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Color Separation & Linotronic

Typo Express, Inc.

Printing

Payette & Simms, Inc.

Special Thanks

Kristien Brada (TokyoPop), Jerry Chu (BEI), Jean-François Fortier (DP9), Danielle Garnier (Manga), Corey Henson (ADV), Chad Kime (Pioneer), Michael Liu, Toshi Makiya (CD Japan), Nikaku Animart, Pierre Ouellette (DP9), Ardith Santiago (Digital Manga), Maki Terashima-Furuta (Production I.G.), Vincent Wilson, Nobu Yamamoto (BEI)

SUBSCRIPTION

One year (6 issues): \$30 US/Can (in Canada: add GST), or \$45 US overseas. Send check/money-order to: Protoculture, P.O. Box 1433, Station B, Montreal, Qc., Canada, H3B 3L2. Payment by credit cards available from the web site only: www.protoculture-mag.com/PASub.htm.

DISTRIBUTORS

In Canada: Anime Universe ((905) 212-9719), Snap! ((416) 588-4006), Vidéos De Répertoire ((514) 596-2606). **In U.S.A.:** Anime Nation ((727) 796-7561), Complete Strategist ((212) 685-3880), Diamond ((410) 560-7100), FM International ((608) 271-7922), HKT ((914) 296-1236), Kinokuniya (NY: (212) 765-7766, SF: (415) 567-7625, Seattle: (206) 587-2477), Mangamania ((800) 626-4277), Nikaku Animart ((408) 971-2822), Planet Anime ((713) 523-7122), RPV ((714) 671-1270). **In England:** Esdevium (011 44 125226116).



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Protoculture Addicts #71: July / August 2002. The Anime & Manga magazine. Published bimonthly by Protoculture Enr., P.O. Box 1433, Station B, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3B 3L2. E-mail: editor@protoculture-mag.com. Web: <http://www.protoculture-mag.com>

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Spirited Away And Its Historical Importance In Japanese Anime & Movie Industry. As I write this, the war on terrorism still goes on, the war in the Middle East is getting worse and things are, in general, looking grim for our world. The horrible day of September 11th 2001 has definitely changed the psychology of the general public toward entertainment, I feel, and the anime shows and movies have a more stoical feel these days. Game products and anime shows do not have a "happy-go-lucky" feeling to them and their sexual contents are more modest or even rigid compared to the products we used to see before September 11th.

Recently, I received a video tape from a friend of mine in Japan. She taped the Japanese Academy Awards (which took place in March) from TV, and I wasn't surprised that Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away* got the award for Best Movie. Many readers of this magazine are also probably aware that *Spirited Away* received the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival in February as well. Since the establishment of the Berlin Film Festival in 1951, only one Japanese movie, *The Cruel Bushido Story*, directed by Mr. Imai, received the Golden Bear Award in 1963 and even legendary Director Akira Kurosawa only received a Silver Bear Award for *Ikiru (To Live)* in 1954. In other words, Director Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli changed the history of Japanese movies and its industry! The most successful Japanese feature movie of all times is an anime! *Spirited Away* has made Director Miyazaki more famous than late Akira Kurosawa, who did not value anime very much. In fact, I even heard an anecdote (I am not sure if this is true) about Kurosawa wanting Miyazaki to direct live-action movies! Well, I think the Berlin Film Festival proved that an anime can be both an art film AND a viable international commercial product. When I was growing up in Japan, most people looked down on manga and anime as a cheap source of entertainment and saw no artistic values in them. They were wrong!

But, of course, the indisputable success of *Spirited Away*, both artistically and commercially, not only in Japan, but also everywhere in the world, really reflects the times we are living in. Japan is going through hard economical times and the North Americans are trying to deal with the war on terrorism (both domestically and internationally), etc., so this movie's theme, "To live no matter what, when and how" really appeals to everyone. Chihiro, the 10 year-old girl, enters a mysterious world, but despite her hardships, she takes on the challenge and survives, thanks to her hard work. I will be covering Director Miyazaki and his works in our next issue, so please stay tuned!

There are so many anime feature films that have been released in theaters all over Japan in Spring 2002, such as *Patlabor The Movie 3*, *The Tree Of Palme*, *One Piece: Chopper Kingdom Of Wild Animal*, *Digimon Tamers: Reckless Driving Of Digimon Express*, *Doraemon: Nobita And The Robot Kingdom*, etc., etc. Believe it or not, some Japanese movie critics are praising *Detective Conan*, telling people how intelligent this anime is!

Now that an anime feature film can be a great success all over the world, I am sure that more studios and creators will want to follow Director Miyazaki's lead. Let us hope that the historical event in Berlin will encourage new creators so that fans can enjoy even more great anime works in the future!

Miyako Matsuda

• • •

This issue offers two big features. First, a 9-page spotlight on *Ronin Warriors / Yoroiden Samurai Troopers* (currently being released by Bandai). Second, tons of (ok, twelve) "Anime Stories" (short overviews with sometimes character profiles and synopses) to introduce you to even more brand new anime series: *Anime Complex Night* (including *Steel Angel Kurumi 2* and *Maid In Hanaukyo*), *Comet-san*, *Earth Defense Family*, *Final Fantasy Unlimited*, *Fruits Basket*, *MazinKaizer*, *Offside*, *One Piece Movies*, *Shaman King*, *Sister Princess*, *Tottoko Hamutaru*, and *Zone Of The Enders (Z.O.E.): Dolores, I!* It also includes the usual "Anime World" articles (Interview with voice actor Tiffany Grant, The Modern Japanese Music Database Part 15, more convention reports including SugoCon, Middle Tennessee Anime Convention, OhayoCon and UshiCon), the reviews of lots of recent anime & manga-related products (videos, DVDs, manga, books, model kits, live-action movies, etc.) and the latest news. All that to do the best we can to keep you informed about what's going on in the anime industry both in Japan and in North America!

This issue also has a slightly different cover design. Did you notice? As always, please enjoy this issue and don't forget to give us some feedback! Have a nice summer!

Next Issue: will be mostly dedicated to anime movie director Hayao MIYAZAKI. The main spotlights will focus on his most recent movie, *Sen To Chihiro no Kamikakushi* (aka *Spirited Away*), and his TV series *Future Boy Conan*. It will also offers overviews on some of his famous movies (*Nausicaa*, *Laputa*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Porco Rosso*, *Mononoke Princess*, etc.) as well as some of his minor works (*Shuna no Tabi*, *On Your Mark*, *Sherlock Hound*, etc.). It will finally include articles on the Ghibli Museum and the musician Joe Hisaishi. However, it will still include the usual "Anime World" articles, reviews and news. Coming in August! — PA#73 will focus on *Char's CounterAttack*, but will also include *Cosmo Warrior Zero*, *Cowboy Bebop Movie*, *Jojo's Bizarre Adventure*, *Natsu He no Tobira*, *Project ARMS*, *Sakura Wars Movie*, *Scryed*, and *Slayer Premium!* Don't miss them! Check our web page for details: www.protocolculture-mag.com!

Claude J. Pelletier

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25th Japanese Academy Awards: Best Supporting actress: Ko Shibasaki (*Go*); Best Supporting actor: Tsutomu Yamazaki (*Go*); Best actress: Keiko Kishi (*Big Mama*) [were also nominated: Yuko Tanaka who was a voice-actress in *Mononoke Princess*, and Narumi Yasuda, who sang the theme song of *Nausicaa*]; Best actor: Yosuke Kubozuka (*Go*) [the youngest actor to ever receive this award!]; Best director: Isao Yukisada (*Go*); **Best movie:** Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*; Best screenplay: Kankuro Kudo (*Go*); Best Art Direction: Yoshinobu Nishioka & Toshiyuki Matsumiya (*Tales Of Genji*); Best Cinematography: Katsumi Yanagijima (*Go*); Best Lighting: Hitoshi Takaya (*Go*). The movies that stand out for their numerous nominations are *Go*, *Tales Of Genji*, *Firefly*, *Waterboys*, *Everyone's House*, and *The Ying-Yang Fortune-Teller*.

6th Tezuka Awards (2002): Takehiko Inoue for *Vagabond* and Kentaro Miura for *Berserk*. No Special Award winner was selected this year. Strangely, the winners were announced by *Asahi Shimbun* well before the June 6th ceremony. (Sources: ANN; www.asahi.com/tezuka)

Anime Top Ten for May: *Azumanga Daiou*, *Chobits*, *Ai Yori Aoshi*, *Pita Ten*, *Rahxephon*, *Abenobashi Mahou Shoutengai*, *Figure 17*, *Rizelmine*, *Full Metal Panic* and *.hack//SIGN*. Compiled by Anihabara! (Source: ANN)



Appleseed, Masamune Shirow's popular manga adapted into an OVA in 1988, will become a full-CGI theatrical movie in 2003! Fans can preview this anime with three Pioneer DVDs offering a 4-min. trailer. Each DVD also comes with a figure of Deunan or Briareos (PIBA-9031-33, ¥3000, released on 6-25-02). © Masamune Shirow / Seishinsha • Omega Micott Inc • YamatoCo Ltd. (Sources: *Animage* #288 (June '02); *Anime Press* #114; *Newtype* June '02).

Detective Conan The Movie: The Ghost Of Baker Street. Every year, this popular manga / TV anime series becomes an anime feature film. This year it is *The Ghost Of Baker Street*, which takes place in Beika City Hall, in the city where Conan and

his friends live. "Cocoon" is a new simulation game taking place in 19th century London, but when the gamers enter the game, the real Jack The Ripper is waiting for them! Since the movie's screenplay is by Nao Nozawa, who received the "Japanese Rampo Edogawa Literature Award", viewers can expect a very intelligent and clever storyline. (Source: *Animage* #286 – April '02)

Gun Frontier, which started in March 2002, is an anime adaptation of Leiji Matsumoto's old manga from the 1970's. Leiji Matsumoto created this manga to follow the trend of Spaghetti western movies (*Sergio Leone's A Fistful Of Dollars*, etc.), which were very popular in Japan. He was fascinated by the legends of the American old west. Matsumoto's fans can discover yet another facet of their favorite artist's very rich world. Media Blasters recently announced that they had acquired the rights for *Gun Frontier*. (Source: *Animage* #286 – April '02)

Happy Lesson. The popular game has been adapted as a TV anime show which started in April 2002. Another so called "Harem anime" storyline featuring a lonely boy and five beautiful teachers who become mothers for him after school and pamper him! The DVD and OVA version were also released in Spring 2002. (Source: *Animage* #286 – April '02)

I'll Generation Basket, a manga by Asada Hiroyuki currently serialized in Shueisha Monthly *Shonen Jump* (and published in French by Glénat), will be adapted in to animation. The two-part OVA (due in December '02 and February '03) will be directed by Kawasaki Itsuro, scripted by Takahashi Miyuki, with character designs by Sekiguchi Kanami. Yet another sport anime, this time about basket ball. (Source: ANN)

Pokemon The Movie: Rattios & Rattios. Directed by Kunihiko Yuyama. Things Italian are very popular in Japan today and, this time, the movie takes place in a city that looks like Venice! (Source: *Animage* #286 – April '02)

Rayca is a new OVA created by Haruhiko Mikimoto (Character Designer for *Macross*) and produced by Bandai Visual. It was released in March 2002. Haruhiko Mikimoto and Ichiro Itano created an electronic brain idol, Rayca, in 3D computer graphics. (Source: *Animage* #286 – April '02)

Neko no Ongaeshi (The Cat's Repaying an Obligation) is the latest anime from Studio Ghibli! Director Hayao Miyazaki's studio and manga artist Aoi Hiiragi have teamed up to produce this feature film that is due in the Japanese theatres this summer. Hayao Miyazaki himself will work on the planning and the direction will be assumed by Hiroyuki Morita. This movie is a kind of sequel to Ghibli's *Mimi o Sumaseba (Whisper Of The Heart, 1995)*, in which the heroine writes a story about the adventures of a cat doll named Baron. The 75-minute movie is based on Aoi Hiiragi's manga titled "Baron: The Cat Baron". A highschool girl, Haru, rescues a cat that was about to be hit by a big truck. Then, it turns out that this cat is a prince of the Cat Kingdom, named Prince Roon. He then tries to repay Haru for her kindness, but suddenly mysterious incidents starts to occur. Mr. Miyazaki himself asked Ms. Hiiragi to write this story. He also asked her to put into the story that fat cat named Moon from *Whisper Of The Heart*. He shows up in the movie as Muta, the Prince helper. Mr. Morita, who was an animator on *My Neighbor The Yamadas* and is making his debut as director, was personally selected by Mr. Miyazaki for this job, to bring a new wave to Studio Ghibli's style. This fantasy movie, which will be shown in theatres along with the short *Ghiblies Episode 2*, will certainly charm the fans. A 21 year-old popular actress, Chizuru Ikehata, is doing the voice of Haru. The manga version is available in Japanese bookstores from Tokuma (216 pg, ¥690, ISBN 4-19-770088-1). Ms. Hiiragi says "Recently, I have been wondering what is our true happiness as human being? Normally, Shoujo manga's main theme is to seek for love between boys & girls, but this story offers the readers a different kind of happiness — in the Cats' Kingdom — and the adventure will make the heroine learn how to deal with her own life." *Neko no Ongaeshi* ©2002 Nekonotedo • TGNHMT. (Sources: *Animage* #287 (May '02); ANN).



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ASTROBOY #4 / #5 / #6 (Ep. 16-21 / 22-27 / 28-33)	ME	D	180 ea	19.95 ea	G 08/27
SAILOR MOON SUPER S #7: MEANING OF LOVE (Uncut)	P	D	70	14.98	13+ 09/03
SAILOR MOON SUPER S #8: BEAUTIFUL DREAMS (Uncut)	P	D	70	14.98	13+ 09/03
SAILOR MOON SUPER S: DREAM MEANINGS (Edited)	P	D	80	14.98	7+ 09/03
LOVE LESSONS	A18	D	60	29.99	18+ 09/10
CARDCAPTOR SAKURA #11: TRUST	P	S	100	24.98	13+ 09/10
GATEKEEPERS #7: THE SHADOW!	P	D	75	24.98	13+ 09/10
LEGEND OF HIMIKO: THE PENDANT	USM	D	100	19.99	13+ 09/10
BERSERK #3: WHITE HAWK (Ep. 10-13)	AW	D/S	100 ea	24.95 ea	13+ 09/24
COSMO WARRIOR ZERO #2: SEA OF STARS	AW	D	100	19.95	09/24
GOKUDO #5: LOVER EXTRAORDINAIRE	AW	D	100	24.95	13+ 09/24
RUROUNI KENSHIN #22: END SONG (Ep. 91-94, FINAL)	AW	D/S	100	24.95 ea	13+ 09/24
Y's #1: BOOK ONE	AW	D	100	24.95	13+ 09/24
LUPIN III #2: PURSUIT OF HARIMAO'S TREASURE	FN	D	90	19.95	13+ 09/24
EVANGELION THE MOVIE: THE END OF EVANGELION	ME	D/S	90 ea	19.95/24.95	13+ 09/24
GTO #4: THE TEST	TP	D	125	19.99	09/24
YU YU HAKUSHO #5: BEASTS OF MAZE CASTLE (Ed/Unc)	FN	D	60/62	19.95	13+ 10/08
YU YU HAKUSHO #6: SEVEN WAYS TO DIE (Edited/Uncut)	FN	D	60/62	19.95	13+ 10/08
RANMA 1/2 RF #3: KISS ME, CAT	VV	D	78	19.98	13+ 10/15
ASTROBOY #7 / #8 / #9 (Ep. 34-39 / 40-45 / 46-51)	ME	D	180 ea	19.95 ea	G 11/26
YU YU HAKUSHO #7: RESCUE YUKINA (Edited/Uncut)	FN	D	60/62	19.95	13+ 12/10
YU YU HAKUSHO #8: DARK TOURNAMENT (Edited/Uncut)	FN	D	60/62	19.95	13+ 12/10

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RUROUNI KENSHIN #18: FALL FROM GRACE (Eps 75-78)	AW	B	100	29.95	13+ 05/28
VANILLA SERIES (THE): MEIKING	CM	B	120	29.95	18+ DELAY
LANDLOCK	ME	B	90	29.95	13+ 05/28
MACROSS PLUS THE MOVIE	ME	S	120	29.95	13+ 05/28
COMBAT PACK: SILENT SERVICE / AREA 88	USM	B	24.99	13+ 05/28	
JUDGMENT PACK: JUDGE / CYBERNETICS GUARDIAN	USM	B	24.99	16+ 05/28	
FANTASY PACK: LEMNEAR / GARZEY'S WING	USM	B	24.99	16+ 05/28	
MARTIAL ARTS PACK: AYANE'S... / GRAPPLER BAKI	USM	B	24.99	16+ 05/28	
GIRLPOWER PACK: VIRGIN FLEET / GALL FORCE	USM	B	24.99	13+ 05/28	

NADIA #9: NADIA IN LOVE	ADV	B	100	29.98	12+ 06/04
BETTERMAN #1: THE AWAKENING	B	B	125	29.98	13+ 06/04
MS GUNDAM #10: LALAH'S FATE (Ep. 40-43)	B	D	100	24.98	16+ 06/04
RONIN WARRIORS #3: WARRIORS REUNITED! (Ep. 9-12)	B	B	100	24.98	13+ 06/04
LA BLUE GIRL 1-2	A18	B	90	29.99	18+ 06/11
801 T.T.S. AIRBATS #1	ADV	B	90	34.98	06/11
EXCEL SAGA #1	ADV	B	125	29.98	17+ 06/11
SAILOR MOON #3: THE MAN IN THE TUXEDO MASK	ADV	D	135	14.98	G 06/11
SAILOR MOON #4: SECRET OF THE SAILOR SCOUTS	ADV	D	135	14.98	G 06/11
ADVENTURES OF THE MINI-GODDESSES #3: THE URD FILES	P	B	100	29.98	13+ 06/11
SAILOR MOON SUPER S PEGASUS COLL. #3	P	B	140	29.98	13+ 06/11
SHERLOCK HOUND CASE FILE #3 (Ep. 11-14)	P	B	100	29.98	7+ 06/11
SOUL TAKER #3: BLOOD BETRAYAL	P	B	75	29.98	16+ 06/11
THE SLAYERS DVD COLLECTION (4 DISCS ENHANCED)	SS	B	600	129.99	3+ 06/11
PATLABOR TV SERIES #2	USM	B	120	29.99	3+ 06/11
RANMA 1/2 FOREVER #1: INITIATION NITE	VV	B	75	24.98	13+ 06/11
ZOIDS #2: THE HIGH SPEED BATTLE	VV	D	88	19.98	7+ 06/11
YUYU HAKUSHO #3: A NEW APPRENTICE	FN	B	82	24.95	13+ 06/12
YUYU HAKUSHO #4: GATE OF BETRAYAL	FN	B	82	24.95	13+ 06/12
BLUE SEED PERFECT COLLECTION	ADV	B	650	59.98	12+ 06/18
GOLDEN BOY #2 (2): BOUND FOR GLORY	ADV	B	90	29.98	17+ 06/18
SOUL HUNTER #5: CITY OF FIRE	ADV	B	100	29.98	12+ 06/18
SABER MARIONETTE J TO X: PROGRAM 2 (Ep. 6-10)	B	B	125	29.98	13+ 06/18
SILENT MOBIUS #1: EARTH UNDER ATTACK (Ep. 1-9)	B	B	225	44.98	16+ 06/18
LOVE HINA #3: SECRET LIVES (Ep. 9-12)	IG/B	B	100	29.98	13+ 06/18
GREAT TEACHER ONIZUKA (GTO) #3: OUTCASTS	TP	B	125	29.98	16+ 06/18
CITY HUNTER MOVIE: SECRET SERVICE	ADV	B	90	29.98	15+ 06/25
MEDABOTS #2: MEDABOTS, ROBATTLER!	ADV	D	100	19.98	G 06/25
GUNDRESS	AW	B	82	29.95	13+ 06/25
KNIGHT HUNTERS #3: LONELY HEART (Eps 11-15)	AW	B	125	29.95	13+ 06/25
KUROGANE COMMUNICATION #3: FUTURE HORIZONS	AW	B	120	24.95	13+ 06/25
RUROUNI KENSHIN #19: DREAMS OF YOUTH (Eps 79-82)	AW	B	100	29.95	13+ 06/25
FLCL #1	IG/SP	B	60	29.95	13+ 06/25
GHOS... SWEEPER MIKAMI #1	ME	B	60	24.95	16+ 06/25
... WARS	ME	B	60	24.95	06/25
... WARS	ME	B	60	24.95	06/25
... DUAL MATRIX	P	B	90	19.98	16+ 06/25

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• L I V E - A C T I O N •

Sunny Gets Blue / Blowback: Love & Death DVD	APC	B	160	29.99	06/11
Farscape: Season 2 Vol. 2.1 DVD	ADV	D	210	39.98	06/25
Freeze Me	MB	B	101	29.95	06/25
Farscape: The Best of Season One DVD	ADV	D	370	44.98	07/09
Zero Woman: Assassin Lovers DVD	APC	B	87	29.99	07/09
The Ninja Dragon DVD	APC	B	70	29.99	08/13
Street Fury Blue Edition	TP				08/27
Tokyo Mafia: Yakuza Blood DVD	APC	B	90	29.99	09/10
Tokyo Mafia DVD Collection	APC	B	345	79.99	09/10
Lone Wolf & Cub #1 DVD	AE				DEC
Lone Wolf & Cub #2 DVD	AE				Spring
Zatoichi #1	AE				Spring

• S O U N D T R A C K S •

Real Bout High School CD Soundtrack	TP	76	4	14.99	05/21
Best of Lost Universe CD Soundtrack	ATX	72	15	14.98	05/28
Martian Successor Nadesico TV CD Soundtrack	ATX	41	11	14.98	05/28
Slayers Try VOX CD Soundtrack	ATX	45	10	14.98	05/28
Slayers Try Treasury BGM 1 CD Soundtrack	ATX	70	31	14.98	DELAY
Slayers Try Treasury BGM 2 CD Soundtrack	ATX	72	32	14.98	DELAY
Yamamoto Yohko Starship Girl Song Coll. CD	ATX	51	11	14.98	DELAY
GTO Official Soundtrack	TP	47	20	14.99	08/13

LEGEND:

Anime / Live-Action: A18: Anime 18 (CPM); ADV: A.D. Vision; AE: AnimEigo; APC: Asia Pulp Cinema; AW: AnimeWorks (MB); B: Bandai; CM: Critical Mass (RS); CPM: Central Park Media; CTS: Columbia/TriStar; D: Disney (BV); DF: Destination Film (CTS); FN: Funimation; IG: Production I.G. Video; IM: Image; KM: Kitty Media (MB); KP: Kaiju Productions (MB); KR: Kid Rhino; MB: Media Blasters; ME: Manga Ent.; NIR: Nirvana; NT: NuTech; P: Pioneer; RS: The Right Stuff; SCP: SoftCel; SP: Synch-Point; SS: Software Scriptors (CPM); TP: Tokyo Pop; TS: Tokyo Shock (MB); USM: U.S. Manga Corps (CPM); UV: Urban Vision; VV: Viz Video; WB: Warner Brothers; S: Subtitled; D: Dubbed; B: Bilingual; M: Multilingual. The last four columns are the duration (min.), price (\$US), rating and release date (street).

Soundtrack: ATX: AnimeTrax (RS); TP: TokyoPop. Chart lists releaser, duration (min.), number of tracks, price (\$US) and release date.

Manga: AP: Antarctic Press; C1: ComicsOne; CPM: Central Park Media Manga; DH: Dark Horse; DK: Daikajiu; DW: Dreamwave; FB: Fantasy Comics; GO: Guardian Of Order; IC: Ironcat; IM: Image; M18: Manga 18 (CPM); RM: Redlight Manga; SF: Sexy Fruit (IC); T: Titan; TP: TokyoPop (Mixx); VIZ: Viz Comics; W: Wizard. GN: Graphic Novel. BK: Book. * Adult titles. Columns: Title, Issue, Publisher, Prices (in \$US), Release Month.

Sources: *Previews* and publishers' press releases.



MANGA RELEASES

MANGA SELECTION

Bastard!! Vol. 1. Based on the retouched *Bastard!!* Perfect Edition, recently released in Japan, rather than the original, older graphic novels, *Bastard!!* has been cult hit in American fandom for years and now the famous manga finally comes to America in graphic novel format — with a never-before-translated afterword by Hagiwara. The kingdom of Metallicana is under attack, besieged by the dark forces of four evil armies sweeping the world. As orcs and giants besiege their citadel, the desperate defenders turn to a legend that a virgin's kiss may awaken "Dark Schneider," an ancient evil wizard sealed within the body of Lucien, a seemingly normal 14-year-old boy. Yoko, Lucien's teenage step-sister, does the deed and as the castle falls, Lucien metamorphoses into a silver-haired demigod! Dark Schneider, the chaotic, lecherous wizard, has returned, only barely restrained by the magic that forces him to obey Yoko. But a world of demons, dragons, and the four evil generals awaits him... and bloodstained Metallicana may never know peace again. Viz Comics, by Kazushi Hagiwara, avail. in July.

Battle Angel Alita: Last Order, Part 1, #1. The long-awaited continuation of the 9-volume best-selling series, *Battle Angel Alita: Last Order* updates Alita's continuous struggle to discover her mysterious past and unveils the series, original ending — as the author intended — for the first time in English! Destroyed by the mad scientist Desty Nova, Alita wakes up to find herself in "heaven" — the floating sky-city known as Tipharee, miles above the dystopian Scrapyard. Reborn in a strange place with a new body, Alita must remember her old identity and face the masters of the world — the unseen wardens of the asylum called Tipharee. Known as *Gunnm* (Gun Dream) in Japan, *Battle Angel Alita: Last Order* has been running in Japan's monthly manga magazine *Ultra Jump* since December 2000. Viz Comics, by Yukito Kishiro, b&w, 48 pg, \$2.95 U.S. (\$4.95 CAN), avail. in September.

Cinderella. A twisted turn on the classic fairy tale — Cinderella's dad and the stepsisters are zombies, her family runs a yakitori restaurant and the sickly Prince is a pop star on permanent I.V. support! Mizuno turns this classic story about class, labor and the social role of women, on its head with a distinctly post-pop, post-feminist consciousness with delirious color illustrations, elements of grotesquerie and politically sharp black humor. Brimming with psychedelic soul, Cinderella is the latest brilliant pop object from cutting-edge Japan. Cute but deadly. Powerpuff Girls on acid. Girl power with a grotesque edge. Viz Comics, by Junko Mizuno, full color, 120 pg, \$15.95 U.S. (\$26.50 Can), avail. in July.

Heaven Sword and Dragon Sabre Vol. 1. ComicsOne has licensed another of artist Wing Shing Ma's Kung Fu comics. It is based on the martial arts novel by Jin Yong, which later spawned numerous television series and several Hong Kong movie adaptations. Set during the Mongol invasion of ancient China, the story follows young Wuji Cheung's growth as a Kung Fu master amidst the frenzied pursuit of two ancient, powerful weapons: Heaven Sword and Dragon Sabre. In order to unite his country and overthrow China's Mongol oppressors, Wuji must develop his own formidable powers while understanding both swords' relationship to his parents' legacy. The first volume, coming in August, depicts Wuji's birth to parents from rival clans and his education at the hands of the master swordsman Xie Xun, the Golden-Haired Lion King. ComicsOne, by Jin Yong, Vol. 1 of an ongoing 25-volume series, full color, 120 pg, \$13.95 U.S., avail. in August.

Project Arms, Part 1 #1. From the creators of *Spriggan* (aka *Striker*) comes a new tale of nano-machines, cybernetic assassins, powerful telekinetic opponents, and a secret organization dedicated to bringing forth the next evolution of man. Ryo Takatsuki thought of himself as just an average high school student, until he learned that his arm had been secretly replaced with a powerful nano-machine driven weapon called "ARMS." Designed to be the ultimate integrated weaponry, ARMS is insanely powerful and, in inexperienced hands, can often go out of control. Now a powerful, secret organization is after the only living samples of this technology, and the strangely enhanced assassins who are sent to get them are ready to kill anyone who gets in their way. As a result, Ryo is quickly ripped from his ordinary life into one of mayhem, where he must face those who try to obtain his power by any means possible. Viz Comics, b&w, 64 pg, \$3.25 U.S. (\$5.50 Can), avail. in September.

Rave Vol. 1. A young boy and his friends set out on a fantasy adventure to save the world from evil domination! The all-powerful Dark Stone — a magical stone and ruler of the dark side — awakens after a 50-year respite. When it falls into the hands of the evil Demon Card, the world is in terrible danger. A sacred stone called Rave and its master Shiba are the only defense against the Dark Stone's evil powers. Yet, Shiba loses control over Rave when he is mortally attacked by a Demon Card assassin. With the dark side looming, a boy called Haru may be the world's single hope of revitalizing Rave and escaping the clutches of evil. Tokyopop, by Hiro Mashima, 176 pg, b&w, \$9.99 US, avail. in August.

Tony Wong returns to the U.S. — ComicsOne announced that it has licensed three more Kung Fu comics, expanding its Kung Fu line to five series. Not since the days of Jademan Comics have Kung Fu comics been so popular in the U.S., and it's fitting that leading the resurgence of Kung Fu titles is Tony Wong, producer of the *Oriental Heroes* series that enjoyed a burst of American popularity during the 80's. ComicsOne has licensed Mr. Wong's *Weapons of the Gods*, *The Legendary Couple*, and *Mega Dragon and Tiger: Future Kung Fu Action*. *Weapons of the Gods* follows the adventures of several Kung Fu masters, each with a different weapon and allegiance, seeking to prevent the destruction of the world by the evil Tiger Soul. *The Legendary Couple* is the story of a Kung Fu couple, reunited after a long separation to defend the world while they rediscover their love for each other. *Mega Dragon and Tiger: Future Kung Fu Action* combines the Kung Fu and Science Fiction genres to create wildly imaginative set pieces for some extraordinary battle scenes. Volume One of *Weapons of the Gods* is available in August 2002 and Volume One of *The Legendary Couple* and *Mega Dragon and Tiger* will be published in September 2002. The full color 120 page graphic novels will be priced at \$13.95.

ANGELIC LAYER VOL. 1-2	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Aug
ANIME INVASION [magazine]	4	W	4.99	Aug
ANIMERICA EXTRA VOL. 5 [manga anthology]	9	VIZ	4.95	Aug
ANIMERICA VOL. 10 [magazine]	9	VIZ	4.95	Aug
ASTRO BOY VOL. 7	GN	DH	9.95	Sep 25
BASTARD!!	8-10	VIZ	3.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL (#71): BEAST	6 (77)	DH	2.99	Aug 14
CARDCAPTOR SAKURA	31	TP	2.95	Aug
CARDCAPTORS ANIME BOOK VOL. 4-5	BK	TP	14.99	Jun/Jul
CERES CELESTIAL LEGEND PART 3	2-4 (14)	VIZ	3.50	Jul/Aug/Sep
CHOBITS VOL. 2	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
CORRECTOR YUI VOL. 4	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
COWBOY BEBOP COMPLETE ANIME GUIDE #5-6	BK	TP	12.99	Jul/Sep
COWBOY BEBOP Vol. 2-3	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Aug
DARK ANGEL BOOK 4	GN	CPM	15.95	July
DRAGON KNIGHTS VOL. 2-3	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Aug
DRAGONBALL Part 5	2-4 (77)	VIZ	2.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
DRAGONBALL VOL. 9	GN	VIZ	12.95	Sep
DRAGONBALL Z PART 5	7-9 (112)	VIZ	2.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
EDEN VOL. 1 *	2	SF	2.95	Aug
FANTASY FIGHTER	GN	CPM	16.95	June
FRONTIER LINE	GN	CPM	15.95	Sep
GEOBREEDERS BOOK 4	GN	CPM	15.95	Aug
GTO Vol. 2-5	GN	TP	9.99	Jun-Sep
GUNDAM TECH. MAN.: STARDUST CHAR'S COUNTERATTACK	BK	TP	12.99	Sep
GUNDAM WING: ENDLESS WALTZ	GN	TP	9.99	Aug
GUNDAM WING: G-UNIT	2 (112)	TP	2.99	Aug
HAMTARO OFFICIAL HANDBOOK	BK	VIZ	11.95	Aug
HEAVEN SWORD & DRAGON SABRE	1	C1	13.95	Aug
HELLSING ULTIMATE FAN GUIDE	BK	GO	19.95	Aug
HOW TO DRAW MANGA	8	AP	4.95	Aug
IMMORAL ANGEL #1-3	GN	M18	16.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
INITIAL D VOL. 2	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
INUYASHA A FEUDAL FAIRY TALE PART 7	1-2 (8)	VIZ	2.95	Aug/Sep
INUYASHA A FEUDAL FAIRY TALE VOL. 12	GN	VIZ	15.95	Sep
ISANA VOL. 4-5	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Sep
JABBER VOL. 1-2 Set	C1		21.00	Aug
KOJIMA VOL. 1-3	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Jul/Aug
LOVE HINA VOL. 25	GN	DH	9.95	Sep 25
LOVE HINA VOL. 3-4	GN	TP	9.99	Jul/Aug
M.D. GEIST COMPLETE EDITION	GN	CPM	15.95	Aug
MAGICAL POKEMON JOURNEY VOL. 6	GN	VIZ	13.95	Aug
MARMA LADE BOY VOL. 2-3	GN	TP	9.99	Aug/Sep
MARS VOL. 2-3	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Aug
MARTIAN SUCCESSOR NADESICO BOOK 4	GN	CPM	15.95	Aug
MAXION BOOK 3	GN	CPM	15.95	June
MEDABOTS PART 3	1-4 (14)	VIZ	2.75	Aug/Sep
MIRACLE GIRLS VOL. 5	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM 0079 VOL. 6	GN	VIZ	9.95	Aug
NEON GENESIS EVANGELION PART 7	3-5 (77)	VIZ	2.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
OGENKI CLINIC VOL. 3 *	GN	SF	17.95	Aug
OGENKI CLINIC VOL. 9 *	5	SF	2.95	Aug
OH MY GODDESS! XII #2: LEARNING TO LOVE	2 (3)	DH	2.99	Aug 7
PARADISE KISS VOL. 2	GN	TP	9.99	Aug
PARASYTE VOL. 11	GN	TP	12.99	Sep
PEACH GIRL VOL. 5	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
PLANET LADDER VOL. 2	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
POKEMON ADVENTURES PART 7	4-5 (5)	VIZ	4.95	Jul/Aug
POKEMON ADVENTURES VOL. 6: THE CAVE CAMPAIGN	GN	VIZ	13.95	Aug
PRIEST VOL. 1	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
PROTOCULTURE ADDICTS [magazine]	72	P	4.95	Aug
RAGNAROK VOL. 2	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
RANMA 1/2 PART 11	5-7 (111)	VIZ	2.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
RAVE VOL. 1	GN	TP	9.99	Aug
REAL BOUT HIGH SCHOOL VOL. 2-3	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Aug
RECORD OF LODOSS WAR: DEEDLIT'S TALE	GN	CPM	15.95	July
SAINT TAIL VOL. 5	GN	TP	9.99	Jul
SILENT MOBIUS VOL. 8: ADVENT	GN	VIZ	15.95	Aug
SILENT MOBIUS: BLOOD PART 11	1-3 (5)	VIZ	2.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
SKULL MAN VOL. 2-3	GN	TP	9.99	Jun/Sep
SLAYERS SPECIAL	6	CPM	2.95	June
SLAYERS®: SPECIAL #1: TOUCH OF EVIL	GN	CPM	15.95	Sep
SLAYERS®: SUPER-EXPLOSIVE DEMON	GN	CPM	15.95	June
SORCERER HUNTERS VOL. 10-11	GN	TP	12.99	Jun/Sep
SPIRITING AWAY VOL. 2	GN	VIZ	9.95	Aug
STORM RIDER #5	GN	C1	11.95	Aug
TENCHI MUYO! THE ALL NEW PART 1	4-5 (5)	VIZ	2.95	Aug/Sep
THE BIG O Part 2	1-3 (14)	VIZ	3.50	Jul/Aug/Sep
TRIGUN ULTIMATE FAN GUIDE	BK	GO	24.95	Aug
VAGABOND PART 1	9-11	VIZ	4.95	Jul/Aug/Sep
VAMPIRE PRINCESS MIYU VOL. 3	GN	IC	17.95	Aug
VAMPIRE YUI VOL. 4	7	IC	2.95	Aug
WEAPONS OF THE GODS #1	GN	C1	13.95	Aug
WOUNDED MAN #9	GN	C1	9.95	Aug
X/1999 VOL. 8: CRESCENDO	GN	VIZ	15.95	Aug
YOU & ME VOL. 1	2	IC	2.95	Aug
ZOIDS	7-8	VIZ	5.95	Aug/Sep