

vol.49 #11

KyoAni

# Kōzuki Eru

Eru Chitanda  
Hyouka  
art by Deborah Lim



# THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

## ANIME RECOMMENDATION

### VIOLET EVERGARDEN



*Violet Evergarden* follows the life of a child soldier who loses both the person she holds dearest and her arms during a large war. After the war, Violet decides to begin working as a Auto-Memoir Doll, a ghostwriter for people who want to express themselves properly through writing, in hopes of learning the true meaning of her dearest's last words to her.

ヴァイオレット・エヴァーガーデン  
VIOLET EVERGARDEN



Winter 2018, KyoAni  
Directed by Taichi Ishidate



Spring 2015, KyoAni  
Directed by Tatsuya Ichihara

## ANIME RECOMMENDATION

### HIBIKE! EUPHONIUM (SOUND EUPHONIUM)

*Hibike! Euphonium* follows Kumiko Oumae, a first year high school student who swore off concert band after an incident in a middle school competition. Kumiko ends up being dragged into concert band by the people around her, but the concert band is not very serious until a new advisor comes. Under the new advisor, skill is everything, and the band quickly improves, but not without a little bit of drama...

violet evergarden

# WHAT'S IN A CM? HOW VIOLET EVERGARDEN SHOWS, NOT TELLS

SHAMIN CHOWDHURY

3RD YEAR, PHYSICS AND MATH

STAFF WRITER

Inspired by Under the Scope and Mother's Basement

The first CM of *Violet Evergarden* draws us in right off the bat with the exquisite detail on everything in its first shot. We see Violet's shiny metal hands typing on the typewriter, the keys of the typewriter moving correspondingly, and the typewriter typing these letters on the paper to spell out "One day, I will show...". The paper written with these words comes off of the typewriter, and we see components of the typewriter coming up and melting away, some into nothingness, some into letters and numbers like those on the typewriter. Violet's letter from earlier gets folded into an envelope and sealed with red sealing wax. Up to this point, "I, with letters, will connect people's feelings,"<sup>1</sup> has been written on the screen in Japanese.

<sup>1</sup> Please excuse me if my translations are at all incorrect



Younger Violet

As the letter we're focused on flies off to the left, we transition to Violet coming into the frame dancing by a gorgeous lake, and as she moves back, we see the posterior of a man, perhaps a past lover. Violet in this sequence appears younger, with longer, let-out hair, a white dressy top, a long blue billowy skirt, and a blue parasol, her expression a little concerned. She turns around a couple times as she's dancing, and her following expressions are more stoic. Letters like the ones from earlier fly across the screen, except these ones are golden and in script font. The words "Each important person's," has been written in Japanese on screen.

The sealed letter from earlier flies across the screen to transition

us to the older Violet in a sunlit bedroom with a little girl bawling and throwing a tantrum at Violet. The light from the windows is blinding as the camera pans around, and it shines directly at us and is less white and more golden, contrasting the brighter sunlit scene from earlier. Violet here is startled, and her expression is again concerned, this time due to the sobbing girl. The golden letters, this time in type font, fly across the screen again, and "Every important feeling" is written on screen.

The sealed letter flies down across the screen transitioning us to a younger Violet holding up a shiny green brooch as she stares at it in awe and then proceeds to bite on it.

The sealed letter flies across the screen again with the golden script letters along with broken glass as we see the younger Violet in a darker outfit riding a battle axe in midair inside a building with large windows at nighttime, indicating perhaps she broke through a window in the building on that battle axe. She turns around very quickly to show us a focused expression.



Violet, burning yet stoic

The sealed letter, this time burning, transitions us to the older Violet walking towards us in a burning scene carrying a man, possibly the one from earlier. Burning golden letters are falling in this scene as the camera suddenly shows us Violet's face, bloodied, injured, but most striking of all, stoic as "But," is written on the screen. The burning letter flies swift across the screen to the green somber eye of a man's face, on which we see light fading on his face as if doors are being shut.

This transitions us back to a side view of Violet from the beginning looking up with a slightly concerned expression again, and we're left with a view of Violet in the well sunlit room with sealed letters falling down all over the room. Across the past two sequences, "What is within me, I still do not understand" is written on screen.



# A LOOK INTO KYOTO ANIMATION

**BOGEUN CHOI**

FOURTH YEAR, APPLIED MATH AND DATA SCIENCE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I want the semester to end, but then I graduate.

Kyoto Animation (otherwise known as KyoAni) is “a Japanese animation studio and a light novel publisher located in Uji, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan”. Well, at least that’s what Wikipedia says. Basically, it’s an anime studio (and I guess light novel publisher) located in Kyoto, hence their name. They’re famous for a lot of reasons: their work of shows, their amazing animation, their same-face characters, their policy of actually paying their employees, and so on. When we decided to make this week’s issue dedicated to KyoAni, my first reaction was “wait we never did a KyoAni issue?” Because it turns out, I did write an article on KyoAni in the past. Admittedly, one I admit was not my greatest work. So let’s try again: it’s hard for me to write about just one KyoAni anime in particular, so this is going to be a look at both the history of KyoAni as well as a general overview of what they’re all about. So let’s start with how it all began.



I could name 4 characters that this could be

Kyoto Animation started out in 1981 when one of the founders, Yoko Hatta, moved to Kyoto with her husband

Hideaki and became independent from her old position at Mushi Production. Though the company didn’t work on their first work until 2003, they were involved in the production of anime such as *InuYasha*, *Kiddy Grade*, and *Tenchi Universe*. Their first work was an OVA called *Munto*, which based on the description and key visuals looks like a magical girl anime. It got a sequel 2 years later and a full-length TV remake 4 years after that. Their first TV series was *Full Metal Panic? Fumoffu* which was technically the companion series taking place between the first and second season (the latter which KyoAni also created).

As mentioned above, KyoAni is mainly known for their anime, with many prominent examples that I’m sure I’ll list as I go along. Most of the early anime KyoAni made were adaptations of Key visual novels. For those who don’t know, Key is a visual novel studio under the publisher Visual Arts. They’re famous for works such as *Air*, *Kanon*, *Clannad*, *Little Busters*, and *Rewrite*. You may also recognize the name because of its co-founder Jun Maeda, who along with working on these VNs also helped create both *Angel Beats* and *Charlotte*, two cautionary tales of how writing doesn’t translate through mediums.

Anyway, for the most part, KyoAni’s early works were these adaptations. Of course, there were exceptions. There was *The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya*, one of the first famous light novel adaptations, and *Lucky Star*, a 4-koma adaptation. After *Clannad* though, KyoAni became more varied in their adaptations. They adapted *K-On!*, the pinnacle of CGDCT (cute girls doing cute things). They adapted *Nichijou*, a staple slice-of-life anime. They adapted *Hyouka*, another staple slice-of-life/mystery anime. And so on.

It wasn’t until 2009 that KyoAni started dabbling in light novels when they started to recognize original novels and manga with their annual Kyoto Animation Award.

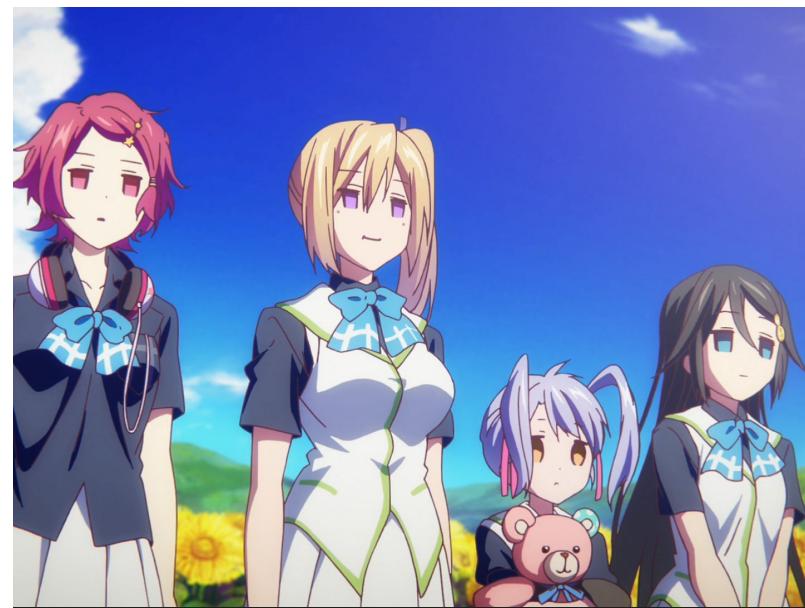
The reward for winning is being published under KyoAni's light novel division and also potentially having the chance of being adapted into an anime. That may sound like a lot, but the award is so prestigious that there are years where nobody wins any award. In fact, in the tenish year history of the award, only one work has won a grand prize: *Violet Evergarden*. This is pretty much how a lot of Kyoto Animation anime come out nowadays. Many of their recent anime such as *Free!*, *Kyoukai no Kanata*, *Musaigen no Phantom World*, and *Tsurune* are all examples of novels that received an honorable mention award in the competition and eventually got an anime adaptation. This is so expected, in fact, that when *Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon* got a KyoAni adaptation, people were surprised because it didn't get their award and was not published in-house. That's an exception rather than the norm though. KyoAni's most recently announced anime, *20 Seiki Denki Mokuroku*, was an honorable mention award winner in 2017. Basically, if you want to bet on what KyoAni will adapt next, look at their award winners (hint: there are two that haven't been adapted yet: *Santa Claus no Tomodachi/Santa Claus' Friend* and *Kino no Koi wa Kyo no Yume/Yesterday's Love is Today's Dream*).



*Sweet baby jesus (Violet Evergarden)*

So that was the brief history of Kyoto Animation. Admittedly, they're my favorite anime studio, and it's for a couple of reasons. First, the anime they create. I've watched a lot of their works, and with the exception of two, I highly enjoyed all of them. Second, their animators are actually salaried instead of freelance workers paid per frame drawn. It's a rarity in the industry, but it means that the animators can focus on quality over quantity, resulting in a great product. It's a win-win: the workers get paid, and the viewers enjoy high-quality anime. Third, KyoAni focuses on a genre that I personally highly enjoy (slice-of-life), which I guess explains reason one.

Before I get into that, though, a little tangent/rant. Many anime fans like to label the studio as having a certain



*Mfw watching this show*

style, and that's totally understandable. You would never expect Bones to create a CGDCT slice-of-life anime, or Doga Kobo to create a gritty psychological thriller. But my gripes come when a studio is seen as a single entity rather than a building that houses different staff, some of which aren't necessarily tied to a certain company. A big example I can think of is when the anime adaptation of *Kaguya-sama: Love is War* was announced. Like many people, I was freakin pumped. I mean, my favorite manga getting an adaptation? Wow! The big question was, though, who was the studio responsible for the adaptation? Fans thought about different studios and discussed the possibilities: "Studio Shaft? Wow, that would work so well with the style of the manga!" When it was announced that A-1 Pictures would work on the adaptation, everybody groaned in unison. But funny enough, the adaptation was A+, and it was because the staff working on it have actually worked on Shaft anime in the past. So the lesson here? Don't judge by the studio, judge by the staff.

Now having gone on that long tangent, I'm going take back what I said and say that none of that matters with Kyoto Animation. All of their works have been directed by a number of people that I can count on my hand, and the staff working their shows are all contracted by the studio. Thus, when an anime is made by KyoAni, you know what you're getting: a slice-of-life anime with high-quality art and animation.

So that's KyoAni in a nutshell. If you're a slice-of-life fan -- no, scratch that, if you're an anime fan, give one of their works a try. They're a favorite of many for a reason.


  
*Kyoto Animation*  
*Crossword*

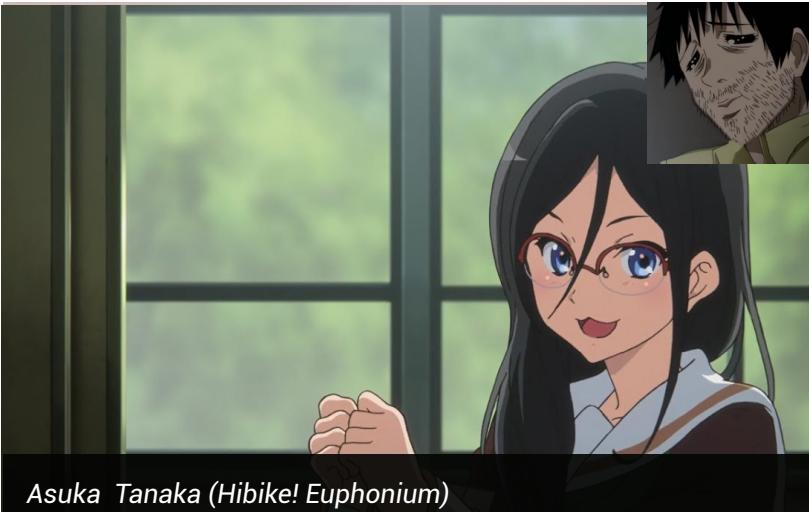

## ACROSS

- 3 Cheerful swimmer with a slight rebellious streak  
 4 Former bully seeks redemption  
 6 Anime that was created after its light-novel commercial became famous with yaoi fans  
 8 Intelligent but easily manipulated swimmer who avoids unattractive things  
 9 Swimmer with a weird fixation with water  
 10 Swimmer with shark-like teeth  
 11 Anime film paralleling a brass band's music and the fairy tale score they perform  
 12 In which an energy-conserving student becomes an unlikely detective  
 13 Outgoing swimmer with an intense fear of the ocean

## DOWN

- 1 A colorfully-named ghostwriter  
 2 Talking bird that eats too much mochi  
 4 Nicknamed protagonist who reluctantly follows a girl with god-like attributes  
 5 Titular character who seeks the supernatural despite being one herself.  
 7 Anime centered around a robot girl  
 14 Story of five musically talented girls

# STAFF PICKS FAVORITE KYOANI CHARACTER



Asuka Tanaka (*Hibike! Euphonium*)



Mio Akiyama (*K-On!*)



Kobayashi-san (*Miss Kobayashi's Maid Dragon*)



Azusa Nakano (*K-On!*)



Seiya Takehaya (*Tsurune*)



Nagisa Hazuki (*Free!*)

# VOLUME XLIX, ISSUE 11 — APRIL 25, 2019

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## CLUB EVENTS

Follow us on social media or visit [cal.moe](http://cal.moe) for updates!  
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Game Nights: Thursday 8-10 pm, 229 Dwinelle



DANGO  
CLANNAD  
Art by Deborah Lim