

Mingyuet Comments  
Regular Release

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2025.8

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## Foreword

Tumulous life ahead.

I will not say much about this but I hope the lots of you are doing much better than me, no matter if you really deserve it or not.

-- Editor-in-Chief, Mingyuet Comments

## A Chinese Font I've Searched For 15 Years

2025.8.1

As I've explained elsewhere<sup>1</sup>, the so-called "script fonts?" in this page<sup>2</sup> is actually a very old font that has been around for years. If my memory serves me correctly, I first encountered it in 2006 in a text editor with a weird built-in input method, and I've been wondering where that font comes from ever since, because most (if not all) bitmap Ming fonts has 1px strokes, which isn't really serif-y enough for a very serif-y family of typeface. This font that I was looking for is totally different: thick vertical strokes, proper serifs at the end of horizontal strokes, everything about it tells you its original designer was really trying to capture the essence of "Ming"-ness within the available limits.

And today I've finally been able to confirm a good part of its origin. As it turns out:

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1 <https://sebastian.graphics/blog/extracting-plan9-font-bitmap.html>

2 <https://9p.io/wiki/plan9/Fonts/index.html>

- It's originally made by the Institute of Software of "Academia Sinica" (which is now called the Chinese Academy of Sciences) in 1988.
- The font has been a part of XFree86, where Plan 9 got it from.
- Apparently it was donated to XFree86, but since XFree86 started a few years after the time mark of 1988, I'd imagine it had been used in certain internal systems and might have been distributed among colleges and institutes prior to this. It might have been released under the MIT license first and then picked up by XFree86 later; I didn't dig further.

Someone has made a vectorized version of the 16px font.<sup>3</sup> I don't really recommend using it other than for stylistic reasons because it was designed against the GB2312 standard which lacks a lot of characters that may appear in the text you need to render (and font fallback is not pretty because it has such a distinct look), but I'm definitely going to use it when truly applicable.

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3 <https://diaowinner.itch.io/chusung>

2025.8.3

Context:

<https://x.com/TheSliceofAnime/status/1951619923358175664>

I haven't talked about this, but *Gushing Over Magical Girls* is seriously one of the better animes I've seen over the years. The perversion of the main protagonist is shown in such a refreshing way, that all the actual sexual stuff feels like to me like they are merely the tiny bits of the extra moldy parts of a good piece of Roquefort cheese. Adolescent sexuality in anime has almost always been done in a very plastic manner (as to not offend people, I assume); it's either being performatively innocent, being treated as the butt (pun massively not intended) of jokes (e.g. *Please Put Them On, Takamine-san* and the more fabled *Shimoneta*), or genuinely sucks to look at (e.g. *Sora no Otoshimono*. I know it's from a different era, but I genuinely couldn't stand the male protagonist.) I know nothing about the team behind *Gushing Over*, but I'd imagine at least some of the key

roles must be women and were actually writing their own experiences.

A few comments on the tweet recommended *Eromanga Sensei*, *Yosuga no Sora* and *Imouto sae Ireba Ii*. because "haha incest", but the last one is sincerely good (once you get past the absolute madness of the few minutes in the beginning, the rest of it is actually a great young adult slice-of-life show). The same thing cannot be said about *Eromanga Sensei* (the plot is just not that good) and probably not for *Yosuga no Sora* as well (I haven't watched it, but it's an galgame adaptation and galgame adaptations are generally not to be trusted; see my previous posts on *Grisaia*).

But - with that said, what actually are the ones that are good for beginners? It has to be acceptable by normies, able to break whatever kind of stigma in their head, and not to paint outside the very narrow normie lines so that we don't waste the great grace they've bestowed upon us lowly anime-watching weeaboos. I tried to think of the ones that (1) are short enough (should be only one season, unless it's good enough to justify a length longer than that) and (2) are distinct enough to show the media's

potential without being too popular, and I think the following would be good choices:

- *Hyouda*. I shouldn't have to explain this one - come on, it's *Hyouda*! Actually, considering the tweet the context post has quoted listed *Your Name* under the "Anime for Beginners" category, I'd say *Hyouda* is just as fitting. It's strange no one talks about it these days - maybe it's because it has such a clean ending that killed off any possible further discussions. That said, I'd imagine band kids might enjoy *Hibike! Euphonium* more, although I haven't watched it myself and can't really be sure.
- *Angel Beats!*. I think Maeda Jun peaked in this work; *Charlotte* really isn't as good. *Angel Beats!* is not meme-able; characters may joke around from time to time, but the whole story is very serious (Maeda Jun's special flavour of seriousness), so serious in fact, that despite having watched it several times, I really can't think of a moment in the show that I can wholeheartedly make a meme out of.

- *Re:Creators*. Does your target like shounen battle scene? Make them watch this. If they didn't enjoy the show, they should at least appreciate the idea behind it; and if they didn't even do that, their future opinions on anime can be safely disregarded.
- *Kino no Tabi: The Beautiful World* (the newer version made in 2017). What *Kino no Tabi* is, is "fables for grown-ups". The original TV version is even more so, but modern human don't necessarily enjoy the old art style. Either way, watch it, it'd make you rethink a thing or two.
- *Shirobako*. (Secretly a Japanese TV drama in anime form?) This is good for people who believe that anime are all fantasies without a single bit of realism. "Not enough realism"? Well now you can have all the realism in the world, let's see how you like it.
- *Vivy: Fluorite Eye's Song*. For people who like science fictions. For more machine-leaning, see 86 and even the *Gundam* series. For "softer" and more AI leaning, see *Beatless*. *Vivy* is a good compromise with a very good story.



- *Princess Principal*. This is not necessarily a good "beginner" choice (sometimes girls are too cute and people might not be able to handle that), I just listed it here because I really enjoyed it. It somehow became a sleeper, and I believe that Gigguk needs to be partially responsible for this because I've never heard him mentioned it in his videos.

A few shows that people might say it's good (and they are) but I think is not particularly suited for "beginners":

- *Frieren: Beyond Journey's End* - Too strong of a shounen polish. No matter what people say, anime veterans will know it's very shounen deep down. If you're gonna do this, you want to move them away from the shounen stereotype, not towards it.
- *Kaguya-sama: Love Is War* - One of the best romcom anime in maybe ever, but my gut feelings tell me that while it's good for someone who's already seriously begun their weeb journey, it's not necessarily a good choice as someone's first anime (watching *Dragonball Z* and/or *Naruto* when you're a kid doesn't count). Sometimes anime has a particular storytelling style which I'd imagine

stems from Japanese comedy, and it's something you have to ease people into gradually.

- *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners* - This is actually a great choice if your target likes games but bizarrely doesn't like anime (it's okay we don't kink shame people here), but it's not very good if your target doesn't like any of the things shown in the show, so proceed with caution. Also, you absolutely have to get the version with Japanese voices; this issue in particular is unnegotiable.
- *Samurai Champloo* - The story is too Japanese. Some people might be extra closed-minded and will not appreciate that.
- *Higashi no Eden* - I'd imagine a lot of people don't like sophisticated plot with no big satisfactory resolution, but if your target claims that they're a movie connoisseur, this one (and *Samurai Champloo*) might work wonders.

## ***On Nande Koko ni Sensei ga!?<sup>4</sup>***

2025.8.5

It's rare to have a show this lack of substance. I can literally summarize the plot within this sentence: very young female teachers (all early 20s) somehow got jobs at the same highschool, having inexplicable accidents which always end up in borderline sex situation with their respective male students like tit-sucking (it somehow is a common occurrence) and urination (!), ended up becoming couples, (presumably) had actual sex, the end. Unlike margarine which tastes nothing like butter (the Irish ones don't; they all taste horrible), this is really just like hentai but with the banging part cut. Unfortunately yours truly is the kind of people who would seriously watch *Highschool DxD* solely for the story, so to be honest I'm not exactly enjoying it a lot while watching this show. Good thing it's short, eh?

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4 English name: *Why the Hell are You Here, Teacher!?*

## **On *Tawawa on Monday***

2025.8.11

To say this is an "ecchi show" is a miscategorization. It's a much tamer show with a very strong focus on breasts but zero need for censorship because there's no explicit thing happening explicitly: the furthest it has gone is to show someone's bra; it's hard for me to be that uptight enough to say it should be treated like other ecchi shows (e.g. Takamine-san). The fact that the show focus more on the relationships between the characters (and big boobs of course) is going to bring much more substance into its story than your normal ecchi shows that are driven almost solely by sexual occurrences. Is it a good show that bears watching seriously? Not really; but as something to kill the time with while you're waiting for your cup noodle to cook? Sure, I can't see why not.

## **On *Harapan*, a song by The Cottons**

2025.8.19

The guitarist of one of my favourite Japanese rock band, Gama, mentioned this song in one of his tweet, so I went and gave it a listen and HOLY -- this has to be one of the most haunting song I've listened in years. To be fair there do be many different kinds of "haunting", like for example *The Dripping Tap* by King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard is also haunting but of a different kind. This song, *Harapan* by The Cottons, is a beast on its own. First of all the whole thing is 16 minutes long - how often do you come across pop songs that are 16 minutes long?? Second of all, before reading the lyrics, the way the main vocal sings in this song has always been slightly bothering me - it sounds like it's supposed to be a pretty, quiet and calm song but why do I keep feeling this slight bit of eeriness? And then I read the lyrics and the eeriness makes full sense immediately. It doesn't sound like a sad song - although it might be because I don't know Indonesian and

rely on machine translation - but the sadness it's able to depict and convey is at such a strong level. What is this feeling they're putting in my brain?? Existential dread???

## **On *Kakkou no linazuke*<sup>5</sup>**

2025.8.23

It's a weird feeling. This might be the true mediocre of similar genres - it definitely can't be said as very good, but it's not horrible either (I'm looking at you, a certain unmistakably trashy show). It has a few problems, undoubtedly. The rhythm isn't one of them - you aren't really supposed to focus on the rhythm part when it comes to 2-season long highschool love comedies by now; but none of my conspiracy theories about the entire situation really makes enough sense and doesn't rely on assumed info they haven't given us (e.g. they could reveal things like "oh the poor dad is actually from the same rich family as the rich dad and he just left because of a rebellious phase hissy fit" which would then explain a lot of stuff), and that really annoyed me.

The rich dad character is bad. Is he really 57, or it's simply because the author(s) needed a larger number? He somehow feels much less mature than the poor dad

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5 English name: *A Couple of Cuckoos*

who's whole 21 years younger. I pretty much don't enjoy the "parent/older siblings being the overhanging schemer" trope ever since the trainwreck that's known as Oregairu. Maybe it's just me getting old and have lost the patience for people who needlessly overcomplicate things, but Lord have mercy, you're directly meddling with highschool romance with adult power and authority, don't you feel at least a little bit of senselessness in this?

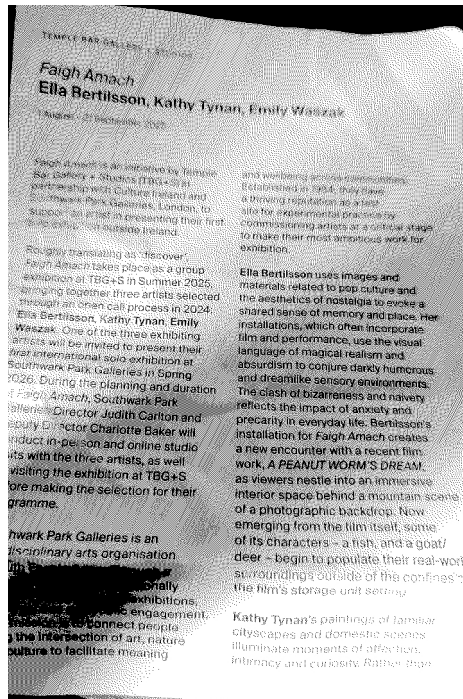
I sense an uptick of girls having complicated emotion pattern; I think this is more of a good thing than a bad thing.



## On Art Exhibition: *Faigh Amach*

2025.8.27

A few weeks ago I went to see a local art exhibition; this is the third time I've gone to see an exhibition. The exhibition is titled Faigh Amach, and featured three different artists.

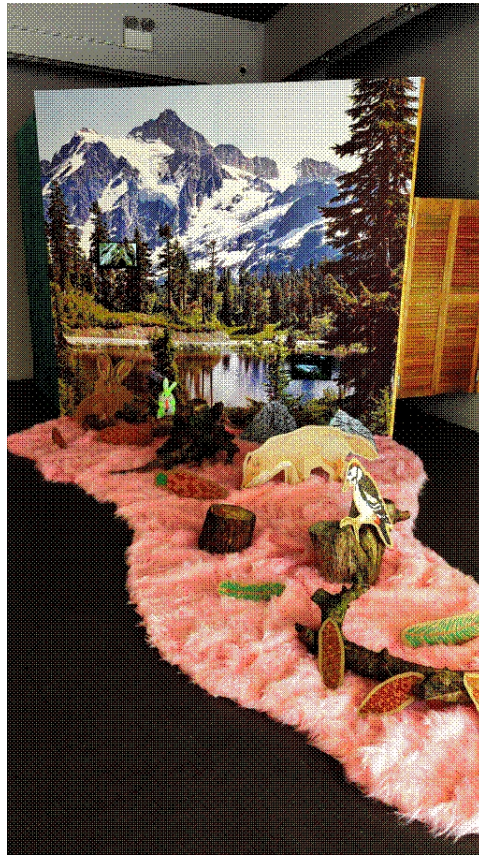


*Figure 1: The accompanying pamphlet.*

Ella Bertilsson's installation at this exhibition, from my viewpoint, is more of a reprise of her previous film than anything. Without the context provided by said film, titled *A Peanut Worm's Dream*, the dark absurdism visual stimulation it's supposed to deliver (or invoke the memory

of) could be lost to viewers. The 13-minute film could indeed be watched in its entirety within this work (inside the room mentioned below), but one may argue that's not the correct order you're supposed to perceive things.

Behind the backdrop shown in the picture below is a slice of room fitted like a living room of a tiny apartment, quite similar to the ones in *A Peanut Worm's Dream*. I did not take a photo of the room; despite what's behind the backdrop was indeed labelled as a part of the exhibition, it's put in a way that heavily reminded me of how certain exhibitions would board off things they don't necessarily want you to be able to see; filming what's behind thus feels forbidden or at least rude. I don't know if this is also a part of the intended effect, or it's simply because boarding off a corner of the tiny exhibition room is the only way to symbolically replicate the dark corridors in *A Peanut Worm's Dream*.



I have no comments on Kathy Tynan's paintings and Emily Waszak's installations. To me they're simply paintings and objects whose compositions are pleasant to look at, and I understood their narratives after reading

the introduction text from the pamphlet. While the pamphlet mentioned Waszak's "Japanese heritage" - which I did see part of from the installation - I'm not well-versed enough to provide more comments on it, since Japan do have many different local traditions. I'm genuinely sorry about this part.



*Figure 2: Potteries from Emily Waszak's work.*



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by the Mingyuet Comments team

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