Plaza Fort Walton Beach Resort/Destin Fort Walton Beach, FL www.emeraldcon.com

Animaine

November 9–11 Best Western Merry Manor Inn South Portland, ME www.animaine.org

Anime Iwai

November 9–11 Fort Lauderdale Marriott North Fort Lauderdale, FL www.animeiwai.com

DerpyCon

November 9–11 Hyatt Regency Morristown New Jersey at Headquarters Plaza Morristown, NJ www.derpycon.com

GaoKon

November 9–11 Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, Erie, PA *www.gaokon.org*

Oni-Con

November 9–11 Galveston Island Convention Center at The San Luis Resort Galveston, TX *www.oni-con.net*

Supanova Pop Culture Expo: Brisbane

November 9–11 Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre Brisbane, Queensland, Australia www.supanova.com.au/events/ brisbane-2018/about/

Gamer Comic Expo

November 9–12 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center Miami, FL www.gamercomicexpo.com

Doki Doki

November 10 Sugden Sports Centre Manchester, UK www.dokidokifestival.com

CharaExpo USA

November 10–11 Anaheim Convention Center Anaheim, CA www.charaexpo-usa.com

EMcon Game Tournament

November 16 East Meadow Public Library East Meadow, NY www.facebook.com/pg/EMconEMPLAnimeFest

Anime North Texas

November 16–18 Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel Irving, TX www.animenorthtexas.com

Anime NYC

November 16–18 Jacob K. Javits Convention Center New York, NY *www.animenyc.com*

Daisho Con

November 16–18 Kalahari Resorts Dells Wisconsin Dells, WI www.daishocon.org



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Convention Schedule Rutumn 2018 continued

Philcon

November 16–18 Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill Cherry Hill, NJ *www.philcon.org*

Sabakon

November 16–18 Alexis Park All Suite Resort Las Vegas, NV www.sabakon.com

SNAFU Con

November 16–18 Grand Sierra Resort and Casino Reno, NV www.snafucon.com

Kawaii Land

November 17 Design Exchange Toronto, ON, Canada www.kawaiievents.com

Chicago Pop Culture Con

November 24–25 Pheasant Run Resort - Mega Center, St. Charles, IL www.chicagopopculturecon.com

YCC Geeky Christmas Market

November 25 Holiday Inn Sheffield Sheffield, UK www.yorkshirecosplayconvention. co.uk/event/christmas-geekymarket-2018.php

Anime Dallas November 30 – December 2 Hyatt Regency DFW International Airport, Dallas, TX www.animedallas.com

Yama-Con November 30 – December 2 LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge Pigeon Forge, TN www.yamacon.org



Ocean City Comic Con

December 8 Roland E. Powell Convention Center Ocean City, MD www.oceancitycomiccon.com

Con+Alt+Delete

December 14–16 Hyatt Regency O'Hare Rosemont, IL www.conaltdelete.com

Holiday Matsuri

December 14–16 Orlando World Marriott Center Orlando, FL www.holidaymatsuri.com

Jump Festa

December 22–23 Makuhari Messe Chiba, Japan www.jumpfesta.com

Ikkicon

December 28–30 Renaissance Austin Hotel Austin, TX www.ikkicon.com

Comic Market

December 29–31 Tōkyō Big Sight Tōkyō, Japan www.comiket.co.jp

SacAnime January 4–6 Sacramento Convention Center Sacramento, CA www.sacanime.com



Animé Los Angeles January 10–13, 2019 Ontario Convention Center Ontario, CA

www.animelosangeles.org

Anime Impulse

January 19–20 Fairplex Exposition Complex Pomona, CA www.animeimpulse.com

KigaCon

March 15–17, 2019 Venue TBA Newport News, VA *www.kigacon.com*

County Pop Con

May 25, 2019 Lake County Fairgrounds Grayslake, IL *www.countypopcon.com*

2018

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15



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Photo courtesy of Kees Stravers า®

OW'S OSplay Cup 2018

Team USA's Luna Lady of Light Cosplay and C8o's Thingamabobs



ur journey started in June of 2017. After the busy con crunch for Colossalcon, I contacted Caitlin, a friend that lived a couple hours away, and approached her with my idea for our performance. I sent her links to the anime, asking her to take a look, and that if she was interested to please let me know. She immediately said yes and we were excited to begin the journey.

Winter 2018: The announcement for the USA preliminary at Shuto Con went live in mid-January. I had been planning to compete as a solo at C2E2 [Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo] but since we had already been kicking our idea around, making a quick transition in focus was easy. Around this time I completely rewrote and re-recorded the audio for the skit. Once March started we began work on our costumes and we managed to finish them the night before our preliminary.

Shuto Con: I woke up bright and early that day and my husband and I set out for Lansing. We finished getting ready just in time for our judging, followed by a photo shoot leaving us a few hours break before the contest. It was very windy and cold but the cold we welcomed in our very warm costumes. Once we went into the main events hall to start putting together our props, we met the other team competing, Flux Cosplay and her partner. They were presenting a skit from a mobile game called *The Arcana*. Caitlin and I were last in line for the competition, so we waited patiently and quietly through all the walk-on entries and the skits, including a proposal and then it came time for us to take the stage. The stage had a catwalk, so we needed to adapt our performance for the shape of the stage. Once we finished it felt good to have finally gotten it all out onstage in front of an audience! We nervously awaited awards and when they called our names we shouted with excitement. Within an hour we were added to the competition Facebook group and began to meet teams already selected from around the world. Our first international cosplay competition had started!

June 13th, 2018: Just a few months later we were checking in to our Delta Airlines flight without passports, and weighing our baggage (just under the maximum weight allowance) for our trip to the Netherlands. We first took a small plane from Grand Rapids to Detroit Metro Airport where we had dinner and waited for our transatlantic flight direct to Amsterdam. The flight was rough and coach seats are not comfortable nor conducive to sleeping.

June 14th, 2018: We arrived in Amsterdam around noon on Thursday. We deplaned, stretched our legs and headed for passport

Photo courtesy of Clara Cow Cosplay Cup



Team USA: Asuna Yuuki and Yuuki Konno from Sword Art Online II





Photo courtesy of Clara Cow Cosplay Cup

about, sail

21

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control. Caitlin had a lesson in how to correctly pronounce Den Haag from the customs and immigration officer. We picked up our luggage and proceeded out into the airport where we were met by the Animecon Team. They introduced themselves and watched our luggage while we took a few minutes to wander around Amsterdam Schipol Airport and get some lunch. Once we got back, Team Denmark had arrived and we snapped a photo together! We all looked a mess due to traveling and being so tired, but it was fun to get to know Denmark and their organizer on the way to the hotel.

We were taken by chartered van to the Novotel World Forum where we were greeted by more Animecon staff who checked us into the hotel. We unpacked, rested for a short while, refreshed ourselves and went out to grab some dinner. We decided to try a restaurant that advertised themselves as "Authentic American." The advertising was correct and our first dinner in The Hague was quite delicious. We returned to the hotel and attempted to sleep for the night, but with jet lag putting our bodies six hours behind the time it was difficult.

June 15th, 2018: Friday was a mostly free day. We received a tour of the location in the morning, where we met with the other teams that had arrived Thursday and the teams that had arrived Friday morning. We were all hugging, giving out coscards and taking photos. Roy, the head of C4 team relations, proceeded to give us a tour of the convention center and theater. We saw the backstage area of the theater where we could store our set pieces, the dressing rooms, and the judging area where we would be for most of the next day. All the C4 teams got to record an introductory video to be played before their performance, and so Caitlin and I filmed our intro video where we taught the audience some large Michigan words and wore silly patriotic headbands.

Afterwards we went to the dressing room area where we got to meet and chat with some of the other teams. We had a great time talking, telling jokes and singing show tunes and before we knew it — it was time for the Orientation Meeting! We met about four o'clock in the afternoon and Niels, the organizer of C4, Karlijn, the stage manager, and Roy all gave short talks on what to expect the next day. We were handed goody bags and a packet for the weekend.

We continued to exchange cos-cards with our fellow teams and enjoyed a traditional Dutch meal before we all headed out for a free evening. Caitlin and I headed to the grocery store to pick up some snacks before we spent the evening in our room preparing for the competition the next day. We managed to get some sleep this time!

June 16th, 2018: We were up bright and early with our props and set pieces for the 8 a.m. stage call of all teams. At the end of the C4 show, all teams are brought onstage, so we rehearsed how the end-show parade would run onstage before we started our individual rehearsals. We had so many things go wrong in our rehearsal!

After that ordeal, we figured we had to have gotten it out of our system for the competition right? Wrong. We got dressed and prepared for our judging appointment, right before which my sword broke and had to be glued! So we entered judging a little





Meeting Team Denmark and the Animecon staff at the airport

Team Denmark at the orientation meeting and a selfie with Team Australia







flustered and nervous due to the prop damage, but the judges seemed to like our sewing quality, so that definitely helped morale.

Afterwards, the convention provided us some snacks and sandwiches so we had a bite to eat and waited for the show to begin. This must have been the year that the theater gods were angry, because almost every team had something go wrong onstage! From costume malfunctions, set issues, to our prop divesting Caitlin of her armor and breaking onstage, we performed as best we could to communicate our story with ribbons tangled around us. The audience loved it nonetheless, and sobs and crying could be heard as we quickly scuttled offstage when the lights went out.

Upon re-entering the green room we were greeted with loud cheering from our fellow contestants. We sat down and took it easy to wait for the rest of the entries to perform. Once we all finished we were taken back downstairs to do our final parade and await awards. The judges' award went to Belgium for their Little Nightmares presentation, second place was awarded to team France for the Sleeping Beauty and first place went to Team Spain for their Shrek performance. Everyone was talented in craftsmanship and the skits were very entertaining. All of the teams were supportive as well, with all of us becoming fast friends even through language barriers — we were able to communicate through our love of cosplay!

Our Facebook group the night before had been full of the usual last minute cosplay worries, people looking for paint, thread or an ironing board (us) in order to prepare themselves and now... it was all over. We wished we had another week to spend together. Caitlin and I returned to our room where Caitlin fell asleep immediately, as she had been suffering from a migraine, and I showered and went back downstairs to have some dinner. I sat with Team Denmark while we sampled the various food carts that Animecon brings in.

Next was the after party! Teams brought liquor and sweets from all around the world. Our most highly requested item was Smarties and the three bags we brought were quickly devoured. It was wonderful to fellowship and talk with friends I'd known through World Cosplay Summit for years and never met, and make new friends from people involved with C4 and other international cosplay competitions. I did my best to continue to drink water and stay hydrated because I knew we'd have an early morning.

At about one in the morning, I started my trek back to my hotel room, gathering up all of our props that were left behind. I collapsed into sleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

June 17th, 2018: Sunday morning was checkout day. We were up early for breakfast and returned to our rooms to pack our suitcases. Sadly elevator madness had already started! I had managed to catch an elevator but Caitlin tired of waiting and ended up carrying all of her things down the stairs. We wheeled everything to the backstage area to store it until our transport van arrived and took this time to walk around the convention's dealer hall.

We checked out the artist booths and the dealer booths. A lot of the dealer booths have items you'd see in a dealer hall at a convention in the Midwest, but one thing









Top: Team Spain Middle: Team France Bottom: Team Belgium





I was looking forward to was the Cosplay Clues booth that had the special LED foam I'd been seeing online! I bought two rolls of it and stowed it in my luggage.

After grabbing some lunch from the food carts, we headed back upstairs to wait for our van with team Australia who would be accompanying us. We hugged everyone as they left and finally as we left we gave everyone final hugs and kisses goodbye and wished we would see them again at another international event. As we loaded into our van, we gave the Animecon staff that had helped us all weekend final hugs goodbye as well.

On our trip to our airport hotel, we talked with Australia about what we'd be doing the next day and decided to meet up in central Amsterdam for sightseeing. Since we were so wiped out from the event we ordered pizza delivery and repacked some our stuff before we went to bed early that night.

June 18th, 2018: We woke early to get breakfast and prepared ourselves for a day of walking in historic Amsterdam! We took a shuttle from our hotel to the airport where we caught a train to Amsterdam Central Station. From there we walked through the streets to the front of the Rembrandt Museum where we met up with Team Australia. They had been looking at flea markets around the city and we joined them.

We had a nice lunch at Wagamama Ramen and then decided to walk to Amsterdam's largest fabric market. It was quite a walk so we stopped for a break along the way. When we arrived we admired the fabrics and the different stores before hopping a tram back to the Central station and walking the red light district. We found a good restaurant for dinner and enjoyed our last meal together in Amsterdam. We even had crepes for dessert!

Finally as the sun began to set, we worked our way back to the station where we took the train back to the airport and the shuttle back to our hotel. We doubled checked our packing and prepared for our flight home.

June 19th, 2018: We were up bright and early to catch the 5:30 a.m. shuttle to the airport. We checked our luggage and went through passport check before we waited at our gate. We were lucky enough that our flight home was in Delta Premium Select class, which was like a junior first class! We were given champagne before the flight took off and pretty decent airline food.

Once we hit Detroit we went through Customs and Immigration and rechecked everything for our quick hop home to Grand Rapids. Once we got home, my husband greeted us at the airport. We dropped Caitlin off at her home before enjoying a nice early dinner together and going home so I could rest before returning to work the next day. It was an amazing trip, and I hope in the future I can help other teams on their journey.

C4 was such a great experience, even with the mishaps. The staff was very supportive and the participants were exceptionally talented and friendly. For someone looking for an international contest experience that is low stress, C4 lives up to its description: the world's most relaxed international competition. �

If you would like to compete to be Team USA for C4, the preliminaries are being hosted at Youmacon in Detroit, Michigan, November 1st-4th, 2018.

> C4 2018 Competition Results 1st Place: Spain • 2nd Place: France Judges Award: Belgium









Top: Sucessful toast Left: Lunch with Team Austrailia Bottom: Touring Amsterdam



Pop Culture with an Anime Twist

January 4th - 6th, 2019 **Sacramento Convention Center** www.sacanime.com





DRAGONBALL SUPER, FMA, RWBY, STAR TREK CONT.

VIC MIGNOGNA









DISNEY'S GOOFY

BILL FARMER





DISNEY'S MICKEY MOUSE BRET IWAN



POKEMON'S ASH KETCHUM **VERONICA TAYLOR**

NINTENDO'S

BOWSER

KENNY JAMES



POKEMON'S MISTY|JESSIE RACHAEL LILLIS



VOLTRON'S ALLURA KIMBERLY BROOKS





POKEMON'S

BROCK

VOLTRON'S

SHIRO

JOSH KEATON



SPECIAL GUEST DJ MARIE VAUNT



ASSASSIN'S CREED ODYSSEY DEUS EX **ELIAS TOUFEXIS**

AMAZ. WORLD OF GUMBALL'S

GUMBALL

JACOB HOPKINS



ASSASSIN'S CREED ODYSSEY

AMAZ. WORLD OF GUMBALL'S

DARWIN

TERRELL RANSOM JR.









ASSASSIN'S CREED ODYSSEY **MICHAEL ANTONAKOS**



OVERWATCH'S WRECKING BALL **JONATHAN LIPOW**



ZARKON **NEIL KAPLAN**



Anime Schedule 2018 Autumn Season

Haruko – FLCL Alternative



September 23 Production I.G, NUT, REVOROOT Adult Swim (Toonami)



FLCL Alternative Fooly Cooly Alternative フリクリ オルタナ

Centers on the misadventures of 17-year-old Kana, a high school junior who spends her days hanging out with her besties, Mossan, Hijiri and Pets. They live unremarkable lives, until the day a Mecha falls out of the sky, along with a strange woman named "Haruko." Her plans for Kana and her friends involve the force known as "ATOMSK." Kana will have to risk everything to decide whether or not to help... like she really has a choice!



Sunrise Tokyo MX, BS11, MBS

 (\mathcal{F})

Double Decker! Doug & Kirill DOUBLE DECKER! ダグ&キリル

In the city-state Risvaletta, while people go about their tranquil everyday lives, crimes and illegal drugs run rampant. A highly-fatal drug named "Anthem" is casts a dark shadow on the streets. The "Seven-O" special criminal investigation unit whose speciality is to supervise the investigation of Anthem, institutes a "Double Decker System" policy of forming groups of two investigators. One unconventional duo consists of the veteran investigator Doug Billingham accompanied by the rookie Kirill Vrubel.



October 1 DandeLion Animation Studio, Jumonji Animax, Tokyo MX, YTV

Akanesasu Shōjo The Girl in Twilight あかねさす少女

October 2018. Girls who live in a provincial city perform a certain ritual. These girls are in the "Crystal Radio Club." It is an interest circle that Asuka Tsuchimiya, a girl known for her cheerfulness, started with friends in her high school. That ritual was considered just an urban legend. However, with several conditions coincidentally falling into place, it stops being fun and games.



Studio Deen TVT

Ken En Ken: Aoki Kagayaki 軒轅剣・蒼き曜

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days

Adaptation of *Xuan-Yuan Sword*, a series of Chinese RPGs. In AD 619, Emperor Yang of the Sui Dynasty rules China with an iron fist. During this period of unrest, legends foretold of a Red Star that would open the Mark of the Heavens and bring about the apocalypse. To combat the opening of the Mark, a scion of royalty would be born and seal it with the Xuan-Yuan Sword.

29





Anime Schedule 2018 Autumn



Toei Animation

TV Tokyo

Bakutsuri Bar Hunter 爆釣バーハンター

The story centers on an elementary school student named Totta who loves to fish. One day a bar soul named Potepen appears from the barcode on Totta's bag of potato chips. Together, Totta and Potepen use a special "Bakutsuri" bar rod item to fish for other bar souls.



Uchū Senkan Tiramisu II Space Battleship Tiramisu II 宇宙戦艦ティラミスII

The human race extended reach and greed to the vast reaches of space. In Space Era 0156, a war breaks out amidst all of the colonies in space. Earth begins to construct a new space battleship called Tiramisu in secret. Just as the war begins, one genius pilot steers the Tiramisu as a beacon of hope for humanity. Second season.



R

Rimuru Tempest and Shizu Izawa on Ranga

Tensei Shitara

Slime Datta Ken



October 2 Polygon Pictures Tokyo MX, Sun TV, KBS Kyoto, BS Fuji



Sōten no Ken: Regenesis 2nd Cour 蒼天の拳REGENESIS 2クール目

It is just before WWII, Kenshiro Kasumi hides as a quiet, absent-minded professor teaching literature at a small women's college in Tōkyō. Once the 62nd Grand Master of Hokuto Shinken, "God Fist of the North Star," known has Yan Wang or "the King of Death," who preserved the peace in the "City of Devils." A fighter of thugs and drug dealers, Kasumi seeks anonymity and a quiet life until the death of his lover, and former brothers, forces him to return to Shanghai to fulfill his destiny and avenge the deaths of his associates.



October 2 8bit Tokyo MX, BS11, tvk, MBS



Tensei Shitara Slime Datta Ken That Time I Got Reincarnated [°]as a Slime

転生したらスライムだった件

The ordinary 37-year-old Satoru Minami found himself dead after being stabbed by a slasher. He had been reincarnated into a slime! While complaining about becoming the weak but famous slime and enjoying the life of a slime at the same time, Satoru Minami met with the Catastrophelevel monster "Storm Dragon Veldora" and his fate began to move. As he acclimates to his goopy new evictance, his avaluate with the monster set of

existence, his exploits with other monsters set off a chain of events that will change his new world.

enki Life Magazine - Aurumn 2018







Hora, Mimi ga Mieteru yo! ほら、耳がみえてるよ!

A manga artist Daisu, who has been raised in nursing homes, lives a solitary life, indulgently lonely and bord everyday. One day, however, the Daisu is transformed by the apeearance of a mysterious "cat-eared boy." This trouble causes Daisu's heart to be filled with "warmth" that he could not feel in his lonely life.

monofilmo AT-X, Tokyo MX





Gakuen Basara 学園BASARA

The *Gakuen Basara* school battle comedy parody reimagines the Warring States Era warriors of CAPCOM's action game franchise as rival students in a modern high school. Masamune Date and Yukimura Sanada battle to replace Hideyoshi Toyotomi as the next student council president.

October 4 Brain's Base TBS, BS-TBS



October 4

Geek Tovs

Tokyo MX, TVA, KBS,

STV, TVQ, BS11

RErideD: Koku Koe no Derrida RErideD: Derrida, Who Leaps Through Time

RErideD-刻越えのデリダ-

The year is 2050. A young engineer named Derrida Yvain became famous thanks to the "Autonomous Machine DZ" at Rebuild. One day, Derrida and his colleague Nathan discover a flaw in the DZs and try to warn their boss, but are ignored. The next day, after enjoying a peaceful day, Derrida and Nathan are suddenly attacked by unknown forces. At the end of the escape, Derrida falls into a cold sleep machine and 10 years later, he wakes up to a devastated world in the middle of a war.



CloverWorks ABC, Tokyo MX, GTV, GYT, BS11, Mētele

Seishun Buta Yarō wa Bunny Girl Senpai no Yume wo Minai 青春ブタ野郎はバニーガール先輩の夢を見ない

Puberty Syndrome — a rumored, mysterious syndrome that only affects those in their puberty. For example, a bunny girl suddenly appeared in front of Sakuta Azusagawa. The bunny girl's real identity is Mai Sakurajima, a teenage celebrity who is currently an inactive high school senior. For some reason, her charming figure does not reflect in the eyes of others. In the course of revealing the mystery behind this phenomenon, Sakuta begins to explore his feelings towards Mai.





Sora to Umi no Aida The Space Between the Sky and Sea ソラとウミのアイダ

Onomichi, Hiroshima in the year 20XX. Fish disappear from the sea around the world and only whales live in the ocean. The Ministry of Fishery decides to set up giant experimental Universe Fish Tanks in space. The Onomichi Universe Fishery Union is established and begins to train space fishermen. Female fishermen are in demand due to the strengthening of an equal employment law for men and women.



TMS Entertainment

Tokyo MX, STV, AT-X,

BS11, BS Fuji, RCC

Zombieland Saga ゾンビランドサガ

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days

The usual mornings. The usual music. The usual self. For seven girls, a peaceful life was all of a sudden destroyed. All at the hands of zombies, dead things that somehow remained moving. Now they step into a new world, whether they liked it or not. A "zombieworld" that represented both the best and the worst. The seven girls had only one wish: "We want to live." This is the

miraculous saga that these girls bring about.

RI

October 4 марра AT-X, Tokyo MX, Sun TV, BS11, Saga TV, TVQ







Anime Schedule 2018 Autumn



Studio Deen

TBS, BS-TBS

BAKUMATSU

The future of Japan is troubled, and the era is a period of passionate men devoted to their ambitions as a rivalry of local warlords. Shinsaku Takasugi is a lucky adventurer from Chōshū. Along with his partner Kogorou Katsura, they infiltrate a ship of the Naval Shōgunate commanded by Yoshinobu Tokugawa. They are in search of a legendary treasure that gives one the ability to control time known as "Jinshingi Pocketwatch" (Chronometer). Shinsaku heard a rumor that the Shōgunate are planning to use the Jinshingi to rule over the entire country. So, he plans to steal the secret treasure with the goal of destroying it.



Gonzo TVA. TYO

Hinomaru Zumō 火ノ丸相撲

It is a divine ritual, a martial art, a combat sport it's sumo!! A "small" new student, Ushio Hinomaru, appears before the weak little sumo club of Ōdachi High School! The words "big" and "heavy" are the rules to this sport, which does not fit this newbie any inch, but this guy goes and does what!? Ushio and the small sumo club climbs its way to the top! The goal is Hinoshita Kaisan (a title for the highest rank in professional sumo, equivalent of Yokozuna)! A fired up high school sumo taleno retakes allowed!!



October 5

Cochin Pa!

Tokyo MX

B

Devidol! でびどる!

The story centers around three demons who are living in the human world: Aira, Shima and Hana. While they work hard and make friends at school, they pursue their dream of being an idol. Because none of them know how to be an idol, they keep trying and straying from their goal. Guided by the kind but sometimes strict lecture of Rocket-sensei, they strive to become idols. Third series of KochinPa!



Inazuma Eleven: Orion no Kokuin **Inazuma Eleven Mark of Orion** イナズマイレブン オリオンの刻印

Orion no Kokuin continues from where Ares no Tenbin ended, covering Inazuma Japan's matches in the FFI. As with the first part, the story will focus on Asuto Inamori, Ryōhei Haizaki and Yūma Nosaka. 19 members of Inazuma Japan have been announced, and they will battle against the mysterious team "Orion's Apostle" in the Football Frontier International.



October 5

OLM

Kitsune no Koe 狐狸之声

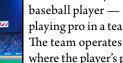
The series follows 16-year-old Hu Li, who dreams of becoming a popular singer. However, he has neither good looks nor the financial means to pursue his dream, so Hu uploads his singing online using a fox avatar.

Yumeta Company



Tokyo MX, AT-X, BS12





October 5 Studio Deen BS-SKPI, BS-S



32



Gurazeni Season 2 グラゼニ シーズン2

This is the story of Natsunosuke Honda, a pro baseball player — a relief pitcher who has been playing pro in a team called Spiders for eight years. The team operates as a highly-stratified society, where the player's performance determines his annual salary. Natsunosuke is one of the highest paid players in the game. He measures how good players are by how much money they make and intends to be on top and stay there, and as such is always looking for players to challenge and does everything to insure that he is better than they are. Second season.

utumr

2018

Season Continued



J.C.Staff AT-X, Tokyo MX, BS11. MBS





October 5 Studio Gokumi, AXsiZ AT-X, Tokyo MX, STV, BS11, TVA



Toaru Majutsu no Index III A Certain Magical Index III とある魔術の禁書目録[インデックス]|||

Academy City is a technologically advanced city located in west of Tōkyō that is known for its educational and research institutions. Toma Kamijo is a student in Academy City whose right hand, the Imagine Breaker, has the ability to negate any supernatural power, but also negates his own luck. Tōma meets a young English girl named Index — a nun from Necessarius, a secret magic branch of the Church of England, whose mind has been implanted with the Index Librorum Prohibitorum — 103,000 forbidden magical books. Third season.

Tonari no Kyūketsuki-san. **Ms. Vampire Who Lives** in My Neighborhood. となりの吸血鬼さん.

The modern-day vampire comedy centers on high school girl Amano, who was saved from a strange incident by a vampire girl named Sophie Twilight, and has been interested in her ever since. Akari arrives at her house uninvited and the two start to live together. Although a vampire, Sophie never attacks humans, but purchases blood and anime goods via mail and lives a modern life



October 5 Doga Kobo AT-X, Tokyo MX, KBS, BS11, Sun TV, TV Aichi, TVQ



Uchi no Maid ga Uzasugiru! Our Maid is Way Too Annoying! うちのメイドがウザすぎる!

Having lost her mother at a young age, Misha Takanashi, a second grader with Russian blood, now lives with her Japanese father. Tsubame Kamoi, formerly a Self-Defense Force officer, comes to the Takanashi household as a housekeeper. This is a home comedy where Kamoi, a hardcore lolicon, attempts to get near Misha as she tries to fight against her.



TROYCA AT-X, Tokyo MX, STV, KBS, TVA, TVQ, BS11



Yagate Kimi ni Naru **Bloom Into You** やがて君になる

Yū has always loved shōjo manga and awaits the day she gets a love confession that sends her heart aflutter with bubbles and hearts, and yet when a junior high classmate confesses his feelings to her... she feels nothing. Disappointed and confused, Yū enters high school still unsure how to respond. That's when Yū sees the beautiful student council president Nanami turn down a suitor with such maturity that she's inspired to ask her for help. But when the next person to confess to Yū is Nanami

herself, has her shojo romance finally begun?

Makoto Misaka, Tōma Kamijō & Index - Toaru Majutsu no Index III





Anime Schedule 2018 Autumn



October 6 CloverWorks Tokyo MX, GTV, GYT, BS11, STV, KBS



considered brusque while Azumaya's smile is winning over admirers by comparison. The whole fiasco drives Takuto to over indulge in alcohol and his actions catch the attention of the last person he wants to see. To his surprise, Azumaya uses this new info to blackmail Takuto for physical affection.

Dakaretai Otoko 1-i ni

Odosarete Imasu.

抱かれたい男1位に脅されています.

The Most Huggable Man Has Threatened Me.

Takato Saijyo has reigned as the idol industry's

man actor Junta Azumaya. Takato was always

"Most Huggable" for five years, that is, until fresh-



October 6

CloverWorks

NNS (ytv)

Gyakuten Saiban: Sono "Shinjitsu," Igiari! Season 2 Ace Attorney: I Object to That 'Truth'! Season 2

逆転裁判 ~その 『真実』 、異議あり!~ Season 2

Ace Attorney takes place in an alternate world where the court system must reach a verdict within three days. Phoenix Wright is a rookie defense lawyer who works under his mentor, Mia Fey. When Mia is murdered, Phoenix befriends her younger sister Maya, a spirit medium-intraining who can channel the spirits of the dead. Phoenix stands up to defend his clients in court.



October 6 P.A. Works MBS, TBS, BS-TBS, AT-X. TUT. ATV



Irozuku Sekai no Ashita kara From the Color-Changing World's Tomorrow 色づく世界の明日から

Set in Nagasaki, the story takes place in a world where a miniscule amount of magic remains in every-day life. Hitomi Tsukishiro is a 17-year-old descendant of a witch family who grew up with stale emotions, as she lost her sense of color at a very young age. Feeling sorry for her granddaughter's future, Kohaku, a great witch, sends Hitomi to past, the year 2018. Through exchanges with her 17-year-old grandmother and her club members, the story follows Hitomi's growth as a person.



October 6 David Production Tokyo MX, MBS, BS11, Abema TV





JoJo no Kimyō na Bōken: Ōgon no Kaze **GioGio's Bizarre Adventure: Golden Whirlwind** ジョジョの奇妙な冒険 黄金の風

Continuation of the story from the previous entries in Araki's JoJo's Bizarre Adventure manga, when Jōtarō asks Kōichi to travel to Naples to investigate a person known as Haruno Shiobana, whose real name is later revealed as Giorno Giovanna. The story then follows Giorno in his goal to rise to the top of the Passione mafia group and turn it into a band of honorable thieves.

Kishuku Gakkō no Juliet **Boarding School Juliet** 寄宿学校のジュリエット

Iuliet Percia and Inuzuka Romio are archenemies. They lead two high-school dormitories the "Black Dogs" and the "White Cats" from two rivaling countries. Both factions are dead set on defeating the other to gain control over the island they have to share. Beneath the feuding exterior, however, Percia and Inuzuka long for love and peace for their budding relationship.

October 6 LIDEN FILMS JNN (MBS, TBS, BS-TBS)



Radiant ラディアン

Seth is an aspiring sorcerer from the Pompo Hills area. He is an "infected," one of the few living beings who survived the contact of the Nemesis, these creatures fallen from the sky that contaminate and decimate all those they touch. His apparent immunity made him choose a path which seemed to him to be all the more appropriate — to become a Hunter and to fight the Nemesis. But more than that, Seth wants to engage in a quest that goes beyond the simple hunt for monsters... he wants to find the Radiant, their presumed cradle.

NHK Educational TV



October 6

Lerche







Master Lights

KBC, GYAO

X

Sono Toki, Kanojo wa. その時、カノジョは。

The anime will take place in Fukuoka, and will follow the love lives of four female protagonists as high school students, college students and as working adults.



Anima Yell! アニマエール!

The manga centers on Kohane Hatoya, a young woman who loves to be helpful to others. After she moves from middle school to high school, she becomes fascinated with cheerleading, and she starts a cheerleading club at her high school. Joining Kohane in her cheerleading activities is the experienced Hizume and Kohane's childhood friend Uki.

Doga Kobo AT-X, Tokyo MX, BS11





October 7

A-1 Pictures, Bridge

TV Tokyo, TVO. TVA,

TVH, TSC, TVQ

Fairy Tail (2018) フェアリーテイル (2018)

Lucy Heartfilia, a teenage celestial wizard, leaves home to join Fairy Tail. Her journey leads to her befriending Natsu Dragneel, a dragon slayer wizard who searches the Kingdom of Fiore for his missing foster father, the dragon Igneel. Upon joining the guild, Lucy forms a team with Natsu and his cat-like Exceed companion Happy, which is joined by other guild members: Gray Fullbuster, an ice wizard; Erza Scarlet, a magical knight; and Wendy Marvell and Carla, another dragon slayer and Exceed duo. Final series of *Fairy Tail.*

Goblin Slayer ゴブリンスレイヤー

In a fantasy world, adventurers come far and wide to join the Guild, in order to complete contracts for whatever jobs are available. An inexperienced priestess joins her first adventuring party, but comes into danger after her first adventurer contract involving goblins goes wrong. After the rest of her party is wiped out, she is saved by a man known as Goblin Slayer, an adventurer whose only purpose is the eradication of goblins with extreme prejudice.



SSSS.GRIDMAN

Yūta Hibiki is a first-year high school student from Tsutsuji-dai. Troubled with amnesia, he encounters "Hyper Agent Gridman" who appeared through an old computer. Upon hearing Gridman's call, Yūta searches for his purpose and lost memories with the help from his classmates Shō Utsumi, Rikka Takarada and Akane Shinjō. However, their peaceful life was quickly torn apart by the sudden attack of the kaiju

October 6 Trigger Tokyo MX, MBS, BS11





A-1 Pictures Tokyo MX, Tochigi TV, GTV, BS11, MBS, AT-X



Sword Art Online: Alicization ソードアート・オンライン アリシゼーション

June 2026. Kazuto Kirigaya (Kirito) was offered a job at a private enterprise, named Rath, by Kikuoka Seijirō, VR crimes division. The job was to test out a 4th generation experimental FullDive machine, called the Soul Translator (STL). His job was seemingly simple: remain in continuous FullDive during the weekend and his memories of the testing would be blocked as a security measure. However, unbeknownst to him, the company was not actually testing the machine itself, but creating a special Bottom-Up type Artificial Intelligence (AI) for military use.



White Fox AT-X, Tokyo MX, Sun TV, BS11



ubject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days



Anime Schedule 2018 Autumn



RELEASE THE SPYCE

The series is about a girl named Momo who attends high school at the city of Sorasaki. She is secretly a member of Tsukikage, an intelligence agency that protects people. As a new member of the agency, she works alongside her colleagues including her senior Yuki and friends. Together, they work to establish peace in the city.

October 7 Lay-duce MBS, Tokyo MX, BS11





October 7 Namu Animation Tokyo MX



The story centers on Minori, an office worker, and her boss Hadano, who are constantly arguing with each other. One night, after a company drinking party, Minori and Hatano are having their usual argument, when Minori realizes that she has missed the last train. They decide to spend the night at a nearby capsule hotel, but an incident forces them to share the same unit.



October 7 AXsiZ Tokyo MX, STV, BS Fuji

Ulysses: Jeanne d'Arc to Renkin no Kishi Ulysses: Jeanne d'Arc and the Alchemy Knights

ユリシーズ ジャンヌ・ダルクと錬金の騎士

During France's Hundred Years' War with England, Montmorency, the son of a noble, immerses himself in the study of magic and alchemy at a school for knights. However, after France's defeat at Agincourt, the school is disbanded and Montmorency is forced to flee. While on the run he meets a miraculous village girl named Jeanne. Jeanne – Ulysses: Jeanne d'Arc to Renkin no Kishi

Genki Life Magazin



Season Continued



Geno Studio

Tokyo MX, ytv, STV, BS11

Golden Kamuy 2nd Season ゴールデンカムイ第2期

In Hokkaidō, the far northern lands of Japan, Sugimoto survived the Russo-Japanese war of the Meiji era. Nicknamed "Invincible Sugimoto" during the war, he now seeks the riches promised by the gold rush in hopes of saving the widowed wife of his now deceased comrade from the war. During his hunt for gold, he finds hints of a hidden stash of gold by corrupt criminals. Partnering with an Ainu girl that saves his life from the harsh climates of the north, they venture into a survival

adventure in a race against the criminals that seek the hidden stash. Second season of Golden Kamuy.

Hashiri Tsuzukete Yokattatte.



走り続けてよかったって The story centers on Minato, who goes to an anime event that has a voice acting recital with

a friend. He is fascinated by the talent of the voice actors, and he meets Chikako, who studies at Suidōbashi Animation Academy. The series follows the trials and tribulations of those who aim to become voice actors.





October 8

Bouncy Tokyo MX, BS11, J:Com

B

Himote House ひもてはうす

The story centers on five girls and one cat all living as housemates in Nakano, Tōkyō. They are the three Himote sisters (Tokiyo, Kinami, and Kokoro) whose family manages the "Himote House," Kokoro's classmates Tae and Minamo, and the cat Enishi. The girls live their daily lives trying to figure out ways to be popular and they (and the cat) all possess a mysterious secret power.



Tokyo Ghoul:re 2nd Season 東京喰種:re 第2期

Two years have passed since the CCG's raid on Anteiku. Ghouls continue to pose a problem as they have begun taking caution, especially the terrorist organization Aogiri Tree, who acknowledge the CCG's growing threat to their existence. The creation of a special team, known as the Quinx Squad. The leader of this

October 9 Pierrot Plus, Studio Pierrot Tokyo MX, Sun TV, TVA, TVQ,BS11



who has been trained by Kishō Arima. There's more to this young man than meets the eye, as unknown memories claw at his mind, slowly reminding him of the person he used to be.

group, Haise Sasaki, is a half-ghoul, half-human



Conception: Ore no Kodomo o Undekure! **Conception: Children of the** Seven Stars!

CONCEPTION 俺の子供を産んでくれ!

October 10 Gonzo STV, BS11, Tokyo MX

On the day of Itsuki Yūge's high school graduation ceremony, his cousin and childhood friend Mahiru is pregnant. Itsuki and Mahiru are taken to a world called Granvania, being invaded by monsters. The only people who can fight are the "star children." They can only be produced by the 12 "shrine maidens of the constellations." In order to defeat the monsters and return to his own world, Itsuki must father the star children with the maidens.



NAZ, Magia Doraglier AT-X, Tokyo MX, STV, KBS, TVA, TVQ, BS11



Ore ga Suki nano wa Imōto dakedo Imōto ja nai The One I Love is My Little Sister **But She's Not a Little Sister** 俺が好きなのは妹だけど妹じゃない

Suzuka Nagami, the perfect little sister with good grades and active as student council president, won a light novel award?? Moreover, the story is a 'romantic lovey-dovey comedy of a brother doting on his little sister'? Even though she is always so strict with me, her real older brother... Suzuka also says she wants to date someone as part of her research for another novel."



Anime Schedule 2018 Autumn



LIDEN FILMS

ABC, Tokyo MX, GTV,

GYT, BS11, TVA

Beelzebub-jō no Okinimesu Mama. As Miss Beelzebub Likes. ベルゼブブ嬢のお気に召すまま。

Beelzebub — the formidable right hand of Satan — commands fear and respect throughout Pandemonium. What her underlings don't realize, though, is that she's an airhead with a love for all that is fluffy and adorable! The only thing she might enjoy more is teasing her new attendant, Mullin, who is learning that serving Beelzebub is both heaven and hell.



October 11 Encourage Films AT-X, Tokyo MX, KBS, BS11

Merc Storia: Mukiryoku Shōnen to Bin no Naka nó Shōjo Merc Storia: The Apathetic Boy and the Girl in a Bottle メルクストーリア -無気力少年と瓶の中の少女-

Merc Storia takes places in a world where humans and monsters coexist. The protagonist, Yū, is a healer apprentice and possesses the ability to tame monsters. In a quest to regain the memories of Merc, a girl confined in a bottle, the pair embarks on a journey.





October 13

TNK

AT-X, Tokyo MX, BS11

Senran Kagura Shinovi Master -Tōkyō Yōma-**閃乱カグラ SHINOVI MASTER -東京妖** 魔篇-

The Hanzo Academy is a prestigious prep school with a secret known only to a select few. Behind its walls is a training course for shinobi. Today the tradition continues with five young female trainees: Asuka, Katsuragi, Hibari, Yagyū and Ikaruga. This is the story of these five girls and their secret

journey to complete their shinobi training. The journey quickly becomes more complicated than they expect though when a darker, more sinister group of shinobi reveal themselves.



October 15

Kvoto Animation NHK

 (\mathcal{F})

Tsurune: Kazemai Kōkō Kyūdō-bu ツルネ ―風舞高校弓道部―

Minato Narumiya used to be in his middle school's archery club until a certain incident in his last tournament caused him to resolve to quit archery for good. When he attends high school, his childhood friends Seiya and Ryōhei try to rope him into joining the high school's archery club again, but he refuses. An encounter with a mysterious man at an archery range in a forest inspires Minato to take up archery once more. Minato joins the Kazemai High School Archery Club and along with his old friends and new teammates, Nanao and Kait, they aim for winning the prefectural tournament.

Homura, Asuka, Miyabi & Yumi - Senran Kagura Shinovi Master - Tōkyō Yōma-



Season Continued



while investigating an explosion at a laboratory that researches a unknown substance called "XM," he sees a mysterious memory. The memory was from Sarah's ring, who was the sole survivor of the

starts now.

Craftar Fuji TV, Kansai TV, THK, TNC, UHB, BS Fuji





October 25 J.C.Staff Tokyo MX, STV, TVA, BS11, AT-X



Han-Gyaku-sei Million Arthur 叛逆性ミリオンアーサー

INGRESS THE ANIMATION

Since he was little, Makoto had a strange power which enabled him to read the memories of objects

he touched. He works as a special agent. One day,

accident. It was a sight of a person being swallowed

into a red light and disappearing. Makoto becomes

embroiled in a massive conspiracy. The battle for

"XM," a material that could affect human mind,

イングレス THE ANIMATION

Britain is being threatened by an invasion by a foreign enemy. Britain fell into chaos and the legendary sword Excalibur is to choose the hero to protect it: Arthur. There are 1 million Arthurs. Each of them is supposed to fulfill their duty professionally. On the other hand, there are people who have a different mission than the million Arthurs: to destroy Excalibur. Those people are called Agent Arthur. To destroy the 1 million Excaliburs. This story of rebellion is told from those who fight against the people who want to end the world.



October 2018 Studio VOLN Tokyo MX, BS11





Production I.G NTV, BS-NTV



Karakuri Circus Le Cirque de Karakul からくりサーカス

Masaru Saiga is a fifth-grade boy who aims to become a puppeteer. After Sadayoshi Saiga — a CEO and his father — passes away, Masaru inherits 18 billion yen. Masaru is targeted for his wealth and is saved by two people. Narumi Katō is a man who has studied Kung-Fu and has a weird illness called "Zonapha Syndrome," and Shirogane is a silver-haired woman who controls the puppet "Arurukan" (Harlequin). Together, they get thrown into various conspiracies by those who would try to steal his fortune.

Kaze ga Tsuyoku Fuiteiru Feel the Wind 風が強く吹いている

The Tōkyō-Hakone Round-Trip College Ekiden Race or "Hakone Ekiden," one of the biggest university marathon relay races in Japan. Kakeru, a former elite runner at high school, is chased for stealing food. He is saved by a Kansei University student Haiji, who is also a runner. Haiji persuades Kakeru to live in the old apartment "Chikuseisō" where he plans to team up with fellow residents to enter Hakone Ekiden Marathon, one of the most prominent university races in Japan. Kakeru soon finds out that all of the residents are novices.







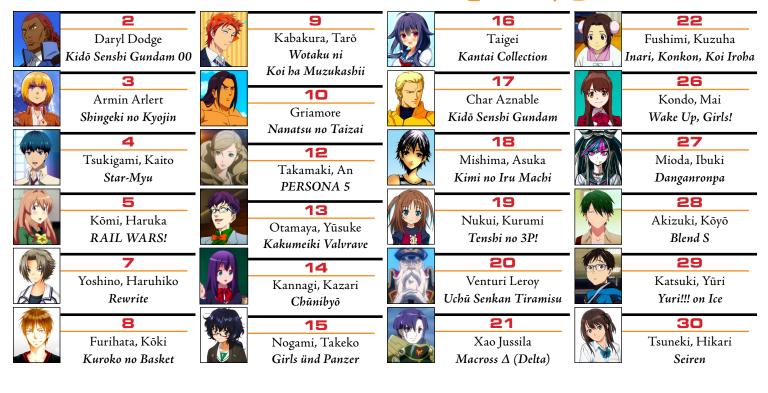
October +A

Kuroka High School DxD	8 Arthur Pendragon Märchen Mädchen	17 Shirokane, Rinko BanG Dream!	26 Oskar von Reuenthal Ginga Eiyū Densetsu
2 Kurokami, Medaka <i>Medaka Box</i>	9 Enomoto, Yuiko Love Lab	19 Kobayakawa, Minoru Hajimete no GAL	27 Aoyama, Midori Gochūmon wa Usagi Desu ka?
3 Kim Saintlaurent Macross 7	11 Hasegawa, Subaru Rō-Kyū-Bu!	21 Tokido, Saya Little Busters!	28 Ryofu, Hôsen Ikki Tōsen
4 Dōjima, Nanako Persona 4	12 Iwami, Aki Total Eclipse	22 Mashiko, Motofumi Nil Admirari no Tenbin	29 Yuki, Tōko Lovedol ~Lovely Idol~
5 Furukawa, Sanae CLANNAD	14 Milinda Someday's Dreamers 15	23 Nishikawa, Honami THE iDOLM@STER Cinderella Girls	30 Tokoyami, Fumikage Boku Hero Academia
G Kirigiri, Kyōko DANGANRONPA	Sakuragi, Kō Wotaku ni Koi ha Muzukashii	24 Kunieda, Shiho Battle Girl High School	31 Barnaby Brooks Jr. <i>Tiger & Bunny</i>

41

Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018

November +--- F



December +__A

2 Origami,Akara Schoolgirl Strikers	8 Okita, Jūzō Uchū Senkan Yamato	15 Hinashi, Koyuki Fūka	-	23 Hidaka, Ken Weiß Kreuz
3 Kominato, Aya Ao Haru Ride	9 Ema, Yuzuru World Trigger	18 Aki, Tomoya Saenai Hiroin no Sodatekata		25 Clow Reed/Yue Card Captor Sakura
4 Kafū, Chino Gochūmon wa Usagi Desu ka?	10 Shiraishi, Yuzuki Sora Yorimo Tõi Basho	19 Tadokoro, Megumi Shokugeki no Sōma		26 Hōjō, China Lovedol ~Lovely Idol~
5 Okumura, Haru Persona 5	11 Kunosato, Mio ChäoS;Child	Eba, Rin Kimi no Iru Machi		28 Kotomine, Kirei Fate/Stay Night 29
6 Lykos Kujira no Kora	12 Miura, Yumiko OreGairu	21 Himeji, Mizuki Baka to Test to Shōkanjū		Saitō, Yōko THE iDOLM@STER Cinderella Girl
7 Sadone Battle Girl High School	13 Hatsuse, Karila C3-Bu	22 Nisaka, Yūsuke Koi to Uso		30 Nozel Silva Black Clover

42

Genki Life Magazine - Autum

lale Ranking





Kirigaya, Kazuto 桐ヶ谷 和人 Sword Art Online



5 Archer アーチャー

Ultimate Bladeworks



Lelouch Lamperouge ルルーシュ・ランペ ルージ Code Geass: Hangyaku no Lelouch



Hiro ŁΠ DARLING in the FRANXX



Matsuoka, Rin 松岡 凛 Free!





Fate/Zero:



Char Aznable シャア・アズナブル Kidō Senshi Gundam





Kururugi, Suzaku 枢木 スザク Code Geass: Hangyaku no Lelouch



Okabe, Rintarō 岡部 倫太郎 Steins;Gate





Rachel Gardner レイチェル・ガ ードナー Satsuriku no Tenshi



Zero Two ゼロツー DARLING in the FRANXX



Saber Arturia Pendragon セイバー・アルトリア・ ペンドラゴン Fate/zero



The information present



6

Yūki, Asuna 結城 明日奈 Sword Art Online

小比類巻 香蓮

Sword Art Online

Alternative - Gun

Gale Online

Re:Zero kara

Hajimeru Isekai Seikatsu

Rem

レム



Kinomoto, Sakura 木之本 さくら Cardcaptor Sakura



Uraraka, Ochako 麗日 お茶子 Boku no Academia

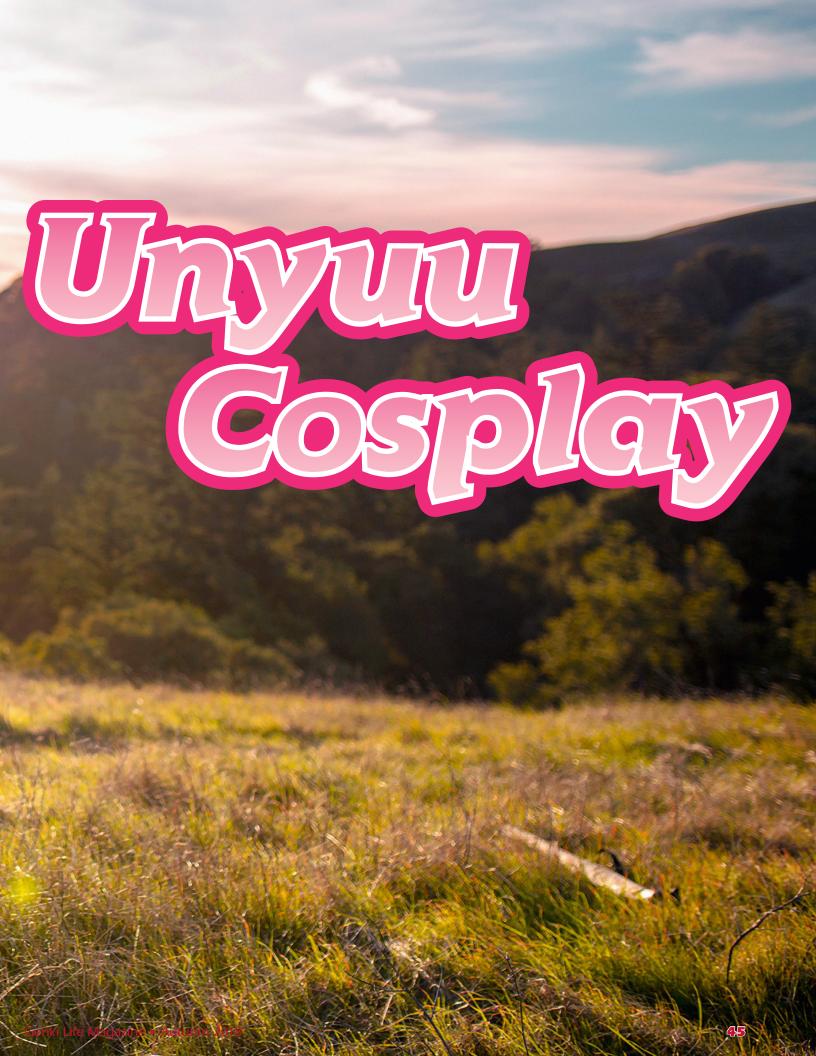


10 Asirpa アシッパ Golden Kamuy

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Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018

An Incerview with





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W.

- **Ed:** Hello Unyuu Cosplay. Thank you once again for this interview. To begin with, please introduce yourself to our readers.
- **Unyuu Cosplay:** Hello I'm Unyuu Cosplay and I am Bay Area-based. I am sewing and cosplay enthusiast with a background in costume and fashion design. I have a lot of hobbies more than I can handle, but designing is one of them, especially when it comes to recreating costumes and outfit for a character.
- Ed: Costume and fashion design? I'm intrigued. Though not really fashionable myself, I have an interest in the subject and tried to attend as many fashion shows as I could. I've even met a few "geek fashion" designers at other conventions. How did you get into costume and fashion design?

Unyuu Cosplay: It actually took me a long time to figure out what I wanted to do. Growing up, I knew basic sewing through my mom, but I never dream of pursuing anything along the lines of it. I came from a family where I was pressured to excel in academics and choose a career that would benefit their needs. Unfortunately, I wasn't an academic student to the slightest. My grades were average enough to glide by high school. After that, I probably switched major three times because I couldn't find anything I thought I was capable of doing. At the time, cosplay was growing and after cosplaying for the first few times, that gave me the idea that I wanted to do something related to costuming. Going to an art school was out of my range at the time and thats when I discover theatre. I am a fan of plays and musicals so that was a start. From there I went as a theatre major and emphasize in costume design. After I graduated, I went straight into a fashion program I found out about and got a certificate in apparel and production design there.

Ed: I can see that. I felt similar pressures when I was going through school. With the "studious Asian" stereotype still prevalent in society, I guess we broke the that mold. And in the end, found what we wanted to do. Was it cosplaying then that gave you a boost pursue fashion/ costume design? What was the first cosplay that you made yourself?

Title, Left & Right Pages Sakura, princess of the Kingdom of Clow Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicle Photos by Uiano Photography Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018





- Unyuu Cosplay: In a way it did boost me. Cosplay did sparked the idea to me with both design and performance aesthetic, but in the end, it became more of a personal interest and why I pursued them. I bought most of my cosplay or pieces to put together when I first cosplay. At the time, there wasn't many resources for buying pre made cosplay so that was pretty difficult. It wasn't until I met people at anime conventions who are now my great friends, that made their own cosplay. I was so intrigue by the idea that you can take a character's design and turn it to real life. It was also after watching many cosplay contest where people would showcase their work and performances. The combination of of making your own costume and wearing it to become the character fascinated me. My first cosplay that I made myself was probably Miku Hatsune's version of Cantarella from Vocaloid. I was super into Vocaloid at the time so most of my first few cosplay were from that.
- Ed: Over the past couple years, I've met quite a few fashion designers that got their inspiration from anime, comic book and/or other combinations of other fandoms... now called "geek fashion" in general. For example, the fashion designer Miss Alphabet bases her designs on lolita fashion. Another is Volante Designs whose designs are based on the the *Assassins Creed* video games. Have



you ever thought of starting your own label and design your own geek fashion and participating in convention fashion shows?

- **Unyuu Cosplay:** I recently graduated from my fashion design program and did my student showcase fashion show with my original theme and collection that I've been slowly thinking of making a clothing line out of but that's still in progress. I always like the idea of participating in convention's fashion show, but I never had the time or opportunity to since I'm constantly juggling so many sewing project such as commissions, non-cosplay related design work, and my own cosplay projects. I do consider it though. As for geek fashion, my ultimate goal is to participate in Her Universe Fashion Show and that would be a dream if I can.
- Ed: Yesterday, walking around CRX (Crunchyroll Expo), or any convention, looking at everyone in wonderful cosplay, I had that feeling of kind of being left out. So later on that afternoon, I decided to change into my Jack (*Final Fantasy Type-0*) cosplay and participated in the *Final Fantasy* gathering. Whenever you go to conventions, do you ever feel that you don't fit in or feel out of place if you're not in cosplay?
- Unyuu Cosplay: It's actually the opposite for me sometimes. I love cosplaying with my friends and in groups, but there are times when I feel left out due to cosplaying characters that either aren't well known, favorited or minor ones. In the end, I remember that I cosplay for myself and the love I have for that particular character, even if they are obscure. I use to feel out of place when I'm not in cosplay, but sometimes it's relaxing to just enjoy the convention without having to worry about cosplay because of wigs, contact lens, make up, and overall the maintenance of the cosplay you're wearing. I admit the best part at the end of the day after being in cosplay is to just take everything off.
- **Ed:** Over the years, the cosplay community has changed so much. Every year, there seem to be more and more

Sakura Kinomoto Cardcaptor Sakura Photo by Uiano Photography Right Page, Top Left Mari Ohara Love Live! Sunshine!! Photo by ODCSphotography

Right Page, Top Right Yona, Princess of Kingdom of Kouka Yona of the Dawn

Right Unyuu Cosplay as Aqua, Prince Kuudere as Kazuma KonoSuba: God's Blessing on this Wonderful World! Photos by Uiano Photography Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018



Right Page Unyuu Cosplay as Rue Kuroha, Meririn Cosplay as Ahiru Arima Princess Tutu Photo by Alexander Louie Photography

This Page, Top

Juliet Capulet Romeo x Juliet Photo by Revogeist Photography

This Page, Bottom Yumeko Jabami Kakegurui - Compulsive Gambler Photo by asiantango

cosplayers... predominantly female cosplayers. As a casual, older male cosplayer myself, I feel that I'm limited to cosplaying older character archetypes from older anime and very few new. I asked this in a previous interview. In general, male cosplayers have fewer characters they can cosplay. Do you think that male cosplayers have a more difficult time choosing their cosplay over female cosplayers?

Unyuu Cosplay: It certainly did grow from when I first started attending convention and cosplaying. Cosplay use to be low key from what I've seen, but now its everywhere and not just at cons. There are cosplay gatherings everywhere now as well. People like myself who likes to do off con cosplay for photo shoots and cosplay projects such as filming cosplay for music video or dance/song cover. I've been in the cosplay scene for almost eleven years now so I can relate about being an older cosplayer myself. I don't believe that anyone has to limit themselves to cosplaying what they want to fit their image. I admit, I use to feel that way myself where I would want to cosplay something but I feel awkward cosplaying a character that is much younger than me because I either don't fit the description or feel like I can pull it off. In the end, it only matters to me who I want to cosplay as and I believe that applies to everyone. I have a diverse group of friends both male and female who cosplay. Females who loves cosplaying male characters and male friends who like cosplaying females or both. They don't let their age or gender stop them from doing what they want and I believe there should be more of that. It sounds cheesy, but you only feel limited if you limit yourself to what you think you can cosplay.

Ed: I totally agree with you about people cosplaying what ever they want. I also have a few friends who cross-play. I think ever since cosplay began to take off, there were already a lot of females cosplaying male roles. But only in the past several reals, cross-playing (males playing female characters) began to really take off. There were





Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018



Mikumo Guynemer Macross Delta Photo by mdome photography

Bottom

Unyuu Cosplay as Bellwether, Meririn Cosplay as Judy Hopps Zootopia Photo by moshitea many that I saw over the weekend (at Crunchyroll Expo 2018). Most... I hate to say-ok, but there were a couple that were really good... amazing! Made me turn my head twice! That reminds me... one thing in the cosplay community I get mixed reactions is the "Cosplay Is Not Consent" movement. Though, we as veteran con-goers know, is common sense. But I know people who don't have a lot of common sense or convention etiquette. I know that it goes both ways too. As a cosplayer yourself, have you had any experiences about his? What are your opinions about this movement?

Unyuu Cosplay: I think cosplay opened a lot of doors for people. I know it did for me. Over the years, cosplay really helped me be more social and have more interaction with people. Attending an event and knowing you all have something you have in common kinda makes you feel at home. I met so many amazing cosplayers over the years and they all come from different background. You probably see more diversity in cosplay now because as the community is growing, people are more comfortable of coming out of their comfort zone and just cosplay and doing what they want. There will always be mean people around who puts people down when it comes to cosplay, but they don't matter because



Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018

you're not cosplaying for them.

It's a given that you do not touch or put your hands on someone without their permission. It's just common sense and its not just at conventions, but anywhere. The community is growing, not just in cosplay, but the attendance in con goers as well. Cons are growing and you get all kinds of people attending conventions now. There will always be someone who don't think before they act and lacks the etiquette as you said, so the "Cosplay Is Not Consent" does show those who aren't familiar with cosplayers or convention rules to know better. I might have came across a few experience with it in the past, but I don't remember much. I experience more passing comments and gesture ones, but I ignored them. I know many friends who has to deal with these often and it's infuriating to hear and see.

Top Eli Ayase Love Live! Photo by moshitea

Bottom (L-R)

Unyuu Cosplay as Meiko Lunacy Cosplay and Photography as Luka Meririn Cosplay as Miku ha2ki as Rin Vocaloid Photo by Mamuro Productions





Ed: Many people that I've talked to out in casual conversation says the same thing that cosplay does open doors. But the thing is, you have to play an active role in cosplaying: participating is gatherings, having photo shoots, joining social groups, networking with other cosplayers, etc. I also know cosplayers who just cosplay and do nothing, but I respect that. They enjoy cosplaying.

Also, I'm glad to hear that your experiences weren't bad. It could go either way too. It happened to me a few years ago cosplaying Mayes Hughes for the first time. Just some random fangirl ran up and kissed me then ran away. Yeah, it startled me and people around me were surprised, not to mention my kid was there too, not as Elicia though. But it's true that if people show common courtesy, our conventions would be better off.

Now that cosplay widespread, more and more cosplayers are going into business for themselves. Many are vying for support through Patreon, being hired for specific events and whatnot to mention a couple examples. As you mentioned before, you'd like to participate in the Her Universe Fashion Show. Do you plan, or thought, to make a business out of fashion design? Or do you have any other aspirations?

Unyuu Cosplay: I don't think you necessarily have to be active on social media and networking in order to be out

there. I meant more of how cosplay really helps people with things such as socializing and just being more open. I'm an outgoing introvert myself, but cosplay really helped me be more open because I'm able to express myself at a place where I know other people who are just like me. It allows people to engage with one another while geeking and nerding out. It feels good to be around people with the same fandom and interest as you.

I'm so sorry to hear that experience, especially in front of your children. As I mention, more and more people go to convention now and that includes families with younger members so people need to be aware of their actions. This kinda reminds me of the early 2000's when "glomps" and random tackling and hugging random people at con was a thing before it became an actual problem.

To be honest, I'm still debating what I want to do at the moment since I finished school. I'm currently building my portfolio while being a commissioner and making cosplays/costumes for clients. I have an idea for a mini apparel clothing line that I would love to start sometime once I get more settle down with my other works. At the same time, I love costume designing and costuming for theatrical events and films. I'm still in between in which route I want to take, but hopefully I can manage both. Her Universe would be an amazing opportunity if I ever get a chance to get in.



For more information on Unyuu Cosplay, follow her on social media.



Unyuu Cosplay as Misao Meririn Cosplay as Aki Narukami Misao

Photo by Lunacy Cosplay and Photography

Right Page (L-R)

Nyunyu Cosplay as lori Minase Daydreamernessa's cosplay as Chihaya Kisaragi Lann as Yayoi Takatsuki shiimapan as Mami Futami Cherry Tea Girl as Ami Futami Sparkle Pipsi as Miki Hoshii Kagami Eri as Ritsuko Akizuki Ichigokitty Cosplay as Hibiki Ganaha Unyuu Cosplay as Yukiho Hagiwara Ethereal Hearts (Kie) as Chihaya Kisaragi Maryssaraptor as Takane Shijō IDOLM@STER

Photo by WWCosplay Photo

Ed: Like I mentioned before, I met a few designers. One of them was Camille Falciola of Frakkin Frocks. She started small, eventually entered Her Universe at SDCC which eventually led her to getting a deal with Hot Topic. That being said, I believe that there are a lot of opportunities for aspiring designers.

I forgot it was actually called "glomping." I was more surprised that anything else. After a while, it started being banned from a lot of conventions, at least here on the West Coast, as well as "free hugs."

Nowadays, there are a lot of new conventions popping up all of over the country. Because of this, more and more people are attending conventions. In turn, hopefully, more and more people get hooked into cosplaying. As an experienced cosplayer, what kind of advice to fans that are aspiring to try or get into cosplaying? Or any pros and cons?

Unyuu Cosplay: There are so many aspect when it comes to cosplay. It can be a little overwhelming for first timer, so just take it one step at a time. It's all about trial and error as well, so the first time isn't going to be perfect. When I first got into cosplay, there wasn't many resource like now where you can plenty of tips and help. There are many places now where you can look for advices and tutorials to get you started, especially online. There are forums and communities dedicated just to it. No need to go all

out on your first cosplay unless you really want to, but its okay to start small and just build your way up to the comfort zone of your level. You can make/build, buy, or commission your cosplay. You don't need to make them in order to cosplay. Most importantly, just have fun and take things your pace. There shouldn't be any reason to pressure yourself when it comes to cosplay, especially if you're new to it. Eventually, you might find your own reason why you cosplay so your mindset might change, but you still shouldn't put cosplay before your health as I learn that from experience over the years.

The cosplay communities grows everyday. Amongst them, there will always be someone who likes to be negative towards other cosplayer and people who tries to put other cosplayer down for no reason, so if you come across that as a first timer, just remember it's not about them. They're not gaining anything so don't mind or pay attention to them.

There were many ups and down moments for me as a cosplayer and I learned a lot from it. Cosplay shaped me in a way to become the person I am today and I've met so many different types of cosplayer who changed and inspired me over the years. Some because my closes friends today because of cosplay. Everyone's experience will be different, but just remember to have fun and do what you want. 💠





🔆 Designed, Created, Sewn in the USA 業



ALEXANDROS]

10/14 • CANTON HALL - DALLAS, TX

GORETEX

10/15 • SCOUT BAR - HOUSTON, TX

10/17 • DIAMOND BALLROOM - OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

NORTH

10/22 • U STREET MUSIC HALL - WASHINGTON D.C.

10/23 • GRAMERCY THEATRE - NEW YORK, NY

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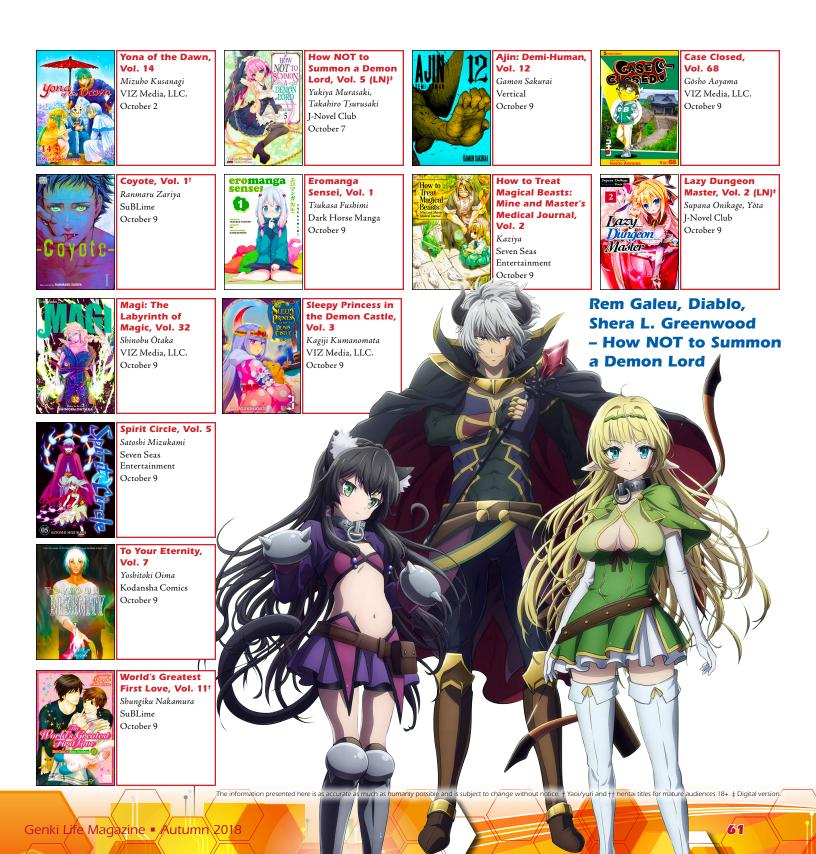




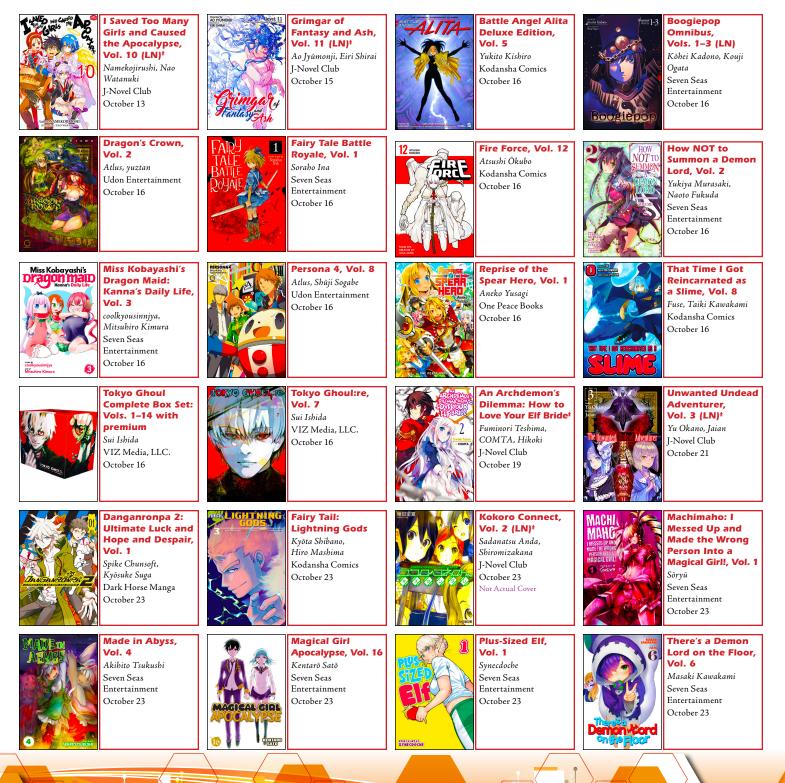
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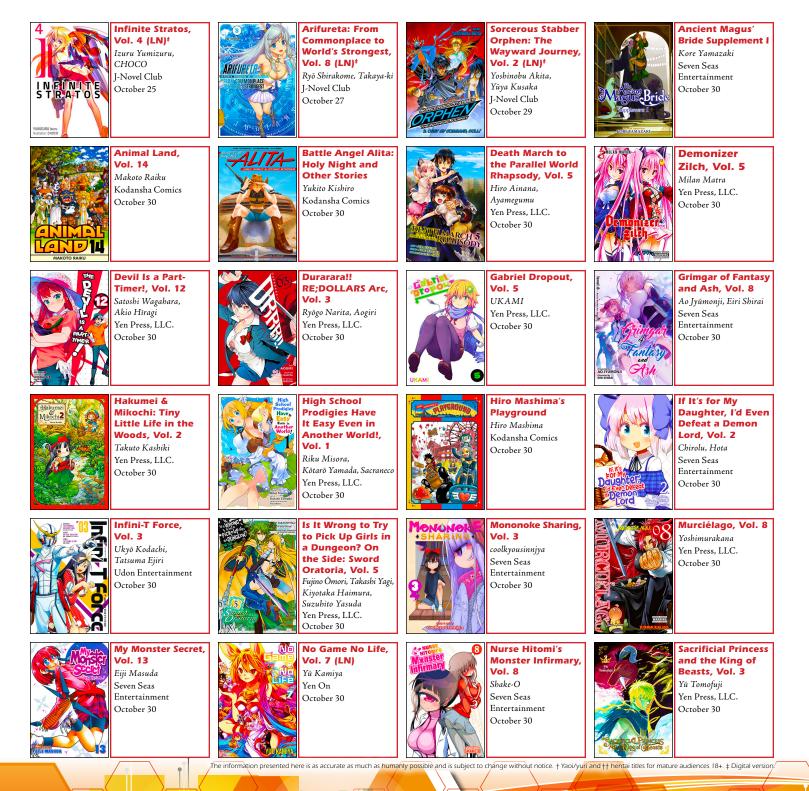
Manga Releases Rutunn 2018 Continued

Seven Deadly Sins Vol. 28 Nakaba Suzuki Kodansha Comics September 25	Soul Liquid Chambers, Vol. 2 Nozomu Tamaki Seven Seas Entertainment September 25	Wake Up, Sleeping Beauty, Vol. 6 Megumi Morino Kodansha Comics September 25	Again!!, Vol. 5 Mitsurou Kubo Kodansha Comics October 2
Ao Haru Ride, Vol. 1 Io Sakisaka VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Berserk Official Guidebook Kentarō Miura Dark Horse Manga October 2	Bleach (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 24 Tite Kubo VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Bleach, Vol. 74 Tite Kubo VIZ Media, LLC. October 2
Blue Exorcist, Vol. 20 Kazue Katō VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Crisis Girls, Vol. 2 Hiroaki Yoshikawa Seven Seas Entertainment October 2	Fate/Zero, Vol. 7 Gen Urobuchi, Type-Moon, Shinjiro Dark Horse Manga October 2	Food Wars!: Shokugeki no Soma, Vol. 26 Yūto Tsukuda, Shun Saeki, Yuki Morisaki VIZ Media, LLC. October 2
Haikyu!!, Vol. 28 Haruichi Furudate VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Heroic Legend of Arslan, Vol. 9 Yoshiki Tanaka, Hiromu Arakawa Kodansha Comics October 2	Juni Taisen: Zodiac War, Vol. 1 Akira Akatsuki, Hikaru Nakamura, Nisioisin VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Kuroko's Basketball, Vol. 14: Vols. 27–28 Tadatoshi Fujimaki VIZ Media, LLC. October 2
My Hero Academia Vigilantes, Vol. 2 Hideyuki Furuhashi, Betten Court, Köhei Horikoshi VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Raruto (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 24 Masashi Kishimoto VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 22 Yuki Midorikawa VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	POD TEAN EDIC First Season Bub Ökawa Vertical Comics October 2
Promised Neverland, Vol. 6 Kaiu Shirai VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Rurouni Kenshin (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 8: Includes Vols. 22–24 Nobuhiro Watsuki VIZ Media, LLC. October 2	Seven Deadly Sins: Seven Days, Vol. 1 Mamoru Iwasa, Nakaba Suzuki, Yõ Kokikuji Kodansha Comics October 2	Water Dragon's Bride, Vol. 7 Rei Toma VIZ Media, LLC. October 2



anga Releases **Ruturn 2018** Continued





Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018

Manga Releases Autumn 2018 continued



Saga of Tanya the Evil, Vol. 4 Carlo Zen, Chika Töjö, Shinobu Shinotsuki Yen Press, LLC. October 30



Sekirei, Vol. 6 Sakurako Gokurakuin Yen Press, LLC. October 30



So I'm a Spider, So What?, Vol. 4 Okina Baba, Asabiro Kakashi Yen Press, LLC. October 30



Spirits & Cat Ears, Vol. 7 Miyuki Nakayama Yen Press, LLC. October 30



Taboo Tattoo, Vol. 12 Shinjirõ Yen Press, LLC. October 30



To Love Ru Darkness, Vol. 7 Saki Hasemi, Kentarō Yabuki Ghost Ship October 30

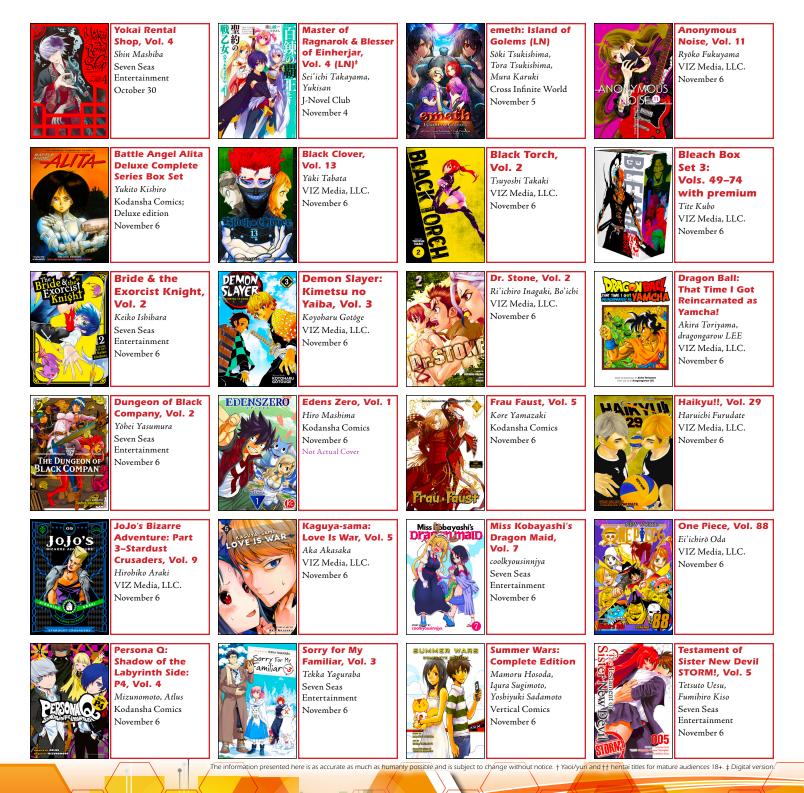


Val x Love, Vol. 4 Ryösuke Asakura Yen Press, LLC. October 30



Versailles of the Dead, Vol. 1 Kumiko Suekane Seven Seas Entertainment October 30











Vol. 2 Mita Aoi Yen Press, LLC. November 13 Not Actual Cover



Trinity Seven: The Seven Magicians, Vol. 15 Kenji Saitō, Akinari Nao Yen Press, LLC. November 13 Not Actual Cover



Akashic Records of Bastard Magic Instructor, Vol. 5 Hitsuji Tarō, Tsunemi Aosa Seven Seas Entertainment November 20



Beasts of Abigaile, Vol. 4 Spica Aoki Seven Seas Entertainment November 20



Cardcaptor Sakura: Clear Card, Vol. 5 Clamp Kodansha Comics November 20

Children of the CHILDREN CHILDREN Whales, Vol. 7 Abi Umeda VIZ Media, LLC. November 20



Manga Releases **Rutumn 2018** Continued



Didn't I Say to Make My Abilities Average in the Next Life?!, Vol. 4 (LN) FUNA, Itsuki Akata Seven Seas Entertainment November 20



Ran and the Gray World, Vol. 1 Aki Irie VIZ Media, LLC. November 20



I Am a Hero Omnibus, Vol. 8 Kengo Hanazawa, Kumar Sivasubramanian Dark Horse Manga November 20

RWBY: Official Manga Anthology, Vol. 3 Various, Monty Oum, Rooster Teeth Productions VIZ Media, LLC. November 20



Seven Kingdoms, Vol. 3 Kiyohisa Tanaka Seven Seas Entertainment November 20 Not Actual Cover





Mobile Suit Gundam Thunderbolt, Vol. 9 Yasuo Ōtagaki, Hajime Yatate, Yoshiyuki Tomino VIZ Media, LLC. November 20



UQ HOLDER!, Vol. 15 Ken Akamatsu Kodansha Comics November 20



Wotakoi: Love is Hard for Otaku, Vol. 3 Fujita Kodansha Comics November 20



In Another World with My Smartphone, Vol. 11 (LN)[‡] Patora Fuyuhara, Eiji Usatsuka J-Novel Club November 21



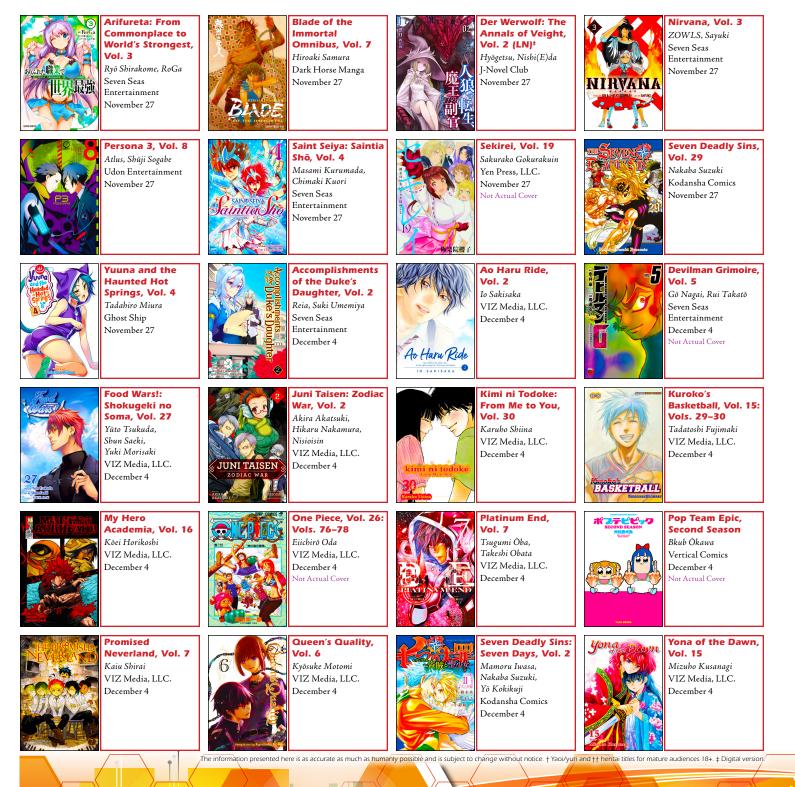
Outbreak Company, Vol. 6 (LN)‡ Ichirō Sakaki, Yūgen J-Novel Club November 23



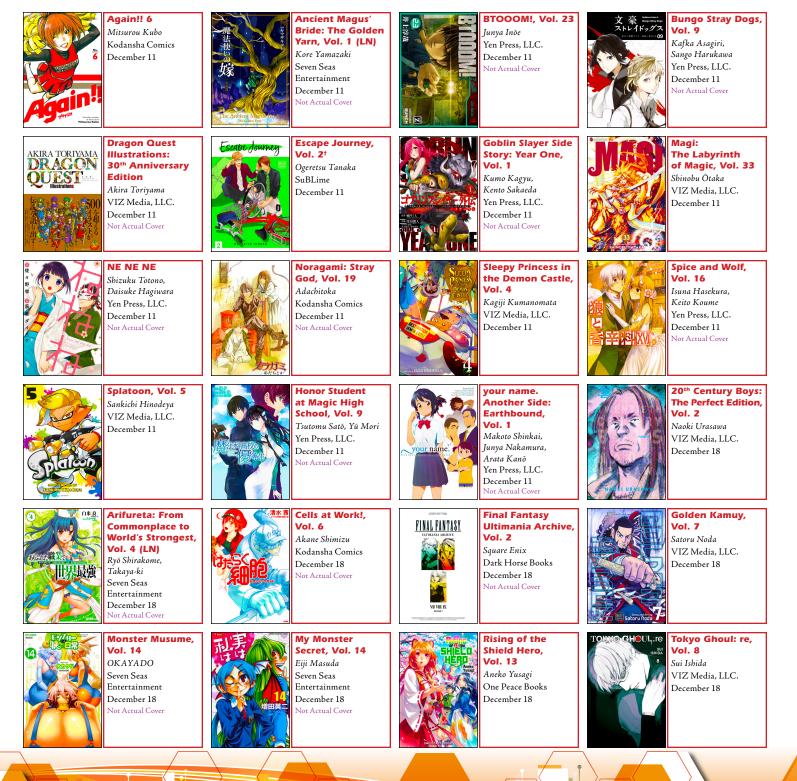
Absolute Duo, Vol. 4 Takumi Hi'iragiboshi, Shin'ichirō Nariie Seven Seas Entertainment November 27

Linze Silhoueska, Elze Silhoueska, Touya Mochizaki & Yae Kokonoe - In Another World with **My Smartphone**





Manga Releases Autumn 2018 continued



Distant Worlds music from

26

September 25 Eastman Theatre Rochester, NY

October 13 Durham Performing Arts Center Durham, NC

> November 3 Carole And Barry Kaye Auditorium Boca Raton, FL

November 4 Knight Concert Hall MIami, FL

December 1-2 Prince Mahidol Hall Bangkok, Thailand

January 22, 2019 Schermerhorn Symphony Center Nashville, TN

www.ffdistantworlds.com



Kana, Hanazawa 花澤香菜 DOB: February 25, 1989

60

Tōkyō Blood Type: AB

Current Roles...



Steins;Gate 0



Beatless

吉

H

Hataraku Saibō



Takasaki, Misaki Koi to Uso





Harukana Receive



Black Clover



Current Roles...

Yūki, Kana

DOB: March 10

Blood Type: NA

優木 かな

Kanagawa

Super Creek Uma Musume Pretty Derby



Ōsama Game Tomita, Miyu

富田 美憂 DOB: November 15, 1999 Saitama Blood Type: A





Kyōto Teramachi Holmes



Natsukawa, Kuina Hinako Note



Riko Made in Abyss



Sophie Twilight Tonari no Kyūketsuki-san





Hino, Satoshi

Blood Type: AB

Current Roles...



Overlord Season



Lassic David Grancrest Senki





Yume Ökoku 100-Nin



Kohara, Konomi 小原 好美 DOB: June 28, 1992 Kanagawa Blood Type: NA

Current Roles...



Fujisawa, Erena Hanebado!



Kumatsuka, Kirin Gakuen Babysitters



Asobi Asobase



Karakai Jōzu no Takagi-san AN AN AN AN AN AN

Mashiro, Aoi





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Miyamo, Chio

Chio-chan no Tsūgakuro

Shiratori, Azumi

Nyanko Days

Ōzora, Naomi 大空 直美 DOB: February 4, 1989 Takatsuki, Ōsaka Blood Type: A

Current Roles...



Charlotte Anana One Piece



Tsugumomo

7722



Magazine = Autumn 2018

73

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<u>Cosrave across UK throughout year</u> vww.cosrave.co.ul

For enquiries email info@animeleague.com

30 JAPAN

HONORING THE DIETIES

75





part from Metropolitan Tōkyō, there are many other places to visit which are relatively easy to travel to. This is where your JR Pass really pays off. With unlimited access to local JR Lines, you also have unlimited access to JR Shinkansen bullet trains which costs ungodly amounts of yen (¥) to ride for Japanese residents. You could just get on and off on any Shinkansen, at any station along the line. But there's a catch. You have to find a seat in the unreserved cars section — seats for passengers who haven't made reservations beforehand. I highly recommend planing out where you want to go and make a reservation at least a day or more before your planned trip.

The next prefecture south is Kanagawa Prefecture. Outside Metropolitan Tōkyō, the distinction between cities and towns become much clearer. Yokohama-shi, is the second largest

> city in Japan. It was long train ride from Shinagawa Station on the Keikyū Line (Keikyū) to Yokohama Station. As a tourist, the sights along the way were priceless. I was only there for the day to visit the

CupNoodles Museum in Nishi Ward that was recommended by a relative. Who would've thought there's a museum for Nissin's CupNoodles! It was an interesting place beyond my expectation. The interior was bright, wide, modern and very spartan. Its main attraction is the creation of your own cup noodle. The first step in creating your very own cup noodle is to buy a blank cup and sanitizing it. The next step is to decorate and date your cup. After decorating, there's a line you get into to fill your cup with dried noodles at the noodle-filling station. Pick the flavor and dried toppings for your cup noodle next. When you're done, you cup will be heat-sealed and shrink-wrapped in front of you. This was really nostalgic







for me when back in the day, I used to shrink-wrap laserdiscs at Pioneer Video. Finally, you get a plastic bag that you place your original cup noodle in and fill it with air to protect it. At the end, you will be given a cord for your bag by a staff member so you could wear your original cup noodle around your neck to show off. There were a couple things that I didn't experience at the museum: the CupNoodle Factory where you make your own noodles from scratch and the CupNoodles Park that's primarily for kids. After the museum, there was a place that was recommended to have ramen... Shin-Yokohama Rāmen Hakubutsukan (Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum) in Kōhoku Ward. It's not actually a

museum as its name implies, but a food court with many types of ramen from all over the country in one place. Ryū Shanghai Honten was finally decided on for dinner from all the other ramen shops. Their specialty are soy-based ramen. There was one ramen dish that caught my eye from looking at the menu ticket machine. I asked the proprietor what it's about and turned out to be a limited special... the "Panda Ramen." With a platter of gyōza as an appetizer and a mug (or two... or three) of beer, it was a dinner fit for a king! Yokohama's Chinatown is the largest in Japan and home of Lynn Minmei, a fictional idol singer from the anime Chōjikū Yōsai Macross (Super Dimension Fortress Macross). Kokurikozaka Kara (From

Up on Poppy Hill) from Studio Ghibli and *Bungō Stray Dogs* also takes place in Yokohama.



TOP: PANDA RAMEN ABOVE: PERSONALIZED RAMEN FROM CUPNOODLES MUSEUM







s you travel further away from Tōkyō, this becomes the Japan in the tourist books. It's the Japan with temples, shrines and gods. Near the center of Kanagawa Prefecture is the city of Kamakura, southwest of Yokohama. Kamakura as dozens of temples and shrines scattered around the city. With so many to choose from, it could be quite a daunting task to visit them all... especially with a limited amount of time. On a side note: most Western foreigners have no idea what the religious symbol for Buddhists and Eastern religions — the swastika or "manji" in Japanese. Because the Nazis took this symbol and used it to represent themselves, its meaning became grotesquely twisted and now associated with hatred and everything evil for the West. I had a limited amount of time, so I visited three Buddhist temples...

two smaller and a famous one. The first of the two smaller temples I visited are in eastern part of Kamakura is Tōkasan Jōmyō Zenji (or simply Jōmyō-ji) temple. This was the very first temple I ever visited and was overwhelming. Though I'm not a very religious person, I'm more spiritual with utter respect for holy grounds regardless of belief. At the temple, I experienced a traditional tea ceremony which was very interesting. I've seen similar tea ceremonies on TV before, but there's nothing like experiencing it firsthand. We were asked not to take photos or video of the shrine maiden performing the ceremony, but there were fools who did so. Other than the thick, somewhat bitter, matcha green tea from the ceremony, you're also served okashi (a candy or snack, not to be confused with o kashii, meaning amusing or comical). In this case, the okashi was





PREVIOUS: TŌKASAN JŌMYŌ ZENJI THIS PAGE: HŌKOKU-JI

a small sweet rice cake, similar to mochi, that complimented the taste of the matcha. After the tea ceremony, I gave my respects to the local deity... which I believe visitors should do regardless of belief and out of courtesy when visiting temples and shrines... and made my way to next temple nearby. Hōkoku-ji temple is just a short 15-minute walk. This temple is famous for its Mōsō bamboo grove and its temple that's made out of bamboo. Upon entering the temple grounds, there's a beautiful garden to the right that leads to the temple. After paying my respects at the temple, I walked around the back of the temple where the bamboo grove is located. Walking through the stone path, surrounded by bamboo, gives a sense of going back in time to the

Jōmon period... ok, maybe not that far back. One temple that you need to visit is Taiizan Kōtoku-in Shojosen-ji (or Kōtoku-in) Buddhist temple. Also as a historical site, Kōtoku-in is home to the Daibutsu (the Great Buddha) of Kamakura. The statue of the giant bronze Buddha goes back to the Kamakura Period $(12^{th}-14^{th} \text{ centuries})$. Looking at the giant state gave me a sense of awe as I walked closer and around it. Kōtoku-in was featured on a school trip in the 3-D Kanōjō (Real Girl) manga as well as in other anime.









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Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018

PREVIOUS AND THIS PAGE: TAIIZAN KÕTOKU-IN SHOJOSEN-JI (DAIBUTSU, THE GREAT BUDDHA)



he next city over is Fujisawa where the island of Enoshima is located, a popular tourist spot that's connected to the mainland by a bridge, Enoshimabashi. On a clear day, you could have a great view of Mount Fuji. Enoshima is the location of Enoshima Jinja, a Shinto shrine. There's also a Hello Kitty Tea House and specialty shop along the shopping district. At the end of the shopping Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018

district is the where the start of the climb up to the shrine through Zuisinmon torī. Aside from the many stairs that lead up to the shrine, there are a could escalators you could take, for a small fee. Along the way to the top and pass the shrines is a beautiful tulip garden. There's also an observation area where you have great views of Fujisawa and Kamakura. At the top of the island is Kamegaoka Square, another observation and park area where you have great views of the Pacific Ocean and on a clear day, Mount Fuji. There's the lighthouse tower further up, but because of time constraints, I couldn't go there. The cities of Kamakura and Fujisawa are featured in the anime *Minami Kamakura Kōkō Joshi Jitensha-Bu (Minami Kamakura High School Girls Cycling Club)*. All the places depicted in the anime are actual place

83





with the exception of Minami-Kamakura High School, which in reality is Shichirigahama High School. Kamakura could be reached by the Keikyū Line (Keikyū) from Yokohama Station, then connect to the Keikyū-Zushi Line (Keikyū) at Kanazawa-Hakkei Station to the line's end at Shin-Zushi Station. To make the final connection, walk north to JR Zushi station to catch the Shōnan-Shinjuku or Yokosuka Line (JR) to Kamakura Station. To get to Enoshima, from Kamakura Station, take the Enoshima Dentetsu Line (Enoden) to Enoshima Station. There's also a train crossing in Fujisawa along the coastal Enoshima Dentetsu Line that was in the opening credits of the anime Slam Dunk.

PREVIOUS AND THIS PAGE: ENOSHIMA, ITS TEMPLES AND THE SEA CANDLE (OBSERVATION TOWER)

THE TRAIN CROSSING FROM THE ANIME SLAM DUNK





HAKONE





he last place I visited in Kana-gawa Precture is Hakone-machi, in the prefectures' western edge. The tourist town of Hakone is right beside Hokane Ashino-ko (or Lake Ashi). Hakone could be quite difficult to get to so joining a tour is a must for the first time traveler. Coming in from the north, we arrived at Hakone Kōjiri Terminal. From there, a short, 30minute boat cruise took us across Hokane Ashino-ko to Hokane-en, a recreational park with an aquarium and zoo. There are also shops and restaurants geared towards tourists. At this one particular shop, a lot of the merchandise were based on Studio Ghibli anime films. At the base of Mount Komagatake is the Komagatake Ropeway which takes you to the top...

about a 10-minute trip. Normally, I would do such ride, but this time, for some reason, I couldn't. I was ok because people I was with were able to take photos for me from the mountain top. At the days end, we made it down to Odawara Station to get back to Tōkyō. The big significance of the Hokane/Hokane Ashino-ko area in anime is its transformation into the fictional, futuristic city of Tōkyō-3, in Shinseiki Evangelion (Neon Genesis *Evangelion*), 15 years after the "Second Impact" that caused a global disaster in the year 2000. To reach Hakone, you could take the JR Tōkaidō-San'yō Shinkansen to Odawara Station and then taking a bus or taxi up to Hakone. It's worth the price because of the priceless scenic views you could see along the way.

Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018



The altitude

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(6627' 2")

ここは Here is 大沢駐車場(四合目下) Ohsawa Parking (under 4th Station) 오사와 주차장(후지산4되 손아래) 大泽停车场(四合目下)



he only place I visited in Yamanashi Prefecture is the city of Fujiyoshida. Besides being the city that leads up Fuji-san (Mount Fuji), Fujiyoshida's main attraction is the reasonably-priced, family-friendly Fuji-Q Highland amusement park. The park features a few roller coasters that were at one time the tallest in world, but still are the tallest in Japan. Beside the usual attraction, it's renowned for Thomas Land, based on Thomas the Train's Thomas & Friends children's show. There are also attractions based on Shinseiki Evangelion and Kidō Senshi Gundam anime programs. The newest of its attractions is a haunted house based on the anime GeGeGe no Kitarō (Kitarō of the Graveyard). Before going up Fuji-san, there's the Shizuoka Fuji-san Sekai Isan Center (Shizuoka Fuji-San World Heritage Center) where you should stop by to learn more about Fuji-san. Though Fuji-san is considered to be Shizuoka Prefecture, half is in Yamanashi Prefecture. Along the way up Fuji-san from Fujiyoshia, there's a section of the toll road called "Melody Road" than *plays* a tune as you drive over it. I was told the tune is a children's song called "Fuji no Yama," which I was not familiar with. How this is done is a "mystery." Another fact I learned is that compasses brought around Fuji-san don't work. Because volcanic rocks are magnetic by nature, it will throw off compasses, so they're useless there. The final stop on this day is Ōsawa Shūshajō (Ōsawa Parking Lot, the fourth of five stations going up Fuji-san. The view of Fuji-san from there is non-existant. On this day, it was very cold, cloudy and windy so there was no good view of Fuji-san. I found a tiny opening with a view up the mountain which cleared briefly, but still not good view of the top. Instead, there were good views of other nearby mountains: Toyatsuka and Nagayama. Though not very difficult the get there, it's quite a long trip. From Tōkyō, take the JR Chūō Line from Shinjuku Station. It's a long trip to Ōtsuki Station in Ōtsuki. Once you arrive there, take the Fuji-Kyūkō Line (Fujikyū) all the way to Fujiyshida. You could stop at Fuji-san Station, but it continues to Fujikyū-Highland Station. Yes, in front of Fuji-Q Highland amusement park. This is a long trip so an alternative is to join a tour.



urthest south I travelled was to the prefecture of Kyōto, to Kyōto-shi. The trip to the city of Kyōto was about a 2-hour trip on the JR Tōkaidō-San'yō Shinkansen from Tōkyō Station to Kyōto Station. The main reasons I wanted to go this far south is to make good use of my JR Pass and to see the shrine with 10,000 torī (gates). Fushimi Inari Taisha (Fushimi Inari Shrine) in Fushimi Ward — only two stations south from Kyōto Station on the JR Nara Line. Even on a Monday morning, the train was totally packed to the rim! Getting off station was even worse — it was a small station! It's a wonder how it could handle so many people. The entrance to Fushimi Inari Taisha is just right

across the street. Across the station and pass the two guardian inari (foxes) and main torī, you walk down the long walkway that leads to the main Go-Honden shrine. After paying my respects, I went around the left to a path that led to the beginning of the vermillion Sen'bon Torī (10,000 Gates) path. It was just amazing being here! Aside from the many tourists, you could tune them out to get a sense of the spiritual presence of the inari. Just walking through the Senbon is a spiritual experience in itself. About half way through, there was a dirt path I took to for a much need rest. I continued up a stone path that led into a bamboo grove on right while a deciduous forest was on the left, separated by the path. This least

travelled path led deeper in the woods as I continued walking another 45 minutes. Along the way, I discovered several secluded shrines. After walking back to the main shrine complex, I discovered I inadvertently walked down a sacred pilgrimage path towards the top of Inariyama (Inari Mountain). I found a teishoku shokudō, cafeteria that served local specialties, beside the Fushimi Inari Taisha entrance and ate a much needed lunch. Again, on the way back to Kyōto, the station was packed with tourists heading back. In the anime Inari, Konkon, Koi Iroha (Inari, Konkon, ABCs of Love), the main character, Inari Fushimi, is granted spiritual powers by the goddess Uka-no-Mitama-no-Kami after saving a fox spirit. Fushimi Inari





FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE, THE SHRINE WITH 10,000 GATES



Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018





Taisha the main setting for the anime. Back in Kyōto Station, I had a little over three hours to kill so I was looking into something to do to pass the time. I took the JR San'in Line to Nijō Station to check out Nijō-jō (Nijō Castle), a fortified shōgunate residence and gardens. Entering through Higashi-Ōte-mon (the Great Eastern Gate), you're welcomed by a wide open space that leads to Ninomaru Gōten (Ninomaru Palace), the main reception building for "lowranking" visitors. A mini-tour was available, but no photos are allowed in the building. There were staff located at each corner watching tourists. You have to remove your shoes at the entrance. While following the designated path, visitor are adorned with wood carvings and lavishly painted walls. Ninomaru has a special security feature built into the floors called "Nightingale Floors." These floors deliberately made squeaking sounds, much like the nightingale, as you walk on them. This way, if the palace was

compromised by intruders, this would alert the palace guards or anyone else. After the mini-tour, you could walk around a garden path that leads to the inner fortification of Honmaru Goten (Honmaru Palace). Nobody was allowed inside palace but Honmaru Garden is open to the public. At the southwest section of the garden, you could walk up the donjon, a castle tower, to experience a panoramic view of Nijō-jō and surrounding cityscape. Before I realized it, I had only 45 minutes to catch my train back to Tōkyō. Back at the entrance, I flagged down a taxi and rode back to Nijō Station. I made it back to Kyōto Station at the Shinkansen platform with ten minutes to spare! I don't remember any anime that featured Nijō-jō, but in Ao no Exorcist: Kyōto (Blue Exorcist: Kyōto Saga), the city of Kyōto is the main setting. In the scene where Rin and company exit Kyōto Station, Kyōto Tower could be seen as well as inside of the station.

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: KYŌTO STATION AND KYŌTO TOWER BOTTOM: NIJŌ-JŌ (NIJŌ CASTLE)













PLACES VISITED & TRAVELER'S INFORMATION

YOKOHAMA

Yokohama Station Shin-Yokohama Station CupNoodles Museum: Yokohama Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum

KAMKURA

Kamakura-shi Tōkasan Jōmyō Zenji Hōkoku-ji Taiizan Kōtoku-in Shojosen-ji (Daibutsu) Restaurant Aji-tei

FUJISAWA

Fujisawa-shi Enoshima Dentetsu (Enoden) Enoshima Moke's Hawaii Enoshima Japanese Tea House Hello Kitty Saryo Enoshima

HAKONE

Hakone-machi Ashino-ko Yuransen Kojiri-ko Hakone Prince Pan Kōbō/Curry & Ramen Shop Hakone-en Shopping Center Hakone Komagatake Ropeway Odawara Station

FUUNYOSHIDA MOUNT FUJI

Fujiyoshida-shi Fujikyū-Highland Station Shizuoka Fuji-san Sekai Isan Center (Shizuoka Fuji-San World Heritage Center) Fuji-Q Highland Restaurant Bohatei - Kaihotoshingenyakata

13 conton

Куото-

Kyōto Station Fushimi Inari Taisha Nijō-jō (Nijō Castle)



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September 25

Angel Cop Discotek Media DVD + \$24⁹⁵ MSRP

Brave Witches: Complete Collection Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Bubblegum Crisis (OVA): High Definition Disctopia AnimEigo Blu-ray • \$39⁹⁵ MSRP

Devilman (1987–1980): Complete OVA Series

Discotek Media DVD • \$24⁹⁵ MSRP Gintama: Series 3, Part 2 Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$54⁹⁸ MSRP

High School DxD BorN: Complete Collection (Classics) Funimation Blu-ray + \$49⁹⁸ MSRP

Marmalade Boy (TV & Movie): Complete Collection Discotek Media SD Blu-ray + \$79⁹⁵ MSRP

Monkey Magic: Complete Collection Discotek Media DVD • \$39⁹⁵ MSRP **One Piece: Collection 22** *Funimation* DVD • \$34⁹⁸ MSRP

Princess Principal (TV): Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray + \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

Princess Principal (TV): Complete Collection (LE) Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray • \$179⁹⁸ MSRP

Reborn!: Seasons 1–4 Collection Discotek Media SD Blu-ray • \$79⁹⁵ MSRP • Sub

> Scum's Wish: Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray • \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

SHIMONETA -A Boring World Where the Concept of Dirty Jokes Doesn't Exist: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Stellvia: Complete Collection Discotek Media Blu-ray • \$49⁹⁵ MSRP

> **Tetsujin 28 (2004): Complete Collection** *Discotek Media* SD Blu-ray • \$49⁹⁵ MSRP

WorldEnd: What are you doing at the end of the world? Are you busy? Will you save us?: Complete Collection Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

formation presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice

Priss Hardsuit & Motoslave – Bubblegun Crisis

95



Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray Summer 2018 Continued

October 2

Dragon Ball Super, Part 5 *Funimation* DVD • \$39⁹⁸ MSRP

Dragon Ball Super, Part 5 *Funimation* Blu-ray • \$44⁹⁸ MSRP

Free! -Take Your Marks-Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$34⁹⁸ MSRP

Free! Movie Collection (LE) Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$99⁹⁸ MSRP

High Speed! -Free! Starting Days-Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$34⁹⁸ MSRP

Hyouka: Complete Collection *Funimation* Blu-ray • \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

Pokemon: Movies 1–3 Collection Viz Media Blu-ray • \$24⁹⁸ MSRP • Dub

Pokemon: Movies 1–3 Collection Viz Media DVD + \$19⁹⁸ MSRP + Dub

Pop Team Epic: (TV): Complete Collection *Funimation* Blu-ray • \$54⁹⁸ MSRP

Rosario + Vampire: Seasons 1 & 2 Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$34⁹⁸ MSRP Sailor Moon S: The Movie Viz Media DVD + \$19⁹⁸ MSRP

Sailor Moon S: The Movie Viz Media Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$29⁹⁸ MSRP The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.: Season 1 Collection Funimation Blu-ray + \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

Ryū Yamada, Mikoto Asuka, Maria Sarushima, Noa Takigawa, Meiko Ōtsuka, Rika Saionji, Urara Shiraishi & Nene Odagiri – Yamada-kun and the Seven Witches





| Releases

October 9

Monster Hunter Stories - Ride On: Season 1, Part 4 Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$6498 MSRP

NANBAKA, Part 2 Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Prison School: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Recovery of an MMO Junkie: Complete Collection *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

World Break - Aria of Curse for a Holy Swordsman: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Yamada-kun and the Seven Witches: Complete Collection (Essentials) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Zillion (TV & OVA): Complete Collection Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$64⁹⁸ MSRP + Sub

October 16

Dance with Devils (TV): Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray • \$29⁹⁸ MSRP Heavy Object: Season 1 Collection Funimation Blu-ray + \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

Juni Taisen - Zodiac War: Season 1 Collection Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Mamoru Hosoda: Movie Collection (LE) Funimation Blu-ray + \$99⁹⁸ MSRP

Monochrome Factor: Complete Collection Maiden Japan DVD • \$69⁹⁸ MSRP • Sub

orange (TV): Complete Collection Essentials) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Snow White with the Red Hair: Complete Collection Funimation Blu-ray + \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

TERRAFORMARS: Set 2 *Viz Media* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$59⁹⁹ MSRP

The irregular at magic high school: Complete Blu-ray Box Set Aniplex of America Blu-ray • \$164⁹⁸ MSRP • Sub

The Seven Heavenly Virtues: Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

October 23

91 Days: Complete Collection (Essentials) *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Accel World: Infinite Burst Viz Media DVD • \$19⁹⁸ MSRP

Accel World: Infinite Burst Viz Media Blu-ray + \$24⁹⁸ MSRP

Concrete Revolutio: Complete Collection Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$84⁹⁸ MSRP

Dagashi Kashi: Season 2 Collection *Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$39⁹⁸ MSRP

Endride: Complete Collection Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

MADE IN ABYSS: Season 1 Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray • \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

MADE IN ABYSS: Season 1 Collection (LE) Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray + \$199⁹⁸ MSRP

Tsukiuta. The Animation: Complete Collection (Essentials) *Funimation* Blu-ray • \$24⁹⁸ MSRP • Sub

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97

Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018



Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray Summer 2018 Continued

Witch Hunter Robin: Complete Collection Funimation DVD • \$54⁹⁸ MSRP

October 30

Area 88 (OVA) Discotek Media DVD + \$24⁹⁵ MSRP

First Love Monster: Complete Collection (Essentials) *Funimation* Blu-ray • \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

GoShogun (TV): Complete Collection Discotek Media Blu-ray • \$59⁹⁵ MSRP • Sub

Great Mazinger: Complete Collection Discotek Media SD Blu-ray • \$59⁹⁵ MSRP • Sub

Hitorijime My Hero: Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray + \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

Osamu Tezuka's Metropolis (SteelBook) Mill Creek Entertainment Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$34⁹⁸ MSRP

Reborn!: Seasons 5–8 Collection Discotek Media SD Blu-ray • \$79⁹⁵ MSRP • Sub

Space Warrior Baldios (TV): Complete Collection Discotek Media Blu-ray + \$69⁹⁵ MSRP + Sub **Taboo Tattoo: Complete Collection (Essentials)** *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

The Testament of Sister New Devil BURST: Complete Collection *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

The Testament of Sister New Devil BURST: Complete Collection (LE) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$84⁹⁸ MSRP

November 6

Angel Links: Complete Collection Funimation DVD • \$44⁹⁸ MSRP

Black Clover: Season 1, Part 2 *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$54⁹⁸ MSRP

Galaxy Angel Z: Complete Collection TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment Blu-ray + \$39⁹⁹ MSRP

Handa-kun: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Kino's Journey -The Beautiful World- the Animated Series: Complete Collection Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Negima!?: Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray + \$89⁹⁸ MSRP Patlabor The Mobile Police:Ultimate CollectionMaiden JapanBlu-ray • \$12998 MSRP

Star Blazers 2199, Part 2 *Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

November 13

A Sister's All You Need: Complete Collection Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

And you thought there is never a girl online?: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Code:Realize ~Guardian of Rebirth~: Complete Collection *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Cowboy Bebop (TV & Movie): Complete Collection (The Bounty Hunter's Steel Blu-ray CE) Funimation Blu-ray • \$250⁰⁰ MSRP • Funimation exclusive

Cowboy Bebop the Movie: Knockin' on Heaven's Door (Blu-ray w/Collector's Case) Funimation Blu-ray + \$39⁹⁸ MSRP

Drifters (TV): Complete Collection (Classics) Funimation Blu-ray + \$49⁹⁸ MSRP

atumn 2018



j Releases

Gatchaman Crowds: Seasons 1 & 2 Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray + \$99⁹⁸ MSRP

JOKER GAME: Complete Collection (Essentials) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray • \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

One Piece: Collection 23 *Funimation* DVD • \$34⁹⁸ MSRP

ReLIFE:

Final Arc Crunchyroll/ Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP Sailor Moon SuperS: Season 4, Part 2 Viz Media DVD + \$39⁹⁹ MSRP

Sailor Moon SuperS: Season 4, Part 2 Viz Media Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$69⁹⁹ MSRP

Twin Star Exorcists, Part 3 *Crunchyroll/Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$54⁹⁸ MSRP

November 20

Blood Blockade Battlefront & Beyond: Complete Collection Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$64⁹⁸ MSRP Fate/stay night [Heaven's Feel] I. presage flower Aniplex of America Blu-ray + \$49⁹⁸ MSRP

Fate/stay night [Heaven's Feel] I. presage flower (LE) Aniplex of America Blu-ray + \$79⁹⁸ MSRP

Fireworks GKIDS/Shout! Factory Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$26⁹⁹ MSRP

> Fireworks GKIDS/ Shout! Factory DVD + \$16⁹⁹ MSRP

Ens. Akira Yamamoto, Lt. Kodai Susumu & Lt. Yuki Mori – Star Blazers 2199



Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood Blu-ray Box Set I *Aniplex of America* Blu-ray • \$124⁹⁸ MSRP

Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood Blu-ray Box Set II *Aniplex of America* Blu-ray + \$124⁹⁸ MSRP

GARO -VANISHING LINE, -Part 1 Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Hello Kitty & Friends -Let's Learn Together-: Collection 1 (Sentai Kids) Sentai Filmworks DVD • \$14⁹⁸ MSRP

Hello Kitty & Friends -Let's Learn Together-: Collection 2 (Sentai Kids) Sentai Filmworks DVD • \$14⁹⁸ MSRP

K-ON!: Seasons 1 & 2 + Movie Collection (LE) Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray • \$279⁹⁸ MSRP

Love, Chunibyo & Other Delusions! Take on Me Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$3998 MSRP

Myriad Colors Phantom World: Complete Collection (Essentials) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Space Patrol Luluco: Complete Collection (Essentials) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP The Morose Mononokean: Complete Collection (Essentials) Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

November 27

King's Game: Season 1 Collection Crunchyroll/Funimation Blu-ray/DVD Combo + \$64⁹⁸ MSRP

Regalia - The Three Sacred Stars: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

Tales of the Abyss: Complete Collection *Funimation* Blu-ray/DVD Combo • \$54⁹⁸ MSRP • Sub

Three Leaves, Three Colors: Complete Collection (Essentials) Funimation Blu-ray + \$29⁹⁸ MSRP

UQ HOLDER!: Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks Blu-ray • \$69⁹⁸ MSRP

December 4

Mobile Fighter G Gundam, Vol. 1 SUNRISE/TRSI DVD + \$59⁹⁹ MSRP

Mobile Fighter G Gundam, Vol. 1 SUNRISE/TRSI Blu-ray • \$74⁹⁹ MSRP Mobile Fighter G Gundam: Ultra Edition SUNRISE/TRSI Blu-ray + \$239⁹⁹

Natalia Luzu Kimlasca-Lanvaldear, Ion, Jade Curtiss, Luke fon Fabre, Tear Grants, Mieu, Guy Cecil & Anise Tatlin – Tales of the Abyss



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Genki Life Magazine 🛽 Autumn 2018

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EXPERIENCE

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new anime convention I went to this year was Crunchyroll Expo in San Jose, California. First, let's go back over a year ago... last summer. If you're not familiar with Crunchyroll, it's the largest anime streaming service in the United States. For the past several years, Crunchyroll has had a large presence at many anime and some comic conventions

around the nation as a major sponsor. It goes without saying that at Anime Expo 2017, they were everywhere... heavily promoting shows like Attack on Titan (Shingeki no Kyojin) and Linebarrels of Iron (Kurogane no Linebarrels). It was then I decided to sign up for a Crunchyroll account because I moved completely to internet streaming for all my entertainment.

าดธ

DARLING in the FRANXX

- Premiered January 2018
- 24 episodes
- Studio: A-1 Pictures x TRIGGER
- Now streaming on Crunchyroll!

Synopsis

The distant future: Humanity established the mobile fort city, Plantation, upon the ruined wasteland. Within the city were pilot quarters, Mistilteinn, otherwise known as the "Birdcage." That is where the children live... Their only mission in life was the fight. Their enemies are the mysterious giant organisms known as Kyoryu. The children operate robots known as FRANXX in order to face these still unseen enemies. Among them was a boy who was once called a child prodigy: Code number 016, Hiro. One day, a mysterious girl called Zero Two appears in front of Hiro. "I've found you, my Darling."



Photo by Say Ya! Photography

Above: The DARLING of the FRANXX panel. Next page: The exhibit hall.

A new event that they were promoting was Crunchyroll Expo (or CRX from here on) the following month at the Santa Clara Convention Center in Santa Clara, California. I thought to myself "has Crunchyroll gotten so huge as to host their own convention?" It's another convention to add to the summer convention line-up. For their first time around, they had an impressive lineup of guests like artist Yoshitaka Amano (of *Final Fantasy* fame) and animation director Hiroshi Shimizu (*Yuri!!! on Ice*) from Japan. Because of it's proximity to other conventions I planned on attending, I wasn't able to attend.

The opportunity to attend this year presented itself to me. This past summer, CRX moved to the San Jose McEnery Convention Center. Due to its new location, one can't help but to compare it to FanimeCon two months prior. Having attended FanimeCon many times over the past decade, there is actually no comparison of the two conventions. The only other thing both have in common are the attendees.

Going down to the convention floor after checking in the Hilton, the first thing I noticed were the metal detectors. I found out later that they were at every access point to the convention area. Also, there was a heavy security and police presence throughout the convention area and outside the convention center. It's to be expected with the events happening around the country and as insurance for Crunchyroll. From a professional point of view, this is a must, but for an average attendee, a hassle. The only location where I've encountered long security lines and waits was the Hilton location, though somewhat reasonable.

Although I haven't attended the first CRX, they have heeded the problems with registration and badge pickup for attendees. Event badges were mailed out rather than

having to be picked up at the venue which saved a lot of time. This plagued many large conventions like the infamous "LineCon" at Anime Expo in previous years... 2017! Another point that CRX has taken up is the badge tag system. Attendee badges are implanted with a RFID tag and to be scanned at the various access locations to the convention. This is not only done when entering, but exiting. I've only encountered this in a few large conventions, though mainly San Diego Comic-Con and its affiliate conventions.

For the first day of CRX, there didn't appear to be too many people congregating around the lobby. As you enter the main convention floor above the lobby, the one thing you can't help notice is the huge orange photo wall. It's where you can take commemorative photos you or group



The photo wall on the convention floo.r

and pin it on the wall. Now this was a first for me and it was really fun! DJs were playing all kinds of music and holding events throughout the three days of the con at space between the two staircases from the lobby.

Since I had time before my scheduled interview with a couple of the guest of honors, I spent some time walking around the exhibit hall. At first I didn't expect anything special upon entering. To my surprise, though mundane as it may be, I noticed that the exhibit hall has been carpeted. Just the carpeting alone stepped up the level of CRX than any anime convention I've been too. Not over 9,000 though. The center of the exhibit hall was dominated by the Crunchyroll booth that sold all types of merchandise. One thing I didn't expect though... Crunchyroll was pre-selling a vinyl figure





of their mascot, Hime, through Kotobukiya. That in itself was very impressive. On the final day, I attend the panel hosted by Tiffany Holden, about the process of having Hime becoming an anifigure. A lot of excellent information was given about how Hime evolved from a 2-D image, the many meeting in Japan with the company and which led to first prototypes of the figure. Later on that afternoon, I had a chance to

Prototype Hime-chan figure on presale now.

walk around the rest of the exhibit hall talking to many of the vendors on what they have to offer. To the rear of the exhibit hall were the food vendors that offered a variety of snack for attendees. To the left of the exhibit hall, and almost as large, is artist alley.

This years' line-up of Crunchyroll- and industry-related guests at CRX was more impressive than last year. The anime that was heavily promoted throughout CRX was *My Hero Academia*, therefore the voice actor for Izuku "Deku" Midoriya, Justin Briner, made an appearance. There was also *DARLING in the FRANXX*. The producer, Yūichi Fukushima; director, Atsushi Nishigori; and character designer, Masayoshi Tanaka were present. The action-role playing mobile game, *Honkai: 3rd Impact*, was advertised heavily throughout the con. With the advent of the North American release of *Dragon Quest XI: Echoes of an Elusive Age* for the Playstation 4 game console, game creator, Yūji Horii made an appearance. As a long-time fan of the *Dragon Quest* franchise, I was looking forward to the panel on the last day of CRX. Our return flight made attending the panel impossible.

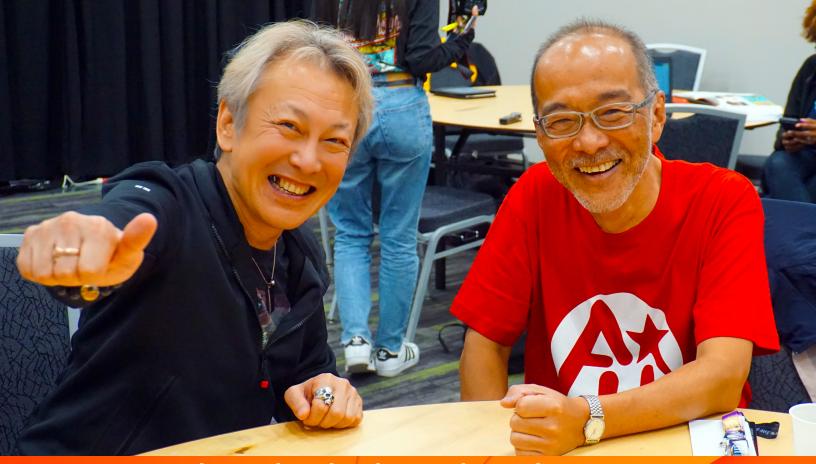
On the first day of CRX, I was fortunate to meet two guests: Shirō Sasaki, president and CEO of ANiUTa, Inc. and veteran voice actor, Ryō Horikawa. In a roundtable interview with both guests, I asked which of their many project were their most difficult and their best projects. Mr. Horikawa answered "I think ... the difficulties to play the role... as I said before, it depends on what I am to make the role ... Yeah ... it depends on what I am right now. I have to try myself. What do I have to say not to... not to be interrupted by fame. I always try to do my best. Always the next one." To answer what is favorite project is simple "The next one." Mr. Sasaki agreed. Mr. Horikawa continued "So sometimes some fans ask me 'What kind of character or anime do you like best?'. I cannot answer it. All of them because I love... love them all. Every character that I do... that I did is very adorable."

The next question I asked was directed to Mr. Sasaki. When I was in Tōkyō back in April, wandering around Akihabara, I found a flyer about ANiUTa so I wanted to know more about it. To paraphrase my question "for anyone who came across ANiUTa for the first time, what is the company about?" Mr. Sasaki replied, via translator "Anime songs, by anime song lovers, to anime some lovers. It's a service." It's a anime song



Characters from the mobile game Food Fantasy.

Genki Life Magazine
Autumn 2018



Voice actor Ryō Horikawa and President of ANiUTa Shirō Sasaki.

streaming service that started in Japan in the spring of 2017 and recently being offer in North America at the beginning this past summer.

CRX had a very good range of panels and events. Looking through the schedule of panels and events, it became evident that CRX was dominated by industrystyle panels. The first day had two major panels overlapped: *Alita: Battle Angel* and ANiUTa panels. The Giraffage concert later on that evening was pretty good. TeddyLoid was the DJ I wanted to see, but I was already exhausted. The following day, I had to miss a third of the con due to a preplanned out-of-con engagement. I made in time to the *Animerica* panel that answered many questions I had about the publication. That evening, I missed most of the masquerade because dinner ran late. Watching the last hour of the masquerade, I was a little confused of how it took place. The host was interviewing the contestants? I had assumed the masquerade was over and about to hand out awards. Then I understood that there were categories that contestant entered. As a category was announced, each contestant would come on stage. After all the contestants for that category finished, each one was called back up to be interviewed. This was the first masquerade that I experienced this



DJ TeddyLoid performing during the Masquerade intermission.



The Magical Girl Ore booth.

format. During the intermission before the awards, I finally got to see TeddyLoid perform... amazing! On the last day of CRX, it was mad rush to get things done, but had time to attend the How to Make a Figure panel. As I mentioned before, it was fascinating how Hime was made into an ani-figure. And there was the *Dragon Quest* panel I wasn't able to attend.

In conclusion, I have to give CRX "two thumbs up" for its second year around. As a long-time anime fan, there were a multitude of things to do and to participate in. The staff, especially the press staff, were very helpful, professional and made me feel welcomed to the convention. I was happy that a majority of the panels were industry rather than fan-based, though nothing wrong about fan panels. The only two negative aspects of CRX is one, the overwhelming security and police presence. Like I mentioned before, I completely understand why. One thing I observed over the weekend, may or may not be a side effect, but I felt that the attendees were better behaved as opposed to past FanimeCons I've attended. Another is not utilizing the San Jose Civic Auditorium across the street for major evens and concerts. Even half of the auditorium is fine. Though the CRX main stage was adequate, being seated on a flat surface, watching events from any of the last two-thirds of the seats was unendurable. You almost instinctively want to stand to clearly see the stage, inconveniencing anyone behind you. Because there was so much to do and see, I'm certain that there were a few things I missed. I predict that CRX will continue to grow every year as it becomes more popular. Crunchyroll Expo in one convention to return to. 🚸 Ed Gomez

Contestants in a group photo at the end of the Masquerade.



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September 20

Light Fingers Numizmatic Games Corporation *E* • Board, Platformer • Switch

Star Control: Origins

Stardock Entertainment, Brad Wardell • Stardock Entertainment NA • Action, Adventure, Indie, Role-Playing, Simulation, Strategy • PC

September 21

8-Bit Invaders! Petroglyph Games, Inc. NA • Strategy • PS4, Xbox1

Xenoblade Chronicles 2: Torna The Golden Country Monolith Soft • Nintendo, T • Role-Playing • Switch

September 25

Dakar 18 Bigmoon Entertainment + Deep Silver NA + Racing + PC, PS4, Xbox1

Punch Line 5pb. Games • PQube NA • Adventure • PC, PS4, PS Vita

The Cat and The Coup Peter Brinson, Kurosh ValaNejad *E • Puzzle • PC, PS4*

Pathfinder: Kingmaker Owlcat Games • Deep Silver NA • Role-Playing • Strategy • PC

Valkyria Chronicles 4 Sega Games Co., Ltd. T • Role-Playing, Strategy • PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

September 27

Life is Strange 2 [Episode 1 Release] DONTNOD Entertainment + Square Enix Co. Ltd. NA + Adventure + PC, Xbox1, PS4

TowerFall (Switch Edition) Matt Makes Games, Inc. E • Action, Fighting • Switch

September 28

9 Monkeys of Shaolin Sobaka Studio • Buka Entertainment T • Action, Adventure, Indie • PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

Dragon Ball Z: Super Butoden [as a bonus with

Dragon Ball FighterZ] Arc System Works Co., Ltd. + Bandai Namco Entertainment, Inc. *T* • *Fighting* • *Switch*

FIFA 19 EA Vancouver, EA Romania • Electronic Arts, Inc NA • Sports • PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

October 2

Fist of the North Star: Lost Paradise Sega CS1 R&D • Sega Games Co., Ltd. M • Action, Adventure • PS4

Forza Horizon 4

Playground Games + Microsoft Studios NA • Racing • PC, Xbox1

Mega Man 11 Capcom E • Action, Platformer • PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

October 5

Assassin's Creed Odyssey Ubisoft Quebec • Ubisoft Entertainment NA • Action, Adventure • PC, PS4, Xbox1



Super Mario Party Nintendo of America, Inc. E • Party • Switch

October 9

Disgaea 1 Complete Nippon Ichi Software, Inc. • NIS America, Inc. T • Role-Playing. Strategy • PS4, Switch

Chiyako, Chiranosuke, Meika Daihatsu, Lovera Chichibu & Ito Hikiotani – Punch Line

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WWE 2K19

Yuke's, Visual Concepts • 2K Sports T • Sports • PC, PS4, Xbox1

The Occupation White Paper Games • Humble Bundle *T* • Strategy • PC, PS4, Xbox1

October 11

Child of Light Ubisoft Montreal • Ubisoft Entertainment E • Role-Playing • PC, Switch

October 12

Call of Duty: Black Ops 4

Treyarch • Activision Publishing, Inc. NA • Shooter • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Luigi's Mansion Nintendo of America, Inc. *E* • *Action, Adventure* • 3DS

The World Ends With You: Final Remix

Nintendo of America, Inc. • Square Enix Co. Ltd. T • Action, Adventure, Role-Playing • Switch

October 16

LEGO DC Super-Villains Traveller's Tales + Warner Bros.

Interactive Entertainment E • Action, Adventure • PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

Starlink: Battle for Atlas Ubisoft Entertainment NA • Action, Adventure • PS4, Switch. Xbox1 Warriors Orochi 4

Koei Tecmo, Omega Force • Koei Tecmo Games NA • Action • PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

October 18

Reigns: Game of Thrones Nerial • Devolver Digital NA • Card, Role-Playing • PC

Daisukenojo "Beat" Bito, Yoshiya "Joshua" Kiryu, Neku Sakuraba, Shiki Misaki & Raimu "Rhyme" Bito – The World Ends With You





October 19

Dark Souls Remastered FromSoftware + Bandai Namco

Entertainment, Inc. M · Action, Adventure, Role-Playing · Switch

Dark Souls Trilogy

FromSoftware + Bandai Namco Entertainment, Inc. *T*–*M* • *Action, Adventure,* Role-Playing • PS4, Xbox1

Soulcalibur VI

Bandai Namco Entertainment, Inc. $T \cdot Fighting \cdot PC$, PS4, Xbox1

October 23

Just Dance 2019 Ubisoft, Ubisoft Paris, Ubisoft Shanghai, Ubisoft Pune + Ubisoft Entertainment NA · Dance, Music · PS3, PS4, Switch, Wii, Wii-U, X360, Xbox1

PAW Patrol: On a Roll

Spin Master Entertainment + **Outright Games** E · Adventure · PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

October 26

My Hero One's Justice

Byking + Bandai Namco Entertainment, Inc. NA · Action, Fighting · PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox1

Red Dead Redemption 2 Rockstar Games NA • Action, Adventure • PS4, Xbox1

October 30

Call of Cthulhu: The Official Video Game Cyanide Studio + Focus Home Interactive M • Role-Playing, Horror • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Steven Universe: Save the Light

Grumpyface Studios, Finite Reflection Studios + Cartoon Network Games E · Action, Adventure, Indie, Role-Playing • Switch

Yomawari: The Long Night Collection

Nippon Ichi Software, Inc. + NIS America, Inc. $T-M \cdot Adventure$. Horror \cdot Switch

November 2

Football Manager 2019

Sports Interactive + Sega Games Co., Ltd. E • Sports, Simulation • PC

Football Manager 2019 Touch

Sports Interactive + Sega Games Co., Ltd. E • Sports, Simulation • PC

Taiko no Tatsujin: Drum 'n' Fun! Bandai Namco Studios + Bandai

Namco Entertainment, Inc. E · Music, Rhythm · PS4, Switch

November 6

ARK: Extinction -**Expansion Pack** Studio Wildcard, Instinct Games, Efecto Studios. Virtual Basement. LLC. + Studio Wildcard T • Action, Adventure, Indie, Massively Multiplayer, Role-Playing • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Brawlhalla

Blue Mammoth Games + Ubisoft, Blue Mammoth Games NA • Fighting • Switch, Xbox1

Carnival Games Mass Media + 2K E • Party • Switch

GRIP: Combat Racing Caged Element, Inc. • Wired Production Limited E • Action, Indie, Racing • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Overkill's The Walking Dead Starbreeze Studios + 505 Games NA · Action, First Person Shooter · PC, PS4, Xbox1

The Forest Endnight Games, Ltd. NA • Adventure, Horror • PS4

November 8

Ride 3 Milestone S.r.l. E • Racing • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Valiant Hearts

Ubisoft Montpellier + Ubisoft Entertainment NA · Puzzle, Adventure · Switch

November 9

11-11: Memories Retold

Aardman Animations, Digixart + Bandai Namco Entertainment, Inc. NA • Adventure • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Hitman 2

IO Interactive A/S • Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment NA • Action, Stealth • PC, PS4, Xbox1

November 13

SNK 40th

Anniversary Collection SNK Corporation + NIS America, Inc. $T \cdot Action$, Compilation \cdot Switch

Spyro Reignited Trilogy Toys For Bob + Activision Publishing, Inc.

E • Platformer • PS4, Xbox1

November 14

Fallout 76 Bethesda Game Studios + Bethesda Softworks NA • Role-Playing • PC, PS4, Xbox1

November 15

The Settlers: **History Collection** Blue Byte + Ubisoft Entertainment $T \cdot Strategy, Simulation \cdot PC$

Underworld Ascendant

OtherSide Entertainment + 505 Games NA · Action, Adventure, Indie, Role-Playing • PC

ESRB rating at time of publication. The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice,

Console & Desktop Gaming

Pokémon: Let's Go, Pikachu! GAME FREAK, Inc. • Nintendo of America, Inc. E • Adventure, Role-Playing • Switch

November 20

Battlefield V DICE • Electronic Arts, Inc NA • Shooter • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Wreckfest Bugbear Entertainment • THQ Nordic NA • Racing • PS4, Xbox1

November 27

Artifact Valve Corporation NA • Strategy • PC

Darksiders III Gunfire Games • THQ Nordic NA • Action, Adventure • PC, PS4, Xbox1

> Aigis, Junpei Iori & Yukari Takeba – Persona 3: Dancing in Moonlight

December 4

Just Cause 4 Avalanche Studios • Square Enix Co. Ltd. M • Action, Adventure • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Mutant Year Zero:

Road to Eden The Bearded Ladies Consulting, Game Ark, LLC. • Funcom Oslo A/S NA • Adventure • PC, PS4, Xbox1

Override: Mech City Brawl The Balance, Inc. • Modus Games NA • Action • PC, PS4 Xbox1

Persona 3: Dancing in Moonlight P Studio • Atlus Co., Ltd. T • Music, Rhythm • PS4, PS Vita

Persona 5: Dancing in Starlight P Studio • Atlus Co., Ltd. T • Music, Rhythm • PS4, PS Vita

December 7

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Nintendo, BANDAI NAMCO Entertainment, Sora Ltd., Bandai Namco Studios • Nintendo of America, Inc. NA • Fighting • Switch



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Warhammer 40,000: Mechanicus Bulwark Studios • Kasedo Games NA • Strategy • PC

November 16

Pokémon: Let's Go, Eevee! GAME FREAK, Inc. • Nintendo of America, Inc. *E* • *Adventure*, *Role-Playing* • *Switch*

BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle ブレイブルー クロスタッグバトル

June 5, 2018 (NA) Arc System Works • PQube

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ BlazBlue:_Cross_Tag_Battle http://arcsystemworks.com/game/ blazblue-cross-tag-battle/ http://www.blazblue.jp/tag/

Platform: Nintendo Switch, Sony PlayStation 4, Microsoft Windows

Director: Mori, Toshimichi Artist: Higuchi, Konomi

Genre: 2D Fighting

Rating ESRB: Teen

Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 201

With

orry about this review being late, as I already know of this posting that *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle* is already out and those of you who are reading this review that had interest probably picked it up. I did not receive this review code from Ark System Works until literally seven minutes before the game was set to be launched! On the flip side, some of you who are holding out for an unbiased review might still be waiting, so thankfully you know everything is fine as "I am here!"

It should be noticed that as far as series, I have heard of every single property currently covered in *BlazBlue*: *Cross Tag Battle*; *BlazBlue*, *RWBY*, *Persona 4 Arena* and *Under Night In-Birth*. I am most familiar with the *BlazBlue* games, though I have briefly played *Persona 4 Arena/ Ultimax* but it has been some years. Though I was really wanting to get my hands on the new fighting games IP by Soft Circle French-Bread since I enjoyed *Melty Blood*, I had not gotten a chance to play *Under Night In-Birth Exe: Late*[st] yet.

However, for this review I will be doing my very best

to not make comparisons of characters in this game versus their past selves; it is an entirely new game with its own fighting systems and mechanics. I will do my best to keep that in mind when going through the game and experiencing everything it has to offer.

Entrance

This game starts you off at the "Entrance," which is basically a hub where you can connect to everything that *BlazBlue*: Cross Tag Battle has to offer (they even describe it as the game's "main menu" in the initial prompt you receive when you load into the game for the very first time). You are able to walk around as an avatar (default is "Ragna the Bloodedge" from *BlazBlue*), one of which you can choose the look of later on. The hub itself is a small sealed off area with background pieces representatives of the four universes that are crossed over in this fighting title; BlazBlue, RWBY, Persona 4 Arena and Under Night In-Birth.



You also have entrances to the Kaka Kittens Item shop, Online Lobby, Rankings Board, Episode Mode, Kajun (F.A.Q.) and Playing Online/Offline.

Kajun

A prompt appears shortly after you arrive, it tells you to talk to "Kajun," an NPC avatar, if you have any questions that may need to be answered (in the picture above, she is the light-purpled haired avatar with the big question mark above her head). Kajun is basically a help menu with F.A.Q. (frequently asked questions) to help get a player started and familiarize themselves with the game through brief synopsis of the system; "What are P\$?," "I want more character colors!," "How do I move the camera?," etc. They even have a "What's up with network color?" which describes the "threat level" of a player, something they did not previously do in *Dragon Ball FighterZ*.

Main Menu

As you can also see, you can push the triangle button to bring up the "Main Menu" while within in the hub (as well as a few other locations), which have a variety of different menu options available to the player that are separated into four separate categories; Offline, Online, Customize and Options.

- Offline Episode Mode, Training Mode, V.S. Mode, Tactics Mode, Survival Mode, Gallery Mode and Replay Theater.
- Online Online Lobby, Entry, Create Room Match, Room Match Search and Rankings.
- Customize Profile, Customize and Item Shop.
- **Options** System Options, Game Options, Display Options, Sound & Language, Network Options and Button Settings.

Options

Allows customization of various system options that affect most of the game's modes.



- System Options Vibration Setting, Camera Control (Horizontal), Camera Control (Vertical), Auto-save and Save.
- Game Options Game Difficulty, Time Limit (Versus), Pause Menu and Save Replay (Versus).
- Screen Options Upper HUD and Lower HUD.
- Sound & Language Master Volume, BGM Volume, Voice Volume, System Voice Volume, Sound Effect Volume, BG Sound Effect Volume, Battle Voice Language, Voice Language and Text Language.
- Network Options Replay Upload, Saving Replays (Ranked Lobby), Saving Replays (Casual Lobby), Auto-save Replays (Room Matches) and Auto-save Replays (While spectating).
- Button Settings Attack A, Attack B, Clash, Change, Partner, Simple Aerial Dash, Reverse Action, Throw, Cross Burst, Function 1 and Function 2.

Customize

This menu option allows you a few options over customizing certain aspects of your online representation. You will be able to choose from "Profile," "Customize," and "Item Shop."



Profile

Able to see their current online card and allows the player to access to their online battle history (the Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018 player's 3 most used characters along with their current TP (Tag Points); Rank Lobby, Casual Lobby and Room Match Battles).

Customize

The Customize option is where you are able to pick different aesthetics you have acquired to represent your online identity.

- Avatar & Accessories Option allows for players to choose the character they want to represent them as they walk around the Entrance and Online lobbies.
- Icon Which character picture the player wants to display in the upper right hand section of their Player Card.
- VS Plate The Player Card background itself.
- Quick MSG Able to set a short message of whatever you want that can be viewed by other players that is displayed on the Player Card.

Item Shop

The Kaka Kittens Item shop is where you will be spending the P\$ you earn through playing the various modes that *Blaz-Blue: Cross Tag Battle* has to offer.

- Lobby Avatar Shop — Able to buy different lobby avatars from the 4 series representative in BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle; costs 25,000 P\$ each.
- Icon Shop —

Able to buy different icons which will appear in the upper left-hand corner of the Player Card; costs 500 P\$ each. Has different categories, including "Papery" from the emotes you can use with your avatar and previous art from different games in each of the 4 series that make up *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle.*

- **Title Plate Shop** The plates available to customize your title; costs 5,000 P\$ each.
- Color Shop Allow you to buy different palettes in a variety of color combinations for your preferred characters; costs 10,000 P\$ each.

IMPRESSIONS — Overall, I feel like we do not have very many options available to us here. On the other hand, I did not expect much since it is a fighting game using sprites from various other games, it is nearly impossible to get new outfits or to customize anything outside of the Player Card. However, I would have liked to at least been given more palettes rather than having additional colors for characters be locked behind \$2.99 packs as DLC.

Offline

Offline mode contains the most variety out of all of them; Episode Mode, Training Mode, V.S. Mode, Tactics Mode, Survival Mode, Gallery Mode and Replay Mode.





Episode Mode

"Episode Mode" is the story mode for *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle.* It discusses the conditions in which everyone from the 4 franchises representative in this game come to be in the same spot and why they have to fight in a tag team battle format. There are different chapters; The prologue, *BlazBlue, Persona, Under Night In-Birth* and *RWBY*. There are separate endings, different story paths and the true endings that are reminiscent of *BlazBlue's* typical story mode.

IMPRESSIONS — The story to me was pretty good, it was funny throughout and characters retained their personalities and traits from their original games. It was interesting to see some of the teammates and the interactions. However, I feel like the story in itself was not very good and could have been done better, the boss was also pretty standard with them not deviating at all within the "true ending." Besides that, the only story with multiple paths is the *BlazBlue* storyline, I would have like to see alternate endings for all series involved.

To be honest, I was hoping for something more elaborate like they do within the core *BlazBlue* games, not to mention they missed a chance to bring in some original characters for this game or at least a new unlockable character we have not seen before. All-in-all, it was an enjoyable experience but not one I see myself playing through completely more than once, but since this is a fighting game, that one time is enough.

Training Mode

This is a typical mode found within any modern fighting game. The purpose of training mode is to practice combos, situations you may find yourself in, and how to defend against your opponent's offensive pressure, mix-ups, and potential punishes due to your own incomplete block strings. You have a few options within training mode to customize the conditions to



your preferred training regimen.

- Character & Stage BGM Deals with what characters are current present in training mode, the stage you are on and the music for that stage.
- **Basic Settings** Has to do with basic settings like character health and the starting positions of the characters on the stage.
- **Dummy Settings** Deals with the behavior of the CPU. Can adjust things like counter hit, blocking and ukemi behavior.
- Information Display Has to deal with the display of information during the training process; damage numbers, input command history, etc.
- **Recording Settings** Has to deal with recordable actions you can give to the training dummy in order to simulate anything the player feels necessary to train against.
- Character Settings (BB/P4A) Deals with character specific mechanics; such as Chie Satonaka's Charge and Rachel Alucard's Sylpheed.

IMPRESSIONS — Training mode is fine, it has typical options you see in other fighting games without trying to reinvent the wheel. It is sufficient in its options to practice against your opponent's option while exploring your own, I have no qualms with anything we find here since I find the key aspects are not lacking. The only thing I would have liked is for this mode to also be online so you can train with a friend and explore options together.

V.S. Mode

This is typical of what you see in other fighting games, it simply allows you to play another player or a CPU offline locally. This is ideal for when a friend Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018 comes over and you want to go head-to-head. Not to mention you will see this mode at the variety of tournaments that are sure to be held for *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle,* not to mention it will be the mode most used at the Evolution 2018 World Fighting Game Championships.

Tactics Mode

Tactics mode helps to teach the player the core mechanics of the game. It is designed to introduce those who are new to *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle*, as well as fighting games in general, a rundown of what you should be doing. There are a few different options inside of tactics mode which cover a variety of necessary things.

- **Basics** This teaches you the basic mechanics of the game starting from the ground up. You have things like the game rules, basic movement, guarding, ukemi and how to use various skills. This is ideal for anyone who wants to learn what is different in *BlazBlue*: *Cross Tag Battle* compared to other games in the *BlazBlue* series, or for people who are new to fighting games in general.
- **Practical Application** These deal with some of the core game mechanics that are more intricate and complex; such as the Cross Burst, Throw

Rejection, Resonance Blaze, etc. You will need to master these in order to make the most out of the unique fighting system.

- Characters This gives brief explanations of each character within the cast, a list of their moves the player can perform and combo trials ranging from basic to more advanced. This is a must do for players who are trying to learn exactly how to combo with any particular character and get an inkling of how to go about playing with them.
- Mission In my honest opinion, this should have been called "Practical Application" as it is tailored to situations the player will encounter within the game and will need to deal with. This type of mode first debuted in the *Guilty Gear Xrd* series and I feel like it should be in every single game. It shows you how to counter ukemi hunters, how to punish whiffed attacks and so much more that players will need to know how to do. This is absolutely essential for those who do not understand fighting games enough to know what

they should be working on. *IMPRESSIONS* — I find this mode to be good, they did not take as much effort as they typically do within the *BlazBlue* series or in the *Guilty Gear* series, but they did enough so that those who want to be familiar with the system do not find themselves starved for information. The "Mission Mode" is good, it teaches you things you might not have thought about and can be utilized in real matches the vast majority of the time.

Overall this shows the game has an impressive amount of depth despite its simplified fighting game button layout; auto-combos are quite good but the necessary measures have been taken to prevent button mashers from gaining too much of an upperhand (such as not being able to Cross Burst after a Universal Reversal attack). All-in-all, I think those who give the game a shot will be pleasantly surprised how well a newbie friendly approach to their typical complex mechanics achieved what they were after; enough complexity to keep veteran fighters interested while being fun enough for newcomers to enjoy what the characters have to offer.

Survival Mode

Survival Mode is what you would normally find in any game with this name; you are to defeat randomly generated teams of opponents one after the other in order to attempt to see how many you can defeat before your team's health is depleted to zero. You regain a little bit of life after each successful win, so the better you do the more health you can gain after each fight.



IMPRESSIONS — Honestly, this is just par for the course for this type of mode. The only thing I have a problem with is that I do not believe you have "Boss" type characters that you will encounter (though if you did, it more than likely would be the one from Episode Mode). As of this posting, I was able to get 19 consecutive wins in survival before succumbing to the CPU opponents, so possibly there is something once you reach level 20. However, as of now, at levels 10 or 15 I did not see anything more than what they present to you. Also, does not seem like they give you a huge increase in P\$ either, giving less incentive to play this mode.



Gallery Mode

This mode is a collection of character art, illustrations and movies that are present in *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle.* If anyone is familiar with the *BlazBlue* series, every iteration has had something akin to a Gallery Mode, sometimes even just calling it that. More illustrations can be unlocked as you progress through Episode Mode and begin to obtain endings and character interactions. Overall, it is pretty standard and a self-explanatory mode that does what it is suppose to.

Replay mode

Just as the name suggests, this is a mode tailored for replays that the player has saved of their matches. It is able to be accessed from the main menu whenever the player feels like; though certain match-types require that the player be connected online to watch them. Unknown whether-or-not replays will be deleted when the game's characters or mechanics received a balance patch, or if it will be saved in a separate section according to the game version number.

Online

This is a rundown of *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle's* online mode. It is mainly having to do with the many different ways you can meet up and battle other players who are enjoying the game; though you also have



Genki Life Magazine • Autumn 2018

a mode to watch your replay and to view your overall ranking in a variety of different categories.

- Online Lobby Various hubs for Casual and Ranked Matches that can hold up to 64 people at a time. Contains various one-versus-one stations with an option available to rematch. Can see opponent's username, threat level, avatar and connection freely as you pass them by. Also features options for changing characters, stages and background music from the menu.
- Entry Where you can set your characters, stage, background music and preferences for Ranked Matches that also include connectivity requirements.
- Create Room Match Allows you to create your own room with an optional keyword for private matches; can set the parameters of the room (Winner stays, Fixed matches, Loser stays, etc.).
- Room Match Search Allows you to search for created rooms based on preferences that you set; also includes a keyword option in case a friend has created a room and you want to search for them to play in a few Room Matches.
- Rankings World Rankings for *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle*! Includes

IMPRESSIONS — The online is one of the

smoothest I have come across, but that is no surprise from Arc System Works. While most may feel like delaybased netcode is archaic and that they should be using rollback netcode, it has always worked for them since I began to play their online fighters starting with *BlazBlue: Calamity Trigger*.

The only real problems I have about the whole thing is that Room Match should have the same settings as the online lobby; we are currently missing the options to change our preferences (character, stage and background music) and we cannot rematch. Matches are easy enough to get into and matchmaking in rooms is quick enough to where it is not a total hindrance, but I wish the option was readily available. Oh! Also, like most Arc System Works fighters (outside of *Dragon Ball FighterZ*) it is difficult to get Ranked Matches, mostly because the majority of players prefer to stick to online lobbies (as seen in *Guilty Gear Xrd* series).

Downloadable Content (DLC)

BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle has already announced some DLC! Some are already out in the store and some are coming along shortly. While some are characters, there are also three DLCs for different colors that affect all characters when purchased. The colors themselves are \$3.99 each and you can buy character packs for \$4.99 each (which contain multiple characters).

> BlazBlue — Platinum the Trinity, Jubei and Hakumen.
> Persona 4 Arena — Kanji Tatsumi, Aegis and Naoto Shirogane.

- *Under Night In-Birth* Orie Ballardiae, Carmine and Vatista.
- *RWBY* Blake Belladonna and Yang Xiao-Long.

Besides the characters listed above, there have also been rumors of additional DLC characters: *BlazBlue's* Izayoi, Mai Natsume and Nine the Phantom; *Persona 4 Arena's* Mitsuru Kirijo, Akihiko Sanada and Labrys; and finally *Under Night In-Birth's* Merkava, Yuzuriha and Mika. There have also been rumor's of Senran Kagura character's Asuka and Yumi, but nothing confirmed there either.

The only thing that disappointments me is that we do not have other characters that are rumored from *RWBY*, but I did hear the sprites took longer than anticipated. I would have loved to possibly get Nora Valkyrie as a playable character, Penny would have been good as well since I love her personality.



The Verdict: A Definite Purchasel STRENGTHS — Diverse combatants from many great series; fast and fun combat system; Amazing music from *RWBY*, *P4A*, *BlazBlue* and *UNiB*; great stages from all series included; simple and effective online.

WEAKNESSES — Did not redo some of the more dated *BlazBlue* sprites, could use more color palettes that are not DLC, needs more customization in the way of unlockable content, and simplified fighting style could cause some frustration due to button-mashing mishaps causing full combos from some opponents.

Final Thoughts — BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle is a great crossover series that is done in a way expected of Arc System Works; with love, respect to all series involved and a fun overall fighting game experience. The music, characters and stages of BlazBlue, Persona 4 Arena, RWBY and Under Night In-Birth come together to create an immaculate experience in the way that older fighting games like Marvel vs Capcom 2: New Age of Heroes, which utilized sprites from *X-Men: Children of the Atom, Street Fighter Alpha,* etc., did. The only glaring weakness I can see is that they did not do a lot to keep casual gamers playing outside of the usual fighting; Survival Mode can get stale and something akin to *Guilty Gear Xrd's* "M.O.M Mode" would have been appreciated.

I think those who enjoyed any of the fighting game series included, or want to see RWBY characters in their first hardcore fighter, will be impressed by what *BlazBlue*: *Cross Tag Battle* has to offer. They kept things fresh by not appealing too much to just one of the series' mechanics and included enough to give it an identity of its own while presenting a good mix of offensive pressure, defensive mechanics and countermeasures to balance each of them out. While some could bag on Arc System Works for the simplified controls and (auto-combos), the system is deep enough to afford some leniency for newer players and those who have been scared of "anime fighters" due to their grueling execution requirements opposed to game series like Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, but full combos coming from mashing could cause some frustration in veteran players.

In closing, I am giving my recommendation for anyone who is on the fence about *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle* to purchase it; the game is fun, has a great amount of characters representative of awesome series, and I personally feel whoever buys it will enjoy it be they casual or tournament-ready gamers. In an genre which are still seeing new games announced and more in the way of a the "tag format," *BlazBlue: Cross Tag Battle* manages to be unique and carve its own identity. Cannot wait to see what they have to offer come time for Evolution 2018 in August! ***** Rok the Reaper



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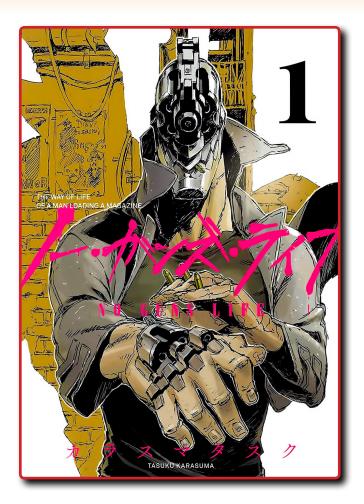


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Designed, Created, Sewn in the USA







Juzo, Inui The main protagonist. He's an Exterder with a surplus GSU (Gun Slave Unit) enhancement with a head shaped like a revolver. He opend a counselors office as a "Handler" to solve Extender problems.



Arahabaki, Tetsurou An Exterder boys who remotely controls "Harmony." He os the eldest son of company's CEO, but was a test subject to be an Exterder. He's considered to be an orphan.



An Externder engineer. She is an old friend of Jūzō that he protects.

No Guns Life by Task Karasuma (カラスマタスク)

My name is Inui Jūzō. After that Great War, I make a living by "handling" problems about people in this town called "Externders," whose bodies are modified. I have no memories of my life and body before my head was transformed into a gun. I'm is assisted by Mary, an intelligent young woman that I've taken under my protection.

Here's a preview of the two chapter. Be sure to support the author.

These pages are meant to read in spreads, side by side. The story flow will be off, if read page by individual page.

Genki Life Magazine = Autumn 2018

No Guns Life ノー・ガンズ・ライフ

Shueisha • Ultra Jump October 2014 – ongoing, 7 Volumes

https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/ノー・ガ ンズ・ライフ

http://ultra.shueisha.co.jp/artist/54/

Author: Task Karasuma

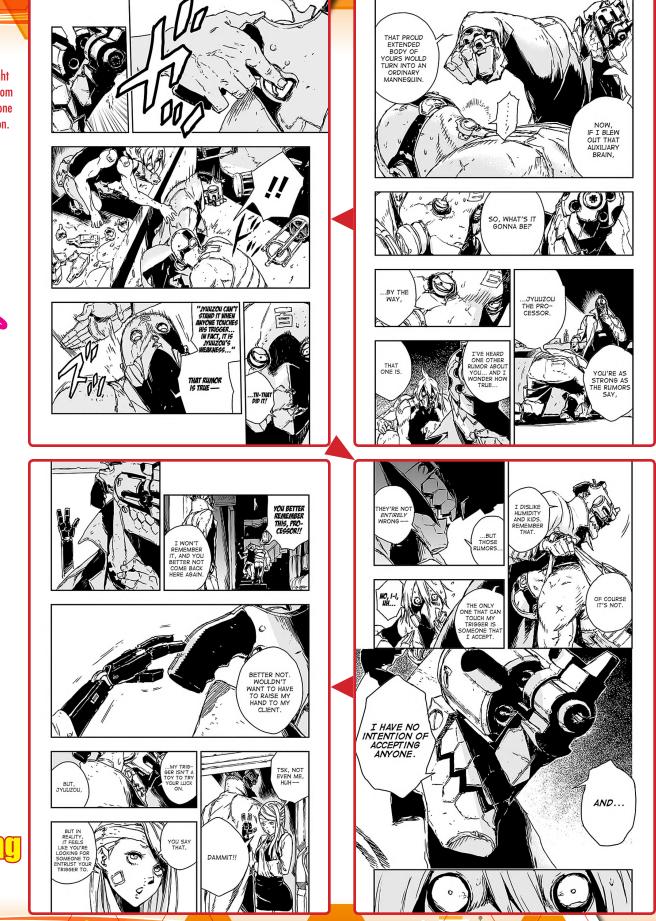
Genre: Action, Drama, Sci-Fi

Format: Softcover/Manga Price: ¥600 MSRP each volume

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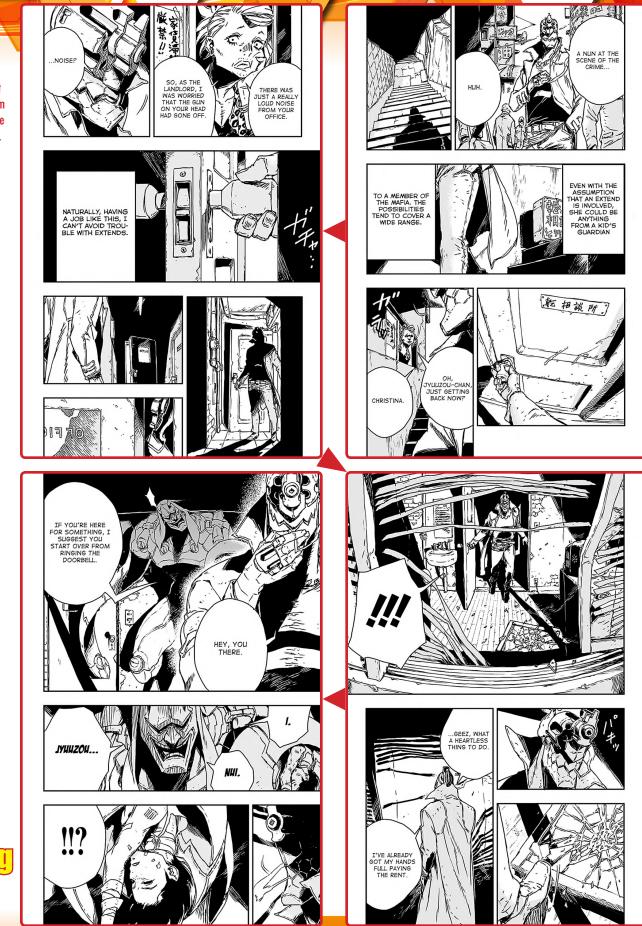




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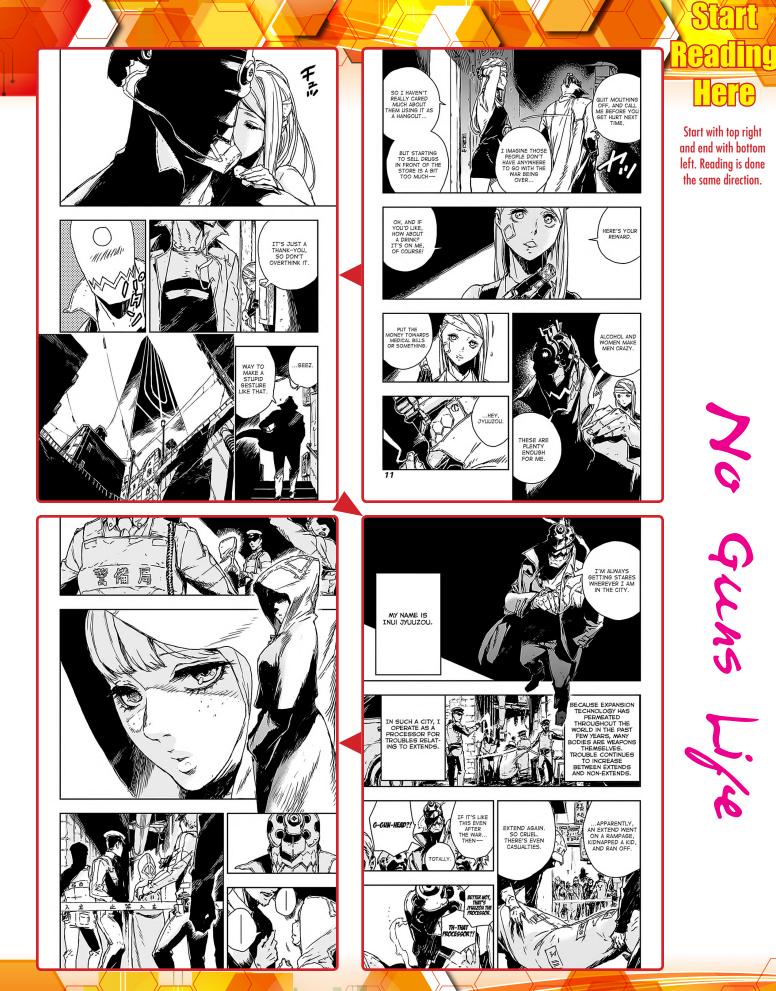
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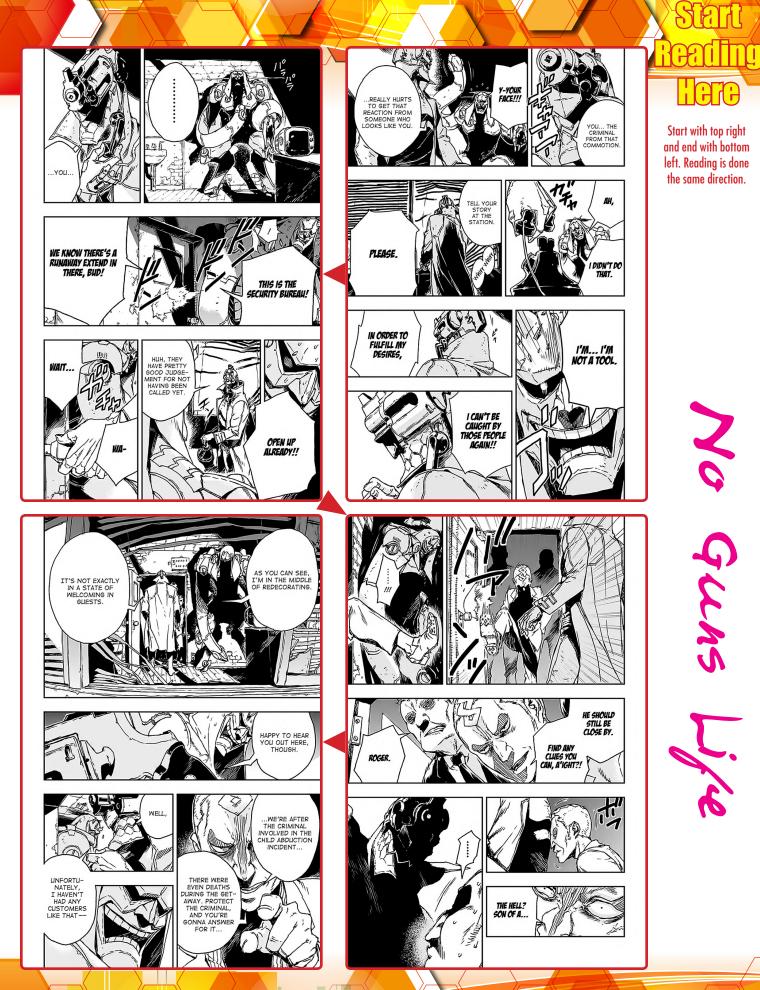




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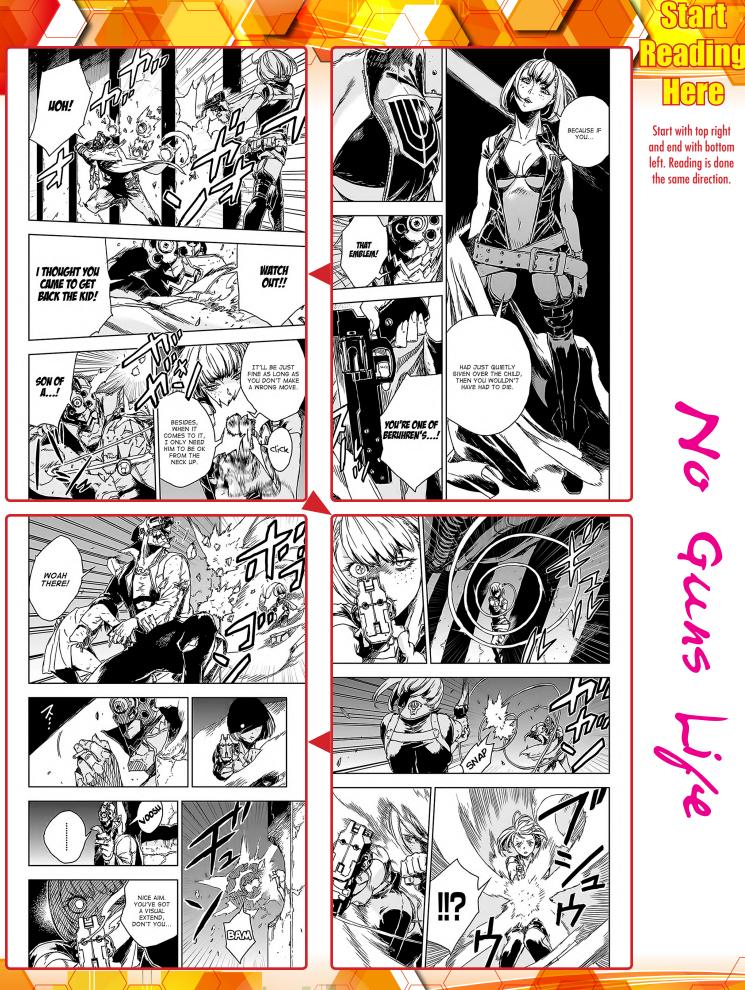
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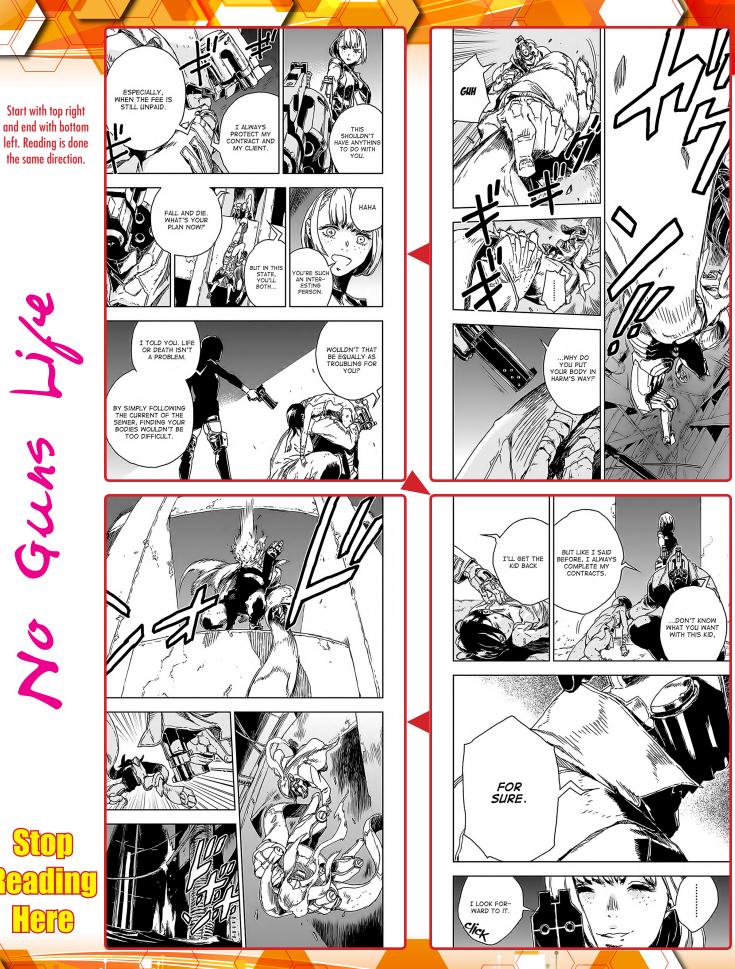
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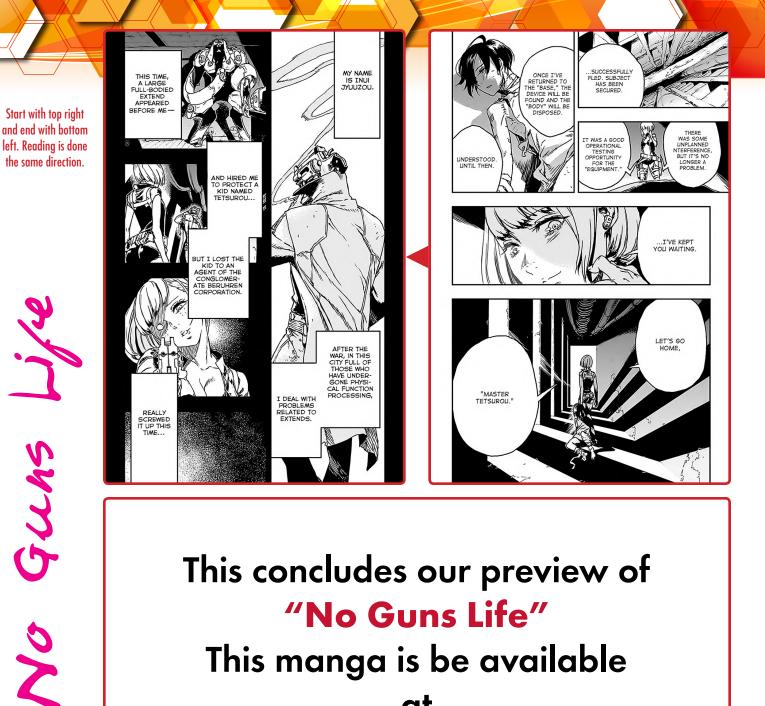


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This concludes our preview of **"No Guns Life"** This manga is be available at **Kinokuniya Bookstores** www.kinokuniya.com or at your local Japanese manga retailer.



Coming September 24

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