

Issue 5, Winter 2009.

# J-ZINE

FTVMAGAZINE

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K-ON! Special Issue

Anime Review

Mio Character Bio







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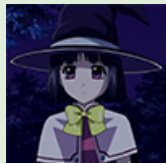
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By:



**Maiku\_Ando**

### *Welcome to Issue 5 of J-Zine!*

*Welcome to the first issue of our second year, and volume 2. This issue is being released a little later than our usual release date, but fear not, we are still going, and as always we bring you the anime previews and our special features, which this time are all about the hit show K-On!*

J-Zine has been through a lot of changes over the last 4 months. We have said farewell to quite a number of our team members, and at the same time welcomed in some new faces. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped with J-zine in the past and hope that one day you can come back to us, and to also say a big well done to all our new members for their hard work. We are, however, still a little short on writers, and we have a vacancy on our picture desk.

### *Join The Team !*

If you love anime or manga, are into roleplay, or if you just like writing, even if you have never thought of being part of a magazine, do drop by and let us know; we are always looking for new ideas and new articles. We'll help you every step of the way, so give it a try. You can drop by the forum, send a PM, or contact me by email.

Over the next few months we will be going through some more big changes, and there may be a gap before our next release while we work out some problems and plan the future of J-Zine. We are looking to improve the quality of our releases, as well as fix some of our production difficulties. We will post updates on the blog, so please keep checking back for more details. We hope to be back better than ever with our next issue, in 2010.

Every issue we try our hardest to improve the quality of the articles, design, and overall feel of the magazine, but we need your help! The only way we can make J-Zine better is if you, the reader, tell us what you want; we need your opinions! Tell us what you like, what you don't like, and let us know your thoughts on how to improve the magazine. Help us make the next issue even better for everyone!

You can leave feedback via the forums or by leaving a comment on our official blog! Come and take a look at <http://blogs.fansub.tv/jzine1> and let us know your thoughts. The blog is not just about feedback and comments; we also have some handy guides on how to write articles for J-Zine, some of our special articles from past issues, and a music player by Noshi. It's also the only place to download every issue of J-Zine!

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# Moe Corner

Written by Kit-Tsukasa







## Moe Corner



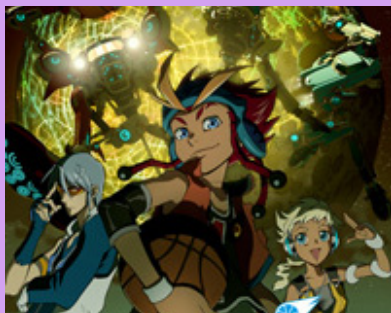
By Kit-Tsukasa

As the moe trend continues, the competition for the top 10 remains difficult for many characters.

Some easily stand out, while others continue to struggle with just claiming that tenth spot.

Summer 2009 is no exception with a bunch of characters using different approaches to claim a spot, making the competition a fierce one...

2009.3



### #10 ECLIPSE from Basquash!

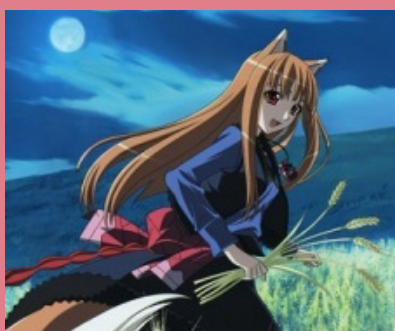
This is more of a personal preference as I could possibly put a Saki character here given the popularity of its characters this season. Basquash! lacks much attention due to the fact that many people thought the concept was beyond ridiculous; however, those who watched it will understand why the Eclipse trio is actually moe even though it is hard to describe the moe. Although the series is not really moe-based, it definitely has some perks when it comes to the trio, especially given the seiyuus: Haruka Tomatsu (Lala from To Love-Ru and Nagi from Kannagi) as Rouge, Megumi Nakajima (Ranka from Macross Frontier) as Citron, and Saori Hayami (Saki Morimi from Higashi no Eden and Musubi from Sekirei) as Violette.



### #9 Alice aka B-Rabbit from Pandora Hearts

Alice remains in the same position as last time. Not much has really happened with her except some character development about who she really is.

Overall, Pandora Hearts has become more serious and less comedic, thus not really helping in terms of moe; however, we do still see Alice in some rather unique outfits that she does not usually wear, thus keeping her still ranked relatively high above many of the other characters this season.



### #8 Horo/Holo from Spice and Wolf II

It is a rather big surprise to see Horo at the #8 spot, and I do not mean that in a good way. As much as I would like to bump Horo higher up the list, her lack of interaction this season has made it difficult to push her any higher than this. She still has the same cunning and seductive personality, but even those will not help. Her partner, Lawrence, probably understands best that time is money, and with very little screen time for Horo, she is not going to get the reward of ranking higher than she is now.



### #7 Mika Kujiin from Kanamemo

As expected, at least one Kugimiya character was bound to make it into the top ten. It is uncommon to see a Kugimiya character not make it here, with of course a few exceptions. Nevertheless, Mika Kujiin is essentially the typical Kugimiya type character: tsundere, flat chest, and loli. Mika fits into that description exactly. Kanamemo is not exactly the most popular show this season, but it does contain a decent amount of moe. Unfortunately, most characters are really just moe blobs and not truly moe; Mika is simply an exception.





#### #6 Nodoka Haramura from Saki

By this point, it should not be a surprise that Saki is going to be the dominating series in moe this summer. J-Saimoe already shows the results and Nodoka has already done so as well by racking up one of the largest number of votes in the competition. Originally ranked 10th in the June issue, with K-ON! having finished, the road has been paved clear for the Saki cast to become the dominant figures in this issue. With the aid of her penguin, Etopen and the shoujo-ai subtext with her beloved friend, Saki Miyana, Nodoka continues to remain a favorite among the fans.

#### #5 Yuuki Kataoka from Saki

Yet another character from Saki. Yuuki has returned from the last moe corner and similarly with Nodoka, with K-ON! now out of the running, Yuuki has bumped herself up a spot. The Kugimiya syndrome continues to strike fans head on as the taco lover continues to steam roll through much of the competition around her. Although she seems to be the weakest mahjong player on her team, when it comes to a moe-fest, Taco-chan will seemingly prevail over all.



#### #4 Maria Ushiromiya from Umineko no Naku Koro ni



Those who know Maria's seiyuu, Yui Horie, may remember that she also voiced the moe ~au au~ Hanyuu Furude from Umineko's sister series, Higurashi no Naku Koro ni. Who would have thought that Maria, a loli psychopath, would be voiced by that same Yui Horie. Most characters voiced by Yui Horie have often been moe via cute little sounds like "au" or "uguu," and Maria is no exception. Her psychotic personality in addition to cute sounds is what makes her another moe loli.



### **#3 Hitagi Senjougahara from Bakemonogatari**

Not exactly the moe moe kyun type, Hitagi's moe is approached from a rather unique angle: her tsundere personality. Also known as tsundere-chan in the series, Hitagi is first seen as the violent and sarcastic type, making her far from moe; however, to fans, this attitude of hers is what made her likeable in the first place. After the first couple of episodes, she begins to lighten up into a less violent person, thus opening up to those who did not like her original personality while simultaneously keeping the fans that already liked the way she was. Simply put, Hitagi may not have the tsundere moe quality that Hinagiku Katsura from Hayate no Gotoku!! has, but she certainly has a unique way of getting attention, thus earning her the #3 spot.



### **#2 Hinagiku Katsura from Hayate no Gotoku!!**

Hinagiku yet again misses the top spot in the moe corner and this may very well be her last chance as Hayate no Gotoku!! ends by October. Although it is likely that Hayate no Gotoku will air again after this season, it may be a while before it ever happens. The pink princess definitely had more screen time this season when compared to the 2007 run, but even then it was not enough to pull her through to defeat the demon awaiting in the top spot.



# #1

## Amae Koromo from Saki

Since her appearance in episode 9, Koromo has been a moe overload, possibly one who could have toppled Mio Akiyama, previous Moe Corner champion, from K-ON! Unfortunately, Koromo did not get much screen time until the more recent episodes, which is when her moe really began to show. She looks like a bunny based on the way she dresses and often acts like a kid despite her dislike of being called one. Nevertheless, these traits are not a bad thing; if anything, they helped her moe traits to the extent that very few characters can compete with them, making her a demon in this competition just as she is a demon in mahjong.





# Mio Akiyama

Written by Kit-Tsukasa



## Mio Akiyama

**Name:** Mio Akiyama (秋山 滯)  
**Age:** Unknown/Teen  
**Birth Date:** Unknown  
**Gender:** Female  
**Hair Length/Color:** Long/Black  
**Eye Color:** Blue  
**Anime Appearances:** K-ON!  
**Voice Actor/Actress (Seiyuu):** Yoko Hikasa  
**Japan Saimoe Best Run:** Round 1 (2009)  
**Korean Best Moe Best Run:** Round 6 (2009)  
**ISML Best Run:** N/A

### Character description:

Not much is known about the mysterious left-handed bass player of the Light Music Club in K-ON! Her instrument is a 3-Color Sunburst Fender Jazz Bass Guitar with an attached pick-guard made out of tortoiseshell. Mio, although intelligent and relatively mature, is rather timid, fragile, and unassertive. She is often taken advantage of, especially by her friends Ritsu and Yui, as well as the club advisor, Sawako. She also does not handle events or stories that involve pain or are horror-related and is often fond of other left handed bass and guitar players due to how uncommon they are.

Although Mio tries to act strict and uptight, she does have a soft side that is truly shown in the lyrics she writes for the songs performed by the Light Music Club. The lyrics are often simple and revolve around cutesy rhythms and words like Fuwa Fuwa Time (Light and Fluffy Time), Fude Pen (Ball Pen), Curry Rice, etc...

### Trivia:

Mio's character design is similar to that of Yomi Isayama from Ga-Rei -Zero-

For manga readers, Mio bears an even greater resemblance to Izumi Isoyama from Ga-Rei. Both have similar physical appearances and personalities. Mio's surname, Akiyama, is supposedly taken from Katsuhiko Akiyama, a former P-Model bassist and keyboardist.



**Attractiveness:** 9/10

**Moe Rating:** 8/10

**Likeable:** Yes

**Underrated:** No

**Overrated:** Yes

**Final Verdict:** 9/10

# ANIME PREVIEWS

Written by  
[Kit-Tsukasa](#)



## Inuyasha ~The Final Act~

Almost five years ago, Inuyasha threw fans into rage and despair. The original 167 episode series ran for four years before coming to an abrupt ending. In 2008 during the Rumiko Takahashi festival in Japan, a small number of fans previewed a thirty-minute special featuring material from the manga not shown in the original run. This gave hope that the rest of the manga was being animated, and now that wish has been answered. Inuyasha The Final Act will cover the remaining 21 volumes of the manga in a compact 26 episodes. Some fans wonder how Sunrise will keep all of the material from the manga intact in such a small number of episodes, especially when considering some of their more recent works and the length of the original series. Nevertheless, most fans are delighted to see the finale animated and the return of the original staff and cast for the project. The beginning of the end starts Saturday, October 3, 2009.







Based on an action visual novel released in April 2008 for the PC and April 2009 for the Xbox 360, 11eyes's synopsis is very vague outside of Japan. Satsuki Kakeru lost his sister, his last family member, to suicide and continues to mourn her five years later. One day, he is mysteriously transported into a bizarre world known as "Red Night" along with this friend Minase Yuka and four other schoolmates. The six of them can only return to the original world after defeating the six Black Knights and the Dark Spirit in this alternate world. The series will be produced by School Days' animation company, Marvelous Entertainment and Saikano's animation company, Dogakobo. The series is claimed to be one of the more violent series this season barring Darker than Black Season 2.



Aside from Inuyasha, Fairy Tail is probably the most anticipated series of the upcoming fall anime season. Based on the manga of the same name, it is a story about Lucy Heartfilia whose goal is to join a guild called "Fairy Tail," the world's most famous mage guild. On one mission, Lucy encounters the Fairy Tail member Natsu, a Dragon Slayer mage. During that mission, Lucy rescues Natsu and is in turn welcomed into the guild to start a long life of magic, quests, and magic. A-1 Pictures, which animated Valkyria Chronicles, and Satelight, which animated Macross Frontier and Basquash!, will be involved in the animation production of this series, so be prepared for some gorgeous backgrounds and character designs in addition to a fantastic story. The series begins on Monday, October 12, 2009.





# アニメ 冬のソナタ

## Winter Sonata 겨울연가

A series that has been delayed as if it were the indefinitely delayed Duke Nukem Forever video game, Winter Sonata is based on the famous 2002 Korean live action drama of the same name. It is a series that was postponed from early spring this year to this fall. Surprisingly, many of the original cast members are said to be reprising their roles in the animated version, making it a unique style for anime. The drama follows Kang Joon-Sang and Jung Yu-Jin, two high school students, and the tragedies that befall them and those around them throughout high school and early adulthood. Note that Winter Sonata is the second half of the Korean TV drama series Endless Love which began in 2000. The anime adaptation will begin Saturday, October 17, 2009.

# こばと

With Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicle and xxxHolic nearing their end, CLAMP's next work is Kobato. The story revolves around a character with the same name as the title of the series. Kobato is a jolly, but naive girl. She is often unaware of the world around her. Her personality aside, she is on a mission to fill a mysterious bottle with the suffering in people's hearts so that her own wish to go to some desired place can be granted; however, there is one small catch: she is not allowed to fall in love with the boy she works with and whose heart she must heal. Madhouse Studios, the primary animation studio for most of CLAMP's classic works will be doing this series. In addition, there are rumors that famed singer and voice ac-

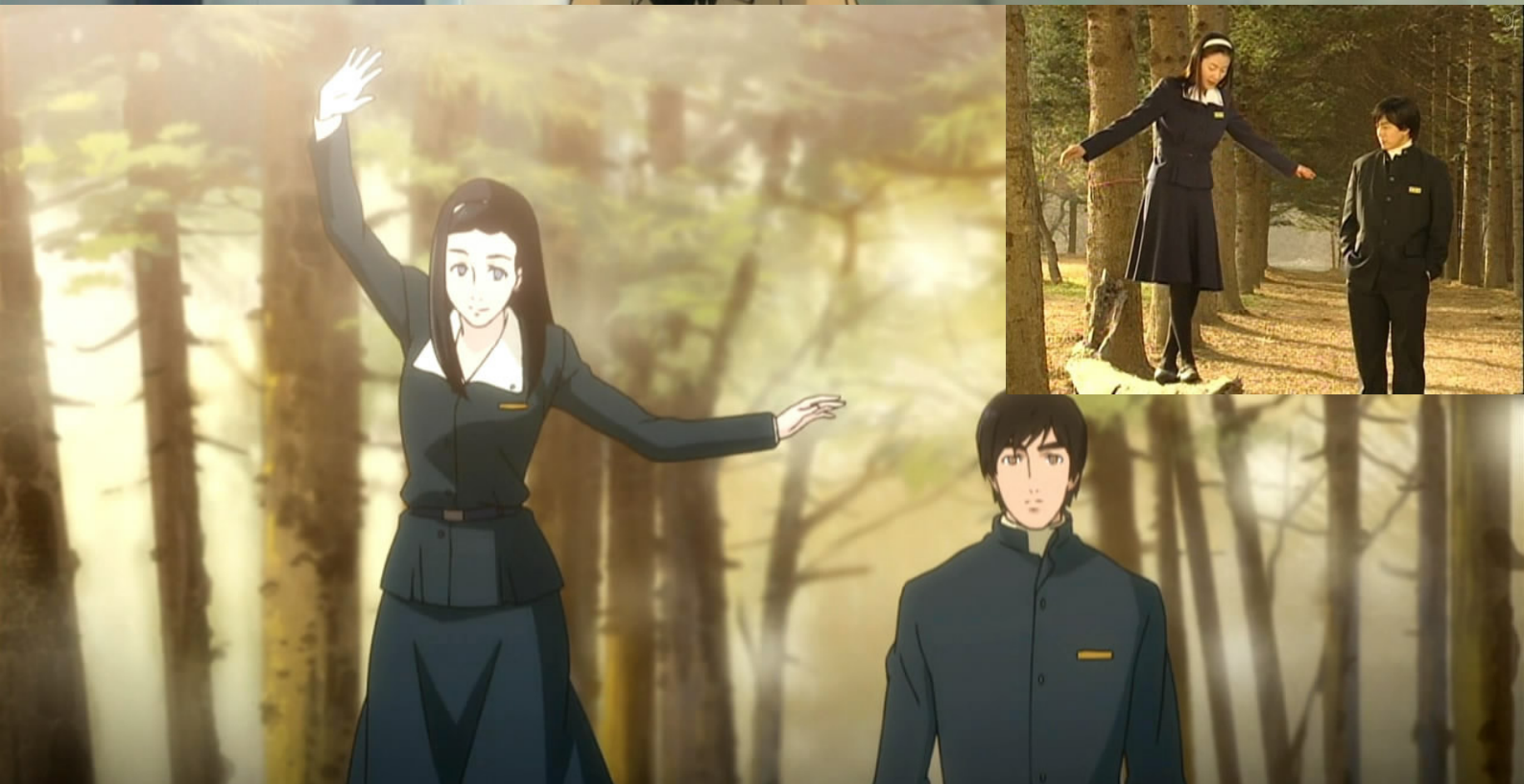
tress, Megumi Nakajima, (Ranka

Lee from Macross Frontier and Citron

from Basquash!) will be making an anime theme song debut outside of Satelight works along with notorious singer and voice actress Maaya Sakamoto. Whether they will play roles in the series is a mystery. The series begins on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.









# K-ON!



*Review by*  
**Kit-Tsukasa**

## Synopsis:

K-ON! was Japan's Spring 2009 anime season's biggest hit. Produced by Kyoto Animation, K-ON!'s rating and popularity soared by the end of the first episode due to not only its emphasis on the current, yet repetitive, moe blob trend, but also from the nostalgic aura it gives off that is similar to Azumanga Daioh, produced by J.C. Staff in 2002, and Lucky Star, produced by Kyoto Animation in 2006.

K-ON! is a 13 episode series featuring a group of girls in high school who are attempting to save the disbanding Light Music Club and revive it. The series ran from April 2, 2009 to June 25, 2009. Two full volumes of the manga have been published in Japan since its serialization in May 2007, and a third volume is currently pending release. The 13 episode series covers the first two volumes in their entirety. A special OVA has been announced for release with the seventh volume of the DVD and Blu-Ray on January 20, 2010. K-ON! is also the first anime series to have a character album top Japan's Oricon weekly album and single rankings. Whether or not all this popularity will provide the series a second season when more manga material is published is currently unknown but very likely.



## Story: 6/10

Yui Hirasawa has just entered high school and is eager to join a club. It just so happens that Ritsu Tainaka and Mio Akiyama, both of whom are also first year high school students at the same school, are desperately trying to save the disbanding Light Music Club (also known as Kei On Bu). Along with Tsumugi Kotobuki, a keyboardist, Yui decides to join the club thinking she can get off easy by playing the castanets.

However, the other members think she may be a guitar prodigy.

The summary is very short for this series since not much material has been published; however, from the first episode one can probably get an idea of the story of this show: aiming for Budokan and moe fest. Of the thirteen episodes, very few actually contribute to the main goal. Most episodes contain at least one of the following: Yui being retarded or

an air-head, Mio getting scared and acting all moe afterwards, Ritsu's forehead, or Tsumugi's yuri fetish. Later on when a fifth member, Azusa Nakano, is introduced to the club, the list then also includes Azusa (or Azunyan) being treated like a cat.

Simply put, this series had no solid story. There was definitely one in the background, but in general, this was a moe-fest from beginning to end with a few good pieces of music

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thrown in here and there. Although the moe trend is starting to die out due to it being an overly repetitive theme, K-ON! still manages to pull it off in a very memorable manner such that it even topped other big name shows from the Spring 2009 season including Higashi no Eden (Eden of the East), Saki, and Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood. However, that still does not save it from a poor story score.

### **Art and Animation: 9/10**

Once again, it is Kyoto Animation, so everything looks pretty. After much comparison between the TV airing and Blu-Ray, the TV airing should not even be bothered with. The Blu-Ray is gorgeous, and when comparing it to other Blu-Ray series, it looks just as fantastic for a Kyoto Animation production. Although not as gorgeous as some of Kyoto Animation's other works like AIR or Clannad, it is not on the poor animation quality level of Lucky Star either. In other words, this is pretty much average for a Kyoto Animation work, which still makes it high quality compared to other studios like Studio DEEN and ZEXCS. The details on the instruments are a different story however. Down to the smallest detail, the instruments are accurate to its real-life counterparts, like Yui's Gibson Les Paul guitar. Most of the animation budget may have very well gone into this. Therefore, to not only maintain consistency for character and background drawings while simultaneously detailing each instrument is an impressive feat.

### **Sound and Music: 7/10**

Given one of the genres for this series is music, one would expect a decent soundtrack coming. To be honest, very few songs were actually good from this series. That's not to say that the other songs were bad, but rather, when you have someone who cannot really sing, it is best to simply not let them at all.



Mio's seiyuu, Youko Hikasa, is someone who can really sing. On the other hand, Yui's seiyuu, Aki Toyosaki cannot. Simply see the difference between the opening and ending themes to the series. Toyosaki's voice is too high and squeaky that it makes listening for pleasure actually irritating at times. Although some may object to this opinion, I do not think many can deny that Hikasa is a better singer than Toyosaki. The inserts that came later in the series also proved the same result with mostly Hikasa as the better singer. The exception to this was Yui's version of Fuwa Fuwa Time since Toyosaki's voice actually matched the tune and rhythm of the music.

Putting aside the issue of who can and cannot sing, if any song helped K-ON!, it would undeniably be the ending theme, Don't say 'lazy'. From day one, this song made its mark on otakus and will continue to do so at least until January next year. One probably did not expect such a rough song for a show such as this and it is rare that any otaku would buy more than two or three copies of the same single regardless of price.

Some went as far as buying eleven copies for themselves on the day of its release, thus showing how good of a song this really is. Although not the best song in otaku history, it definitely ranks up there among the best; however, this does not provide an excuse for the other poorly voiced songs.

### **Character: 9/10**

One would think that a show with no story would also mean no meaningful character development. K-ON! is one of the few series that are an exception to this. K-ON! has a huge chunk of character development, even for the more minor ones like Yui's sister, Ui Hirasawa, Yui's friend, Nodoka Manabe, as well as the faculty advisor for the Light Music Club, Sawako Yamanaka. Instead of focusing on the group constantly practicing for whatever performance they plan on doing, it turned out significantly better to have all that time invested in character development. Although some characters who are actually in the band like Tsumugi and Azusa, still lack much development after all this, it is still much better than having the series give off a Haruhi Endless Eight feeling where episode



after episode involves the group diligently practicing for a performance. In addition, the fact that all the seiyuus are also essentially new to the anime industry gives off an even greater meaning to the characters. The characters themselves being new to the world of Light Music and with the seiyuus also being inexperienced, there is a deeper bond that shows and develops as the series progresses. When a seiyuu can relate with the character he or she is voicing, it makes everything the character does much more meaningful, thus allowing the audience to enjoy the show to its fullest.

#### **Enjoyment: 10/10**

In Spring 2009, out of the many series I was keeping up with, there were six major series that I was

eager to watch every week. K-ON! was definitely one of those six. Although I am sad to see the series come and go, it was definitely enjoyable to watch from beginning to end. Although the hype died after Mio got less screen time and the final few episodes focused more on characters I did not care about, it was still nice to see another slice of life and comedy that I actually enjoyed. The anime industry has been lacking good ones lately since the focus is on moe, but this show managed to combine moe with slice of life and comedy all together in a successful manner. It is not the best out there, especially when compared to the likes of Pani Poni Dash, Ichigo Mashimaro, or Azumanga Daioh, but it definitely has a spot for likeable characters, especially Azunyan and Mio.

#### **Overall: 8/10**

Had this series had more material to cover, as well as a longer run, there would have possibly been a chance for this series to really earn itself a 10/10. To be honest, even a 9/10 is generous since the series really did lose steam as it progressed past episode ten. Although I personally give it a 9/10, in reality this show only gets an 8/10 for the general audience. It is a series that one will either enjoy from the start and then lose interest as it reaches the end, or one will simply dislike the series entirely due to the recent repetitiveness of moe. Perhaps the OVA in January 2010 will shed some light on this series and return it to the former glory of its first few episodes of the series.





# Deep Sea Diving with Damian Striker

Nana: Another Sad Story with a Driving Base Line



*Review by*  
Damian Striker

## Introduction:

On a dare, I was asked to watch a show in a genre that I've never been a huge fan of. Part of being an anime fan is taking that step outside of your comfort zone once in a while in order to rise up and say, "Hey, that wasn't half bad." It's a learning process and man, did I learn with the romp that I took through the shoujo music madness that is NANA. The story of two girls who were really day and night was a trip I took and didn't regret at all. Some of the covers and jams remain on my iPod at this juncture, because of the fact that they happen to appeal to my sense of good music. Driving rock seems to really liven up the mood whenever I'm saddened. I digress. This is a heartwarming story of friendship, relationships, and different degrees of love. This is the tale of NANA and my take on this series.

Coming out of high school, students seek to fulfill their dreams based on a variety of standards. Some kids want to head for college right away, and others want to get straight to work in order to secure money for future endeavors. What Nana Osaki sees as a promising future is embracing her punk band and the music they play, music which resonates with the local population.

What Nana Komatsu sees as a promising future is pursuing a love life with her boyfriend who's headed for Tokyo to attend art school. By pure circumstance, Nana and Nana met on the train going to Tokyo one winter's night. What first appears as a random encounter ends up being the hook for the entire series.



The one thing that pulled me in right from the start was just how much drama soaked into the connections that ran between these two girls and the guys that fill their makeshift male harem. There are a lot of moments where the love interests almost outshine the leads. In my opinion, it is the part of this show that I have come to settle down with and soak in.

The scenery and designs are very simple. They compliment whoever's in the scene perfectly. For example, if things are happening with Ms. Osaki, then the artwork is all about the grunge look of things. A lot of dark colors and mystique are used to fit the characters that are defined by the punk alternative lifestyle,

and to help illustrate and set the mood really well. When a scene is about Ms. Komatsu, the colors are entrancingly bright and blended, the tones are soft, and the palettes are more refined. When the two main characters come together, the scene becomes a manifestation of their hearts and minds illustrated before your eyes.

If they are going through a rough time, then that's what the colors will lean towards. It's almost exciting to see how certain colors and textures come together so well. The coloring actively compliments the story without detracting from its content, and the color schemes are particularly well done for the scenes of passion and drama.

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What is NANA? If you're looking for a brief synopsis on what this series is without giving anything away, I can say that Nana is a trip into reflection, sacrifice, and love lives. It's a trek through the trials, tests, and tribulations that constantly push the limits of trust in this friendship that started on a train ride to Tokyo. By coupling the intensity between the make-ups and break-ups with this animation style, you have yourself a pretty good series that I would recommend watching at least once.

Animation: 8.0 – It's all in the eyes. Many viewers might not enjoy the concept of characters having big heads and stick bodies, but for what it's worth, Nana seems to make it work. It'd be hard to read just how much emotion is in their movements without seeing the detail done within their eyes.

Story: 9.5 – The concept of pursuing your dreams after graduation from

school is one that I don't see very often. It was really nice to see such drive and devotion towards getting what one wants.

Action: 6.0 – There's no gunkata, swordplay, or gore of any kind. It's not that kind of series. However, the intense confrontations between certain characters merit viewing this as a different kind of action.

Characters: 8.75 – The cast and crew are unique and distinctive. From the band mates around Osaki to the close friends and family of Komatsu, there was something to love or hate in every character who made their appearance.

Sound: 9.5 – Half of the story is about trying to corner a section of the music industry. I love the background music and even more so the OP/ED fanfare. The character based rock songs help empower the lyrics that rain down like a thunderstorm throughout the series. I love the concept of dealing

with the musical element here to help display the characters' inner thoughts.

Enjoyment: 9.0 – Nana had me screaming at the computer and punching walls in frustration over just how certain things would falter. When you're getting that attached to characters, you begin to see just how intertwined you are with a series. This series was making things interesting for me because of the fact that there was always that element of surprise over some things.

Overall: 8.5 – It's all about the heart-clenching, tear-shedding, and pain-inducing connections that are made and broken within this series. I loved how involved this show was and how it made me feel, think, and even discuss with friends who are all about reading the manga at this juncture. Thanks to this watching, I might not be too far behind on that either.



# Planetarian

All the stars in all the sky are waiting for you...



Review by  
nomae

## Foreword:

Nearly every fan of anime has heard of the production company Key, or at least some of their works. Clannad, Kanon, Air, these series each garnered wide praise through multiple releases or seasons. Before each of these animes aired, they were highly successful Visual Novels, which led Key to become a major influence on the visual novel industry. One particular gem of Key's never made it to film, but deserves to be among the collection of any Key aficionado, the kinetic novel "Planetarian."

## Review:

### Kinetic Novels

First, a word on kinetic novels. Though they are formatted for the PC, kinetic novels are not games; not even as much as a visual novel is a choose your own adventure story, for a kinetic novel is simply a story. There are no decision points, no necessary reflexes or skills, no alternate paths. A kinetic novel uses still drawings, visual effects, and occasionally video, along with background sounds and music, to create the illusion of an environment to go along with text as you might find it in a novel.

### Story

The world of Planetarian is presumably that of Earth in the not too distant future. A great war lasting 30 years and the use of biological and nuclear weapons has rendered the surface nearly uninhabitable.



Dark clouds constantly cover the sky, and an unceasing acid rain falls on everything, slowly eroding even the most hardened structures. Autonomous war machines continue to guard cities and military facilities, killing anyone unlucky or foolish enough to cross their path.

Life is hard, and only the existence of sparse sanctuaries, where small communities can exist, at least for a time, has allowed the human race to survive even this long.

The protagonist in Planetarian is a "junker," someone who has abandoned the relative safety of remaining human civilization to scavenge abandoned cities and military facilities, evading autonomous war machines while looking for food, materials, and equipment to survive just a while longer.

On one such hunt, the junker comes across a mostly intact building,

inside which is a planetarium and the android, Yumemi, leading to an encounter which will change his life, and perhaps give him new purpose.

The story is short compared to other works by Key, at approximately five hours using the default auto-read settings. This is in part due to the linear nature of the novel.

Other works by Key can involve anywhere from 20 to 100 hours of play based on reading speed and whether text is skipped on subsequent playthroughs, but a single playthrough following a single route is typically around the length of 5 to 10 hours. To make up for the short play time of Planetarian, it is only a fraction of the cost of similar titles at approximately \$15.



## Atmosphere

The junker and Yumemi make up the only two characters in the novel, though even with this limited cast, the expert use of lighting, sound, and imagery creates an atmosphere which evokes primal emotions in the reader. The main drawing point in Planetarian is the feeling of solitude and hopelessness of the world outside the planetarium, and the contrasting innocent wonder and hope found inside the planetarium.

The musical score consists of nine pieces composed by the same Key composers who worked on Air, Clannad, and Kanon. Adding to these pieces is the near constant background sounds of the falling rain, among other sound effects. The artistry of the novel is very detailed, and the use of visual effects, most notably the changes in lighting and falling rain, give the story more life than most visual novels with their static images. The CD-ROM version also includes full voice acting for Yumemi.

## Obtaining the Novel

Planetarian was never released in the U.S. and therefore is only playable by non-Japanese speaking readers through the use of a translation patch.

The patch is done very professionally, and is easy to apply. A little more difficult is obtaining and installing the actual game. Due to licensing deals between Key and the distribution company, Kinetic Novels, the only place to purchase Planetarian is through the distributor.

Luckily, the same team which developed the English translation patch has also provided directions on ordering and installing Planetarian. The patch and directions can be found at the following website: <http://planetarian.insani.org/get.html>



## Review Scores

### Story: 8/10

Despite how short the story was, it was very moving and quickly draws you in, until you feel you are the junker. Though spanning only several days, the reader becomes attached to both characters and finds him/herself imagining the starry sky above the ceiling of clouds. The only thing that would make the story better would be to continue it.

### Visuals: 8/10

Though the setting is limited to only several areas, the artwork is very detailed, and the visual effects which are used are very crisp and look realistic. Most notably, the rain looks very real, and is even noticeable behind glass doors. The sole depicted character, Yumemi, is also done very well, with lots of detail and a wide variety of sprites.

### Musical Score/Effects: 8/10

There are only nine pieces composing the musical score, but they match the high quality of music found in any other Key work, and set the mood very well. Again, the effect the rain has on the mood is poignant.

### Interface and Availability: 7/10

While the translation patch converts the text and the title page to English, it doesn't translate the menus. This makes it difficult to change the settings, more of a trial and error experience, though for the most part the defaults all work fine. It's also somewhat complicated simply getting the game, since there is only a single distributor and the installation program is in Japanese, other Key products, such as Clannad Full Voice, are much easier to acquire.

The need to use an English patch also complicates things, though luckily applying the patch is easy.

### Price: 7/10

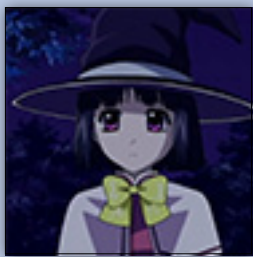
The price is only a fraction of comparable titles at approximately \$15, however, with only five hours of story, it's only worth it if you really like what you get. Luckily, with Planetarian, you get a great novel that any fan of Key is sure to enjoy.

### Overall (not an average): 8.5/10

A must have for any Key fan's collection. The story is compelling, the visuals stunning, and the sound enveloping. Planetarian is a five hour trip through your imagination you will never forget, if you can manage to acquire it.

# Ebisboshi Shotengai ~ Tora Shabu~

## Japanese Hot Pot Restaurant



Review by  
[Maiku\\_Ando](#)

### Synopsis:

*Tora Shabu is the Shabu Shabu restaurant of Ebisboshi Shotengai, a food amusement street within the newly opened Iluma Mall at Bugis in Singapore. Featuring seven different Japanese dining brands originating from Hokkaido, Nagano, Tokyo, Osaka and Hiroshima, with dishes including sushi, tonkatsu, oden, teppanyaki, okonomiyaki, Sapporo ramen, Japanese desserts and shabu shabu. For this article I am focusing on Tora Shabu, which is an Akihabara-style maid themed restaurant that serves shabu shabu, Japanese style hot pot.*

Tora Shabu is the newest maid themed dining locality in Singapore, bringing the total to three. With the closest competition only two blocks away in nearby Chijmes, this should provide some interesting battles for the master's favour. It is managed by Komars Group, which also operates the Bishamon Sapporo Ramen and Bishamon Express chains, and as such is no stranger to fine Japanese dining; therefore, I'm setting my expectations high for the food quality.

### The Location

I headed into Tora Shabu on June 3rd, some time after 7PM, with a friend. The mall was relatively busy at this time, and upon arrival we immediately noticed a large queue. Tora Shabu is located in the leftmost back corner of the Ebisboshi Shotengai amusement street, and it turns out this queue was for another area and we were quickly seated. We opted for the central right location on one of the big six-seat tables. From observation there are approximately 23 tables: 9 capable of seating six persons, 14 are standard four-seat tables, and there are some two-seater tables.

Some of the seating is fixed bench style, while others are individual chairs. The individual tables can be combined to make larger tables to a certain extent, these are also suitable for wheelchair users, although they will need to use the lifts at the side of the mall to reach the fourth floor. Iluma has a somewhat creative escalator design, and as such the location of the lifts off to the side is not



immediately obvious; however, the lift's fourth floor exit is right next to the entrance for Ebisboshi Shotengai.

Decorated with anime style characters from their menu on the walls, a decorative dividing wall with old cast-iron style street lamps, a Japanese maple tree and a crystal chandelier combine with the dark wood furniture and red cushions to give a warm homely feel.

My particular favourite was the large, almost panoramic back picture showing a lovely anime maid in front of a street setting. It was so well placed it could almost have been a window to the outside with a maid in front of it, it really set the theme well. The music was great, with lots of different moe tracks and it really helped the ambiance.

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The preparation area sat under the large picture at the back, and there were various wooden dividers to section up the general floor area, with the right hand section raised slightly. The décor of the seating and the layout was good, featuring lots of seating and good use of the available space without creating an impression of cluttering or heavy foot traffic. The tables were of a good size, and the heating was provided by a single glass plate induction hob with a nice touch panel for power and temperature control.

### The Maids

As this is Akihabara-style, complete with maid theme, the service and ambiance are an important part of the dining experience. It should be noted however that “Akihabara style” and “maid theme” are important here, as Tora Shabu is not like a maid cafe in Tokyo.

In Akihabara, with the exception of the @Home Cafe chain, most maid cafes are very small and only serve snacks and fast food. Service is at an insane level and typically involves some sort of entertainment, such

as games with the maids, singing, stirring of your tea or decorating your food with a cute smiley face (See my Asia Tour series in Issues 2-4 for more on Akihabara maid cafes).

What you get in Tora Shabu is a toned down version, the service is what would be expected of a restaurant and the maids are European style.

Maids, or rather the maid uniforms are symbols of perfect service. Putting someone in a maid uniform is easy; turning them into a convincing maid is not. The secret to maids is true maid spirit, they exist to serve their master’s every whim and desire with a sweet, never-faltering smile; no request is too great; service and loyalty are everything. The uniforms must be bright and elegant, they cannot be torn or dirty, such things would be unforgivable.

Often a maid will have some additional “powers”. Sometimes they can be a slightly clumsy maid who trips over things, or a geeky maid with glasses; these things simply add to the effect.

Trying to pull off such an illusion in a single sitting is not easily done, which is exactly why I was so impressed with the staff of Tora Shabu. They really do have true maid spirit, they don’t sing and dance and won’t play rock paper scissors with you, but they have that sweet smile and endless kindness down to an art. The uniforms appear immaculate, very smart and elegant, and they have different colours. I’ve seen hundreds of maids, including some of the best in Akihabara, and these girls are right up there with them.

Part of Tora Shabu’s secret to excellent service is in the number of maids. I counted seven, one out at the front entrance and six serving the tables, that’s an average of four tables to a maid. Getting attention is a simple matter of a gentle nod or a smile and they’ll be at your table; however, this is not usually necessary, as they are so attentive that they will likely notice your need for assistance before you do. This is of course partly due to the safety element, as you are effectively boiling two liquids right under your nose in a very hot pan.





### The Cooking

In the centre of the table is a built-in induction cooker. Upon ordering, a metal pan is delivered to your table, which is cleverly divided in half, allowing you to cook using two soup bases at once.

You can use this for several purposes, such as to try some spicy miso in one and plain miso in the other, or if you're a meat eater like me and you have a vegetarian in your group, you can split it up so one side is for meat and other for vegetables. The cooker has a safety feature to prevent it from running for too long, and the maids keep a watchful but discrete eye on

you to make sure you don't run out of soup base or burn the place down.

### The Food

We made a point of trying to get a mix of everything, and we even went for both ends of the scale on soup bases with plain miso on one side and spicy miso on the other. For sliced meat we had beef, pork and lamb, and for sausages we had chicken, pork, and beef. We ordered the mushroom set, and also some seafood and some other vegetables. We also had two portions of soba noodles. For drinks, we had hot green tea and Sapporo beer, which they had on draft.

The sliced meat is incredibly thin and expertly prepared; with a hot soup base it only takes a few seconds to cook. The meat is of a very high quality and is very fresh. Cooking with either spicy miso or plain miso gives a great flavour and can be quite addictive.

The vegetables are just as fresh, and my particular favourites are the shiitake mushrooms. Various condiments are also provided for seasoning, and other items for use outside of the pan include kimchi and Japanese cucumber. The desserts are also excellent; choices include a chocolate cake and various ice creams.

On our visit they had an opening offer where you would receive a \$10 voucher for every \$20 spent. The vouchers could be used for the next visit either in one go or used for different visits. Our initial bill was SG\$110 (approx US\$80) with two people, we got SG\$50 (approx. US\$35) in vouchers, and we just had to come back the next day and do it again. The second bill came to SG\$162 (approx. US\$116) before the vouchers.







They now also have a buffet option where you can order as much as you can eat for a set price of SG\$35 per person (child SG\$12) (approx. US\$25 and US\$8 respectively), though there is a limit of 2 hours and a continuation charge if you want to go over. There is also a charge for food wastage per 100g, so order sensibly.

They even have a drink buffet where you can pay another set price (SG\$39.80) (approx. US\$28) to have all the Sapporo beer or Ichiko you can drink as well. We didn't see any other conditions on this, and I will be personally testing this very dangerous menu item very soon.

Since the first visit I have already made some six additional visits, and I will continue to keep coming back. There is an undeniable danger to this place, because it's so easy to just stay there all night and keep eating and drinking and you get hooked on it and just keep coming back. Maid fitness club anyone?

In conclusion, Tora Shabu has great food, good prices and excellent service. If you know nothing of Japanese Anime, or have no interest in it at all, then do not be put off by the maid theme. To the uninitiated, you will simply find the waitresses are dressed like French maids and that the service is exceptional.

To an Otaku, it's as close to the real thing you can get in Singapore, the menu looks like an anime picture book, the cute pictures of the maid characters and the music make you feel "at home" and the maids are sweet and kind. Well worth a visit, and highly recommended.

*Due to "no photography" rules within the restaurant, all images are marketing material taken from the official website and are Copyright 2009 Ebisboshi Shotengai.*

*This review is based on an unannounced midweek dinner setting. No members of the staff were informed of the review until after the event.*

#### **Food: 8**

Excellent quality throughout, fresh and well prepared, firm vegetables and quality beverages compliment it.

#### **Service: 10**

Friendly and professional maids who take care of you and make sure your cooking isn't going to burn the place down or poison you.

#### **Ambiance: 9**

Cute maid pictures, moe music playing, crisp uniforms and nice decor. It's like coming home, but better. Great in a group.

#### **Price: 8**

A big meal for two a la carte will set you back a cool crisp SG\$100 (approx US\$70) or more, but it's well worth it. The quality speaks for itself, you get what you pay for - and

it's a lot, especially if taking the buffet option.

#### **Personal Enjoyment: 10**

Anything less and I'd be lying. Since my first visit I'm addicted and keep going back for more.

#### **Overall: 9**

I really cannot find fault here. It's great fun and a must try: great food, great service, and the price is good.

# Lolita ~ In a Nutshell~

## Japanese Fashion

Article by  
**Noshi**

### Synopsis:

*This will be the J-zine's first fashion article! Inevitably, we have all seen some of the colourful street fashion styles Japan. Let's focus on a very unique, frilly style; the elegant Gothic Lolita fashion.*

It's unknown when or where the Lolita fashion started, or even why it's called 'Lolita', as it clearly has no relation with the novel by Vladimir Nabokov of the same name. The Lolita fashion strives to be cute, modest, elegant, beautiful and doll-like, and is mainly inspired by the Rococo and Victorian eras.

There are many rules and guidelines within the Lolita fashion regarding the correct way to wear it. First off all, a Lolita outfit is not meant to look sexy or attractive. Instead, a proper Lolita outfit should cover as much skin as possible. Skirts and jumper skirts (dresses) should be about knee-length and are supported with panniers (petticoats) to give the right bell-shape or A-line volume to the skirt and bloomers, thereby hiding the thighs. Blouses are worn most commonly above skirts or underneath jumper skirts, and the legs are to be covered with knee socks or stockings.

These are just the basic guidelines, and it is frowned upon by other Lolitas when they are not followed properly.

So far it may sound like a cute and refined fashion style, but be warned, it's also a very expensive one. As you can imagine from reading about the basics, an outfit that misses one or two clothing pieces is not a genuine Lolita outfit. You can wear just a skirt or any other piece, but it simply won't be Lolita.

There are various Lolita brands in Japan, and they aren't cheap. The cost of a jumper skirt alone can vary from roughly ¥10,000 to ¥30,000 depending on the brand. Then you'd still need a matching blouse, pannier, shoes, bloomers, knee-socks and some optional accessories, so building up a Lolita wardrobe might be difficult and expensive for most beginners. It goes without mentioning that the pieces you buy ought to match with each other to save on expenses, because using the right colour coordinations is one of the keys to a good Lolita outfit; it would be a waste to buy an expensive item that doesn't match the rest of your wardrobe. Not only does it look best when colours and patterns are worn well and balanced, it also defines the theme or sub-genre of the outfit.



For most of the girls wearing the fashion, being a Lolita will become a lifestyle. They'll strive to live as elegantly and princess-like as possible. They'll decorate rooms according to their preferences, meet up with fellow Lolitas, and live up to the aesthetics of a modest Lolita even when wearing casual outfits, just to name a few examples.

Next issue will feature the Lolita substyles, please look forward to it!



# Okawari!

Article by *labk1ta*



Konnichiwa Minna-san! Autumn is in the air for some of us. How's everyone doing? I'm feeling great myself. Autumn is one of my favorite seasons. The colors are so pretty, all the yellows, the browns, and the dark greens.

Our feature recipe shows the autumn colors. I searched all the varieties of this delicious food and it was hard to decide which one is the best of them all. Then I thought, "Why not get the one that shows all the colors of fall?" That said, I've decided to feature Okonomiyaki. They sometimes call this "Do-It-Yourself Grilling."

This type of Okonomiyaki is called Cabbage Pancake.

## INGREDIENTS

3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup water  
2 large eggs, beaten  
A pinch of salt  
A dash of black or white pepper  
4 spring onions  
(scallions), chopped  
14oz cabbage, finely sliced  
Canola oil or any type  
of cooking oil  
Okonomiyaki sauce or  
Worcestershire sauce  
English mustard  
Mayonnaise  
Kazuri-bushi  
(Dried Bonito Flakes)  
Ao Nori  
(seaweed flakes)  
Beni-shoga  
(pickled red ginger  
cut into thin strips),  
optional

## TOPPINGS:

8oz pork chops  
or chicken breasts  
(skinless, boneless)  
8oz raw shrimp, cleaned  
4oz scallops



## METHOD

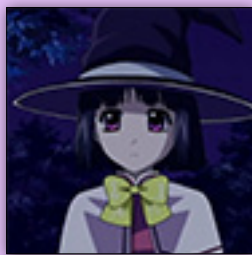
1. Slice the pork or chicken into thin slices and set aside.
2. For the pancakes, mix the flour and water. Add the eggs and salt, then mix. Add the spring onions and a third of the cabbage, and mix them well. Repeat until all the cabbage is mixed together.
3. Put the frying pan over medium-high heat. When it's hot, carefully pour oil until the pan is covered with oil.
4. Pour enough batter into the pan to form a pancake 1 inch thick and 4 inches in diameter.
5. Sprinkle the pancake with shrimp and scallops. Lay the meat on top and press down with a spatula or spoon. Flip when the edge of the pancake turns into golden brown.
6. Using a spatula or fork, stretch the pancake to 6 inches in diameter. Flip again after it turns a golden brown. Make sure the meat is cooked. Add seasonings and sauces on top to taste.
7. While you cook the rest, make sure the finished pancakes are kept warm. I would wipe the pan clean before every time I pour a new batter, to prevent it from turning a burnt color and to keep the taste better. Serve hot with Beni-shoga if desired.

It is said that the origin of this pancake goes back to World War II when food was being rationed. Flour made up for the shortage of rice, and cabbage was plentiful. I hope you'll enjoy this as much as I did.

Thank you for reading. I'm off to the library to do more research on Japanese recipes so I can bring you more mouth-watering food! Genki!

# Desu Desu ~ The Back Page~

For the little things...



Compiled by  
Maiku\_Ando

## Desu:

A Japanese copula (です), or word used to grammatically link a subject and predicate. It is often translated into English using the verb "it is." In addition, desu can only appear at the end of a sentence. (Source Wikipedia).

## Write for J-Zine

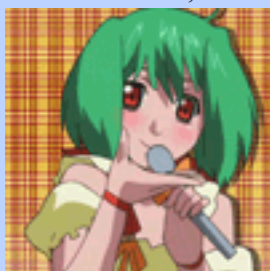
We are really short on writers. Without people to write articles, we cant bring you J-zine. You dont need any experience or design skills to write articles, all you need to do is write some text in wordpad - thats it. Our skilled editors will then go through your article and help you with any spelling or grammar, and our designers and picture desk will do all the rest. We will consider anything relating to Japan; some examples include anime, manga, food, games, novels, music, restaurants, travel, photographs, and even original art.

## Fansub.TV Anime & Manga Club

New to the FTV forums is a new anime and manga club. Vote for each new title and then watch or read it and join the debate in the forum. Expand your anime and manga knowledge, meet new friends with the same interests, and have some good fun. You can find it in the Anime and Manga threads on Fansub.TV's forums.

## Forum Quote

Gustav1976 @ Jul 28 2009, 07:07 PM  
Fansub.TV J-Zine, 4th issue



"I just want to thank the staff for adding a moe corner 😊 admittedly when I first checked it out I blacked out for some reason 🤪 but when I woke up I really enjoyed it. Keep up the good work guys"



## The FTV League ~ Round 2 !

The FTV League is back. Cast your votes now, the battle has just begun! Here are the qualifiers for round 2:

Yoko Littner - Tengen Toppa Gurren Lagann

Mio Akiyama - K-On!

Louise Françoise le Blanc de la Vallière - Zero no Tsukaima

Mizore Shirayuki - Rosario + Vampire

Belldandy - Oh my goddess!

Saber - Fate/stay night

Hinagiku Katsura - Hayate no Gotoku

Taiga - Toradora

Misaka Mikoto - To Aru Kagaku no Railgun

Hitagi Senjogahara - Bakemonogatari

## Coming Next Issue...

Valkyria Chronicles (PS3 Game & Anime), Anime Previews, Anime Reviews, Okawari, And more!

## And Finally...

## From everyone at J-Zine...



We wish you a very merry  
**K-ON! Christmas!**

Fansub.TV J-Zine Magazine



## Upcoming DVD Releases (US)

Please note that release dates can frequently change, and we are not responsible for any inaccuracies in the dates provided.

### November 2009

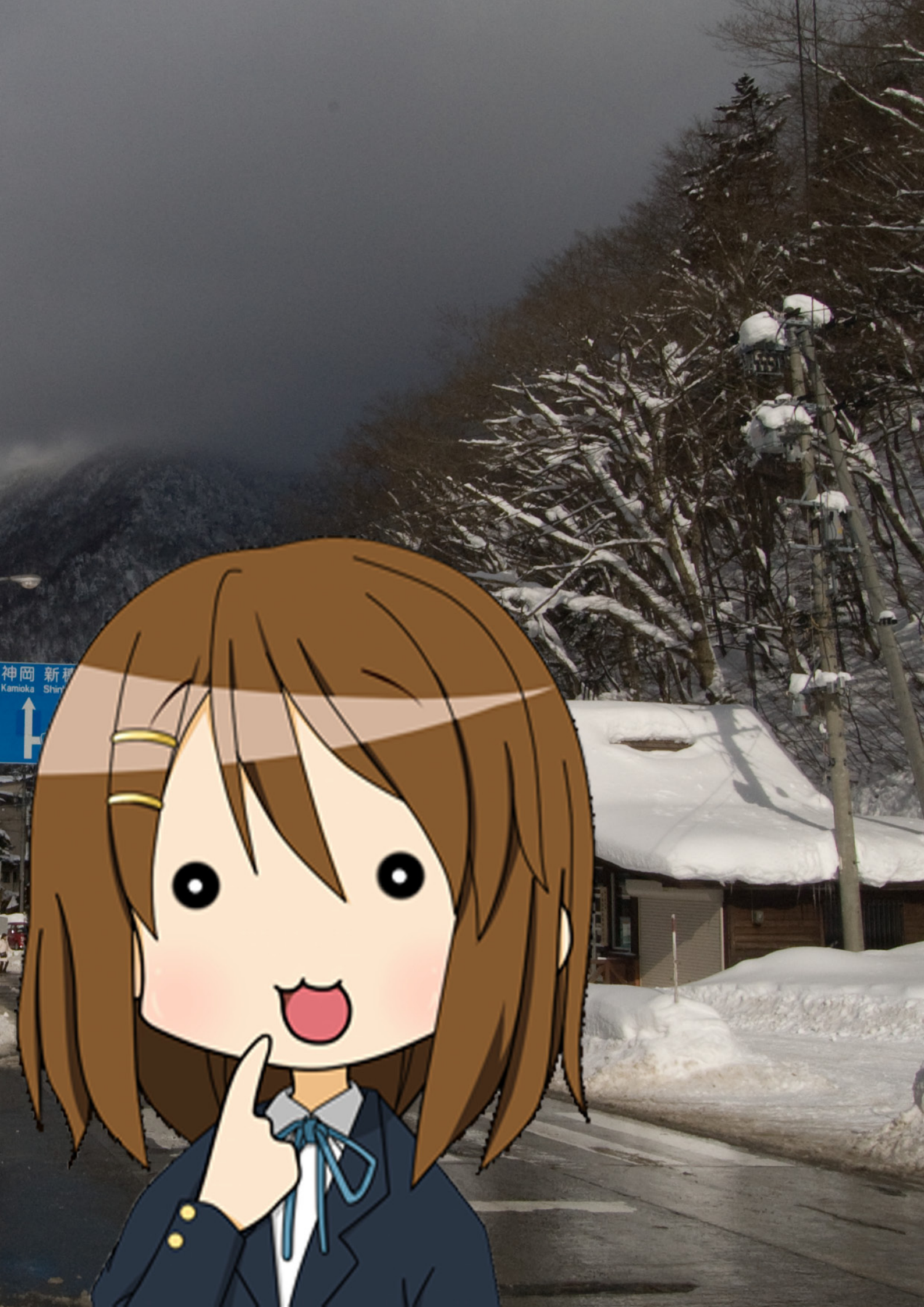
11/3/2009	Afro Samurai: Complete Murder Sessions (Spike Edition)
11/3/2009	Afro Samurai: Complete Murder Sessions (Director's Cut)
11/3/2009	Dragonaut - The Resonance: Complete Collection, Part 1
11/3/2009	The Tower of Druaga, Part 1: the Aegis of Uruk
11/3/2009	Witchblade: Complete Collection (Blu-ray)
11/3/2009	Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit, Vo.7
11/3/2009	You're Under Arrest: Season 2 Collection, Part 1
11/3/2009	Bleach Season 4 Boxset, Part 1
11/10/2009	Dragon Ball: Season 2 Boxset
11/10/2009	Tsubasa, RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE: Season 1 Collection (Re-release)
11/10/2009	Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha: Complete Collection (Re-release)
11/10/2009	Giant Robo: Complete Collection (LiteBox)
11/10/2009	Huntik: Secrets & Seekers, Vol.2 [Italian Animation]
11/10/2009	Special A (S.A): Complete Collection 1
11/10/2009	Naruto Shippuden the Movie 1
11/17/2009	Dragon Ball Z: Dragon Box 1
11/17/2009	Evangelion, Neon Genesis: 1.01 You Are (Not) Alone
11/17/2009	Fullmetal Alchemist Movie: Conqueror of Shambala (Blu-ray)
11/17/2009	Tsubasa, RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE: Season 1 Collection (Blu-ray)
11/17/2009	Kujibiki Unbalance (w/Genshiken OVA): Complete Collection (LiteBox)
11/17/2009	Princess Princess: Complete Collection (LiteBox)
11/17/2009	Blue Drop: Complete Collection
11/17/2009	Polyphonica: Complete Collection
11/17/2009	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy: Complete Collection 2
11/17/2009	Bleach, Vol.22
11/24/2009	Bamboo Blade: Complete Collection, Part 1
11/24/2009	Nabari no Ou: Complete Collection, Part 2
11/24/2009	Sgt. Frog: Season 1 Collection, Part 2
11/24/2009	Blood: The Last Vampire (Blu-ray)
11/24/2009	Ghost in the Shell 2.0 (Blu-ray)
11/24/2009	Blade of the Immortal, Vol.2
11/24/2009	Ikki-Tousen Dragon Destiny, Vol.1
11/24/2009	Teknoman: Complete Collection (LiteBox)
11/24/2009	Tears to Tiara: Complete Collection 1
11/24/2009	Rental Magica: Complete Collection, Part 1
11/24/2009	NANA (TV): Boxset 2
11/24/2009	Naruto Uncut Season 1 Boxset, Vol.2
11/24/2009	Naruto Shippuden, Vol.3
11/24/2009	Pokémon Elements, Vol.5
11/24/2009	Pokémon Elements, Vol.6

### December 2009

12/1/2009	Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion R2, Part 2
12/1/2009	Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion R2, Part 2 (LE)
12/1/2009	Hayate the Combat Butler, Part 3
12/1/2009	Mobile Suit Gundam 00: Season 1 Collection, Part 3
12/1/2009	Mobile Suit Gundam 00: Season 1 Collection, Part 3 (SE)
12/1/2009	My-Otome: Complete Collection (Anime Legends)
12/1/2009	Toward the Terra: Complete Collection (Anime Legends)
12/1/2009	Gunslinger Girl - Il Teatrino (OVA)
12/1/2009	Le Chevalier d'Eon: Complete Collection (Re-release)
12/1/2009	Hunter x Hunter: Boxset 4
12/8/2009	School Rumble: Seasons 1 & 2 + OVA Collection
12/8/2009	Moribito - Guardian of the Spirit, Vol.8
12/8/2009	Moribito - Guardian of the Spirit: Collection 4
12/8/2009	Moribito - Guardian of the Spirit: Designer Artbox
12/8/2009	Clannad After Story: Complete Collection 2
12/8/2009	Monster: Boxset 1
12/8/2009	Naruto Shippuden, Vol.4
12/15/2009	Basilisk: Complete Collection (Blu-ray)
12/15/2009	El Cazador de la Bruja: Complete Collection, Part 1
12/15/2009	El Cazador de la Bruja: Complete Collection, Part 2
12/15/2009	One Piece: Season 2 Collection, Part 4
12/15/2009	Samurai Champloo: Complete Collection (Blu-ray)
12/15/2009	Ghost Hound: Complete Collection 2
12/15/2009	To Love Ru: Complete Collection 1
12/15/2009	Bleach, Vol.23
12/15/2009	Honey & Clover: Boxset 2
12/22/2009	Guyver: Complete Collection (Re-release)
12/22/2009	Spice and Wolf: Complete Collection
12/22/2009	Ah! My Buddha, Vol.6
12/22/2009	Gakuen Heaven: Complete Collection (LiteBox)
12/29/2009	Baccano!: Complete Collection
12/29/2009	Blassreiter: Complete Collection, Part 2
12/29/2009	Case Closed the Movie 3: The Last Wizard of the Century
12/29/2009	Case Closed the Movie 4: Captured in Her Eyes
12/29/2009	Dragonaut - The Resonance: Complete Collection, Part 2
12/29/2009	Tsubasa, RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE: Season 2 Collection
12/29/2009	Genshiken 2, Vol.3

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