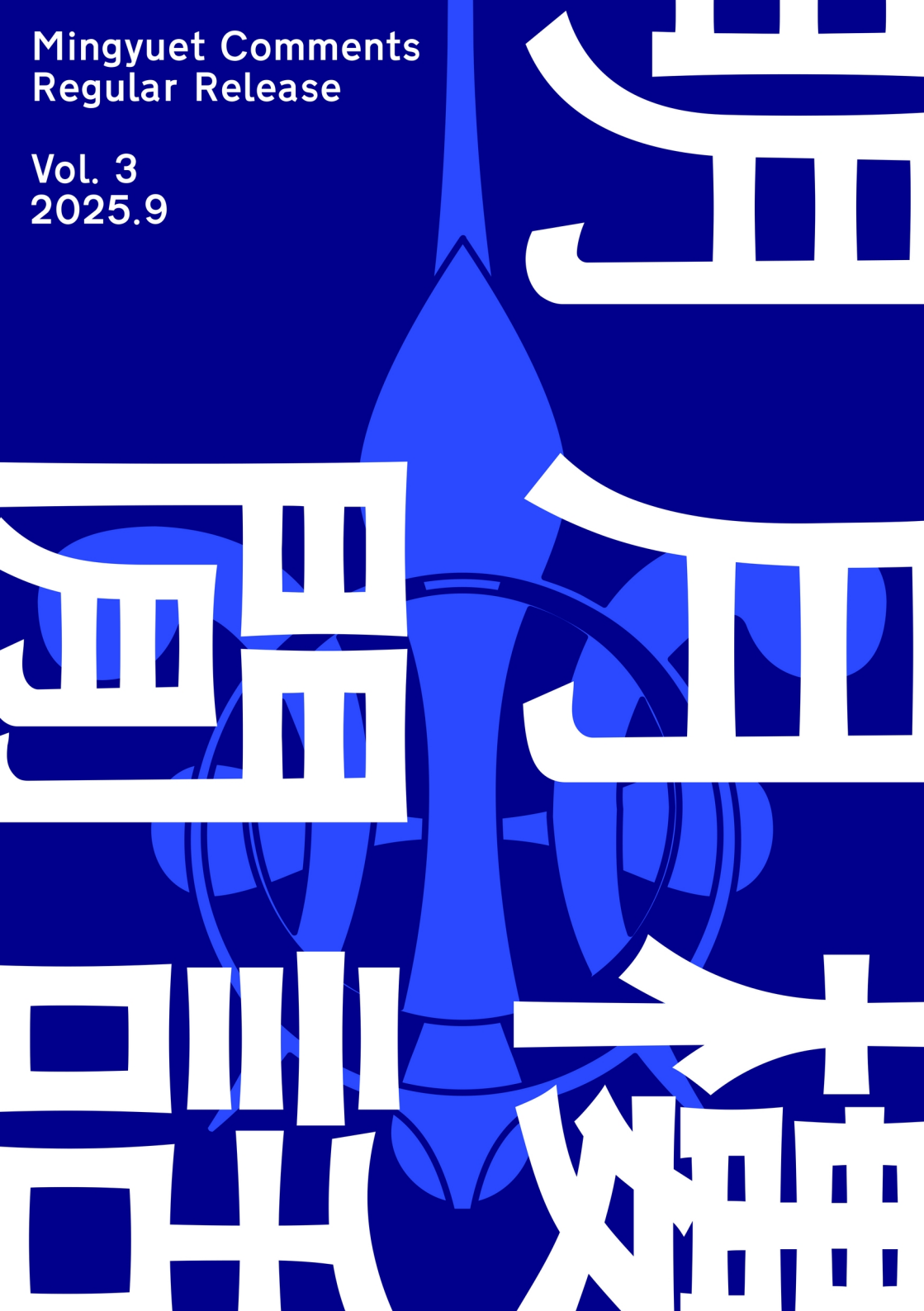


Mingyuet Comments
Regular Release

Vol. 3
2025.9



Foreword

...

I seriously doubt anyone would read this.

Depending on how things are going, this is probably the last regular release in a long while, maybe even ever. If I can still write I'll write and I'll see you again, but if I can't, well – let's just say it is what it is.

-- Editor-in-Chief, Mingyuet Comments

On *Sarazanmai*

2025.8.29

I don't know who planted the idea in me that if it a show is made by Ikuhara Kunihiro then it must be full of metaphor. That might be true for his other shows like *Penguindrum*, but after watching *Sarazanmai* in its entirety, I sincerely doubt that's still the case; at least for this very instance I can assure you that you won't get any true enjoyment if you analyze every single thing in it as one. Rather than metaphors, you should see them as merely supernatural occurrences. Also try not to think of the lessons it wants to teach you – its message is so cliché and the way *Sarazanmai* teaches is so explicit, it would be perceived by much more people as something of a level much shallower than the daily lives of a lot of people. With that mindset in place, one can still enjoy the story, even if the way the story develops somehow managed to give me zero surprises.

Of course the other problem is that it gets explicit every single episode. (It's a part of the transform scene...) The

fact that it's about "the boys" does not help. I have no objections towards shows being gay, I just don't enjoy things being this explicit. (People can see how I reject hetero ecchi shows in my previous comments.) Would I recommend it to other people? Probably not, unless I know they're fujoshis beforehand. It's not something for people who can't tolerate weirdness...

On *Occultic;Nine*

2025.8.31

The story of *Occultic;Nine* is good. I don't know why it's so low on MyAnimeList, but everyone who's seen more than 20 shows should've already notice MAL's ratings sometimes are just as ridiculous as Pitchfork's, only with it being crowdsourced and thus being able to be argued as "less evil". There's too much dialogue - is it because it's trying to stuff too much story within 12 episodes?

Steins;Gate got 24 after all, and one can definitely see Netflix stretch it out into 3 seasons with quadruple the runtime if they were to make a live action adaptation.

On *Tsuki to Laika to Nosferatu*

2025.8.31

Tsuki to Laika to Nosferatu is good. It's definitely one of the rarer ones of these modern days - a simple, complete, slightly engaging feel-good story without too much focus on the slice-of-life part and with no "tragedy points" meant for cheap tearjerking. It has a moderate amount of development and a mildly tsundere main girl (Unlike those "classical" tsundere where the tsun often develops into literal violence towards the male protagonist, here the tsun part is really, really mild! Surprisingly refreshing...). The story stayed within the theme of space exploration and somehow didn't end with a romance (an all too cliché way to end a show...), which I appreciate a lot. I think 2020~2022 are the years of Vtubers not only for me (I was a Nijisanji EN fan and you all know how that went down) but also for a lot of people, so in my impressions this has never been as popular as it should, which is a shame - smaller shame than *Princess Principal*, but a shame nonetheless.

On *Megami no Café Terrace*

2025.9.2

I was slightly disappointed. Maybe it's because recent seasons has been slice-of-life heavy, I went in blind thinking it would be a slice-of-life show, but as it turns out it's a harem show just like *Grisaia* (albeit with less janky storytelling rhythm and less substance in story). I don't know why this got 7+/10 when *Occultic;Nine* got less than on MAL. The lucky pervert trope felt overused and way too forced at points, some of the character designs and writings are - to be honest - not very palatable, especially for those who didn't grow up with older similar shows. The first season came out in 2023 - 2023! Rare to see old era writing in modern shows.

But I'll give it one thing - it refuses to resolve the harem. One of the biggest pain point of harem shows for me is that no matter how you write your story it always sucks to look at in the end, because when it comes to the stage of "pick one", someone's going to get hurt despite not doing

anything wrong; but *Megami no Café Terrace* seems to be deliberately avoiding resolution like avoiding plague - it's almost as if the creators were going like "huh? Which one? I just want some harem action, how the hell would I know", and that's a stance I can respect.

On *Rakuen Tsuihou*¹

2025.9.5

Rakuen Tsuihou is actually a good show. I have no big criticisms to say about it. I'd recommend it as "the first anime" for people if they like science fiction. The big surprise this show has reminded me of is the fact that digital worlds are inherently anti-democracy at best and dystopian at worst, since all power are owned by who has the privilege to control resources. I should've known this the best since I myself personally have experienced many instances of unfair treatment by moderators of different websites, but somehow while watching the show I've forgotten about that.

1 English name: *Expelled from Paradise*

On *Yuri Kuma Arashi*²

2025.9.6

You know how I claimed that not every show by Ikuhara Kunihiko is filled with metaphors when I talked about *Sarazanmai* - after completing *Yuri Kuma Arashi*, a show whose storytelling is so obviously based on metaphors, I start to think the problem of *Sarazanmai* only exists with its own. The story of *Sarazanmai* makes sense if you explain everything as supernatural occurrences (I take back what I've said about it being the only way of explaining things); the same can't be said about *Yuri Kuma Arashi*.

If an ordinary person tries, he may finally piece together which things largely correspond to which real-life things: bears are likely to be one's homosexuality, the

2 Apparently one of the English names have the phrase “Love Bullet” in the title? I’d wish that whoever made this decision never get the chance to make similar decisions again, even if it’s the author(s) themselves. The show may have things to do with love, but bullet certainly isn’t central to the story.

"transparent storm" is obviously homophobia, to convert from bear to human is to stay in the closet, etc.... or one can assume bears are social outcasts, which would reframe everything into the simple "those who fits in bullying those who don't" narrative we've seen so many times before (albeit this time it's homosexuality-related). Either way, if you have the mapping in mind, the plot is actually simple. The visual, as is with all other Ikuhara shows, is good in a "MSG tastes good" way (homoerotic nudity notwithstanding) since they're not things you'd expect even when it comes to anime; people would find it more approachable because a lot of it are fairy-tale-like (a natural result of the chosen metaphor; unlike in *Penguindrum* and even *Sarazanmai*, where they're mostly abstract, since the metaphor in those shows themselves are mostly abstract things). Unfortunately *Yuri Kuma Arashi* is the third one I've watched from Ikuhara, and his wacky visuals aren't gonna improve the show's quality for me anymore.

Speaking of other Ikuhara-ism features, I never particularly enjoyed the kind of rhythm where you stuff nearly every single metaphor you're going to use for the whole show within the first 3 episodes without implicitly explaining them with actual plot, it's really confusing for

new viewers who haven't experienced this level of metaphor throughput (honestly where could you find this level of metaphor throughput other than Ikuhara's works?) and very disorienting even for people who've had the preparation of mind. I don't remember I've ever had this much trouble understanding with *Penguindrum* - maybe it's because the mapping of the metaphors in *Yuri Kuma Arashi* is much clearer, which probably ironically allowed and invited much more thinking.

A Few Remarks On "TheAnimeMen"'s Newest Tier List Video

2025.9.9

My first contact with them on YouTube was the supposed-to-be official music video for Creepy Nut's song *Bling-Bang-Bang-Born*. I watched that video in its entirety because I was in this constant confusion of "why isn't Joey Bizinger here when the channel is called 'TheAnimeMen'" and it's not until I've finished it two times that I've realized it's with an e instead of an a. It may sound pretentious to say this - back then I was already getting bad vibes from these people, but I just brushed it off thinking it was just me being uncomfortable at another unbeknownst-to-me corner of YouTube. After that, a few ones of their shorts have been pushed to my YouTube Shorts feed, with the kind content not unlike other TikTok (ugh) would make.

15 seconds in, and the way these people presents themselves is already making me extremely uncomfortable. They're trying so hard to present this "young and cool" persona (I'm giving them credits here; it would be even worse if that's how they behave in their daily lives) that it looked plastic and formulaic, if it eventually turns out that these people were just another corporate-made artificial spectacle (because watching anime is supposed to be a cool kid thing now and some people would want in on some of these actions), I wouldn't have even the slightest bit of surprise.

Using a tier list is already problematic; it flattens everything into a score and gives no account for nuances. Making a tier list for whole shows only basing on their first episode (which apparently they played - not watched, played - with 2x speed?? while filming and being loud on camera??) is just absurd. It's best to consider whatever conclusions reached in this fashion be completely invalid and whatever effort and resources devoted to such an attempt be wasted for absolute nothing other than the bad publicity it's going to bring.

Do these people even watch anime in their spare time? I don't see any of them do; that, or they lack the basic brain functionality to understand the fact that you can't reach a

conclusion with only the first episode. I'm pretty sure they don't watch anime at all and only use it as a vehicle for normal TikTok-like content.

On *Infinite Stratos*

2025.9.20

Finished *Infinite Stratos* season 1. There do be a valid reason for it to rank that low on MAL. One should obviously take the fact that it's out in 2011 into consideration - the lucky pervert part may have been normal in 2011, but by today's standard it's still way too forced and unnecessary - you can't even treat it like you'd treat the extra moldy part of a piece of Roquefort cheese. I have no doubt that *Engage Kiss* would've been revered as one of the best harem anime - maybe even one of the "deeper" ones (not to say that these kind of fast food level shows ever have any deepness within them) - had it been released 10 years earlier. Since when did the bastard male protagonist come into the scene? *Oregairu*? Anyway, people nowadays have the pioneers of those to thank.

It's unlikely things would improve much in season 2 but I will still watch it...

2025.9.22

I must be getting old. I didn't get any sense of accomplishment after finishing it - it almost felt like a chore (not unlike watching ecchi shows...). Like I've said before, you must take the fact that it's released in 2011 into consideration: 2011 is right at the dawn of the transition between eras. That being said, the show is still terribly generic. Is it supposed to be a mecha show or a purely harem show (since it focuses so much on the harem part)? I was somehow stuck in this bizarre situation that I have to ignore the mecha part in order to get even just a little bit of enjoyment out of the rest. "Yasashi" male protagonist who somehow get all the bitches with zero effort and "just being himself" - I suppose things didn't work that way in the past, but they certainly don't work that way now. Could the change of society (and thus the range of the background conversations can exist under) be eroding the possible basis one's required to have in order to accept, understand or even appreciate shows like this? The fact that one of the main girls had the exact same voice actor (w/ the exact same voice) as *Seitokai Yakuindomo*

certainly didn't help either - through her voice I was kept being subtly reminded about how good the latter was...

On *Kakkou no Iinazuke* Season 2

2025.9.24

I forgot why I enjoyed this show in the first place - maybe I was just happy to see any deviations of the arranged marriage trope from the setup established by *Nisekoi* (though still somewhat of a solid standard in my opinion), but the ending for this season is very unsatisfactory to me - the logic of the dad's behavioral pattern is hard to explain, and the introduction of this mysterious brother character at this point really seems like it's just the publishing house forcing the author juicing a piece of not-that-juicy-in-the-first-place orange to the point of breaking down and sifting the zest. This big brother character - what the hell is his business here?? Throughout the end I was stuck at this loop of going back and forth between "he exists" and "he doesn't exist the fiancée girl was just mistook the main guy for a big brother", but at the end he showed up so I guess he's real? And why does the rich dad deny his existence? Is it because he somehow found out his sister wasn't really his sister (the main premise of

the show was the main guy and the fiancée girl got swapped as babies at the hospital) thus he asked his dad for marriage so the rich dad had to banish him from the family?? Would there ever be a season 3???

As I've said before the one big problem about harem shows is that someone's going to get hurt no matter what if you attempt to resolve it unless you put polygamy onto the table as a legally (and/or emotionally) viable option. I haven't read the original material (if there is one) but I can imagine the trajectory from there would be to solve the issue about the big brother first and then a consolidation arc where the fiancée girl would be the chosen one and everyone else would hurt but still stick around, which would give us a third season at most (it's not getting a movie). I doubt it'll be as enjoyable from here...



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by the Mingyuet Comments team

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