

THE ANIME DESTINY ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

Konshuu

Volume XLVI, Issue IX

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Art by
Rika Sato

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2017

CAL ANIME ALPHA presents

ANIME DESTINY

UC Berkeley's anime convention



COSPLAY, KARAOKE, GAME ROOM, ANIME JEOPARDY,
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{ NOVEMBER 5, 2017 }
{ MLK STUDENT UNION }

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CAA's Magical Girls

by KATRINA LUQUE
4th year, English
Get Schwifty 2.0

CAA chose the theme of "Magical Girls" for this year's Anime Destiny! At first, I was skeptical about the theme. I wondered, "Why Magical Girls?..." How does this theme relate to current trends in anime?" Of course, this was before I had watched *Revolutionary Girl Utena* and *Puella Magi Madoka Magica*, two exceptional works within the genre. After my experiences with the magical girl genre, I understood why "Magical Girls" was the perfect theme for Anime Destiny 2017.

What makes the magical girl genre exceptional is the depiction of potential, the potential of "magical worlds," and the characters that define them. Magical girl series do not depict the world as it is but seek to create a vision of the world as it could be. Although the "magical world" may be bleak and realistic, as in *Utena* and *Madoka Magica*, there remains the potential of transformation; for the individual to uncover a previously concealed heroism. With every transformation sequence, the viewer witnesses an assumption of power: an ordinary girl transcends the limits of her mundane existence and is blessed (or cursed) with the power to change herself and transform the world. The magical girl genre typically uses a stock formula: 1. A typical female stumbles into a situation where she is granted magical powers, as with *Sailor Moon* and *Utena*. 2. She learns how to wield her powers. 3. She is able to define or change the world she lives in by using this power. Of course, there are deviations in this pattern. One interesting example is *Panty and Stocking with Garterbelt* where the titular characters are angels with angelic powers from the outset of the anime. However, even in *Panty and Stocking*, the female characters are degenerates until they undergo a transformation sequence, which allows them to defend D City from demonic attacks and undermine the demonic presence in the city, recreating the social landscape to reflect their values and lifestyle. It is the evocation or mobilization of magical potential that makes the magical

girl genre persuasive. These characters refuse to submit to the extant power hierarchies that pervade their worlds, choosing instead to create a new system of power that provides them with their own "place in the sun."



Panty and Stocking's transformation sequence.

In the case of *Utena* and *Madoka*, the girls' powers align with their virtue and fortitude. Both are martyr figures because they sacrifice themselves for what they believe to be a greater good. Their moral orientation to the world is in turn reinforced by their powers, allowing them to uphold their values as they exercise their authority. The current sociopolitical climate poses challenges similar to the existential threats present within *Utena* and *Madoka Magica*. Given the seemingly endless barrage of hateful rhetoric that is propagated throughout social media and other discursive platforms, it is reassuring to know that there are fictional figures that are capable of defying oppressive systems. This is the underlying reason why magical girls serve as an inspiration for those of us who are experiencing difficulties, be they personal or political. Magical girls allow us to see what could be and what the world would look like if we were defiant, brave, and powerful enough to change it. But this ideal world should not be limited to magical girl anime. To a certain extent, we can strive to create "a place in the sun." We all have unlimited potential within us. We are all magical girls.

Reflections on

Anime Destiny 2016

SECOND SEASON



ZIANA

Writer

To make me feel better about my first year attending UC Berkeley, my sister bought tickets for us to attend Anime Destiny. This was the first convention I'd ever been to! On the morning of Anime Destiny, I wore a black lace dress, a black masquerade mask, and an adorned circlet of flowers. People stared at me and complimented my outfit as we walked toward Zellerbach Hall. After we received our badges, my sister and I spent hours going through Artists' Alley, watching Coast in the Clouds perform, and taking pictures with cosplayers. I freaked out when I saw Ladybug and Cat Noir cosplayers! I bought cute character magnets and developed a fan crush on Yuumei, buying only three of her artworks (I wanted all of them). At the end of the day, my sister and I collapsed in my apartment, and I looked at the three prints, the pictures of my first anime convention on my phone, and my AD registration badge. "Today," I thought to myself, "is the best day I've had at Cal so far."

Armed with cough drops and an Arataka Reigen cosplay that involved bleaching my actual hair, I shuffled over to the ASUC Student Union. I had never been to an anime convention before and was unsure what to expect. I also wasn't used to getting up so early. But the "Staff" badge bouncing on my chest reminded me of my duty. I'll be real, that day was hellish. I was running a fever and hacking up phlegm, and tripping over my too-long suit pants. But it was worth it. Getting that free Reigen sticker for my cosplay was worth it; meeting Yuumei in the flesh was worth it. Passing by the myriad tables and artists, each with their own creative vision and voice, was worth it. Seeing my banner (albeit shrunken) at the top of the MLK stairs was absolutely worth it! Being able to help guests and watch their faces light up with joy as they found the perfect piece -- that was the reason I was there. For a first con experience, Anime Destiny was solid. Even though it should be renamed "Anime Density."



JAMIE

Artist



JOSH
Editor-in-Chief

This will be the fourth Anime Destiny that I've attended. In 2014, I was covering the convention as a member of the press. At the time I didn't expect that I would become a staff member for the next two and act as a Department Head in my final year of college. I experienced Anime Destiny from guest to coordinator, and each convention has only gotten better. Better venues, more artists, more events, and more staff have painted a picture of Anime Destiny as a constantly evolving convention. Each one has always been a unique experience. During my first year, I realized how wondrous it can feel to be at an anime convention (the first I had ever attended.) I felt comfortable with my interests for the first time. After joining Cal Animage Alpha, I felt the sweat that goes down the backs of staff members months before the actual convention. And now, as one of the Heads of the club, my relationship to Anime Destiny is nothing but love.

Memories from Anime Destiny 2016 SECOND SEASON





A RETROSPECTIVE ON BOKU NO HERO ACADEMIA



by ANDREW OEUNG

3rd year, EECS

Top-tier runner, bottom-tier swimmer

Go beyond! Plus Ultra! *Boku no Hero Academia* stars Izuku Midoriya, a boy granted the world's most powerful quirk: "One for All." Quirks are special superpowers unique to each individual, which range from powers like controlling ice or hardening one's body. With the end of *Naruto* and *Bleach*, *Boku no Hero Academia* continues their legacy as a flagship shōnen series. But does it actually stack up against its predecessors?

The strongest quality of the show lies in its devotion to minor characters. Unlike *Naruto*, there are no forgotten characters like Ino or Tenten. The most common location of *Boku no Hero Academia* is U.A. High School. Izuku Midoriya attends class with nineteen other students in order to become a hero. Surprisingly, all twenty students receive respectable amounts of screentime. There isn't a handful of characters hogging the spotlight like Naruto and Sasuke. When the students take exams, we see them struggle and how they overcome them. In contrast, I cannot remember a single thing that Shino has done in *Naruto* because he is honestly so unmemorable.



Boku no Hero Academia brings out clever tactics in terms of fighting strategies, which is crucial in shōnen series. There aren't many complaints about *Naruto* in this aspect, but *Bleach* leaves much to be desired. In *Bleach*, the victor of a fight is usually the one with the larger or flashier sword blast. It is simply a contest of brute force and power-ups. On the other hand, *Boku no Hero Academia* actually makes me wonder how the protagonists will escape from a sticky situation or overcome their powerful opponents. Instead of receiving a bunch of seemingly arbitrary power-ups, most of the students in *Hero Academia* actually use their brains. The students do not worry about how to strengthen their quirk; rather, they learn how to adapt their quirk to the current situation. It is a refreshing style of progression that other series should adopt.



The subtler aspects of *Boku no Hero Academia* are also well executed, especially because it is a 2-cour anime adaptation, as opposed to an ongoing show like *One Piece*. The animation of *Boku no Hero Academia* is gorgeous with seamless battle scene sequences and quality animation for the more profound scenes throughout the series. It adds a considerable amount of depth and clarity. In terms of music, the show could be improved upon. The show's theme song, "You Say Run" certainly generates a lot of hype and energy, but it is definitely overplayed in the series. Practically every other episode uses it! There definitely needs to be more of a variety in music in future seasons of *Boku no Hero Academia*.

STAFF PICKS

FAVORITE MAGICAL GIRLS

CURE SUNSHINE



HeartCatch PreCure!

RIKA

STAR GUARDIAN URGOT



League of Legends

BORAH

LADYBUG



Miraculous Ladybug

ZIANA

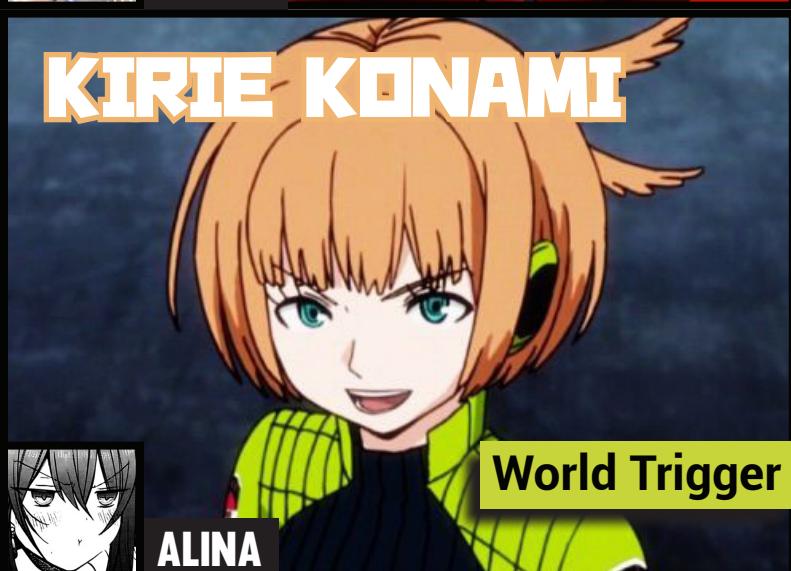
UTENA TEN-JOU



Revolutionary Girl Utena

KATRINA

KIRIE KONAMI



World Trigger

ALINA

DARK MAGICIAN GIRL THE DRAGON KNIGHT



Yu-Gi-Oh!

EDWARD

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STAFF

SOCIAL MEDIA

Konshuu accepts guest submissions from club members! If you'd like to have content featured, please visit:
J.MP/KONSUB

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Artist



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Artist



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Artist



Deborah Lim
Artist

CLUB EVENTS

Weekly Social: Thurs, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, Barrows 170
Game Night: Thurs, 8pm - 10pm, Barrows 126
Next Showing: Sun, Nov 12, 2pm - 6pm, Barrows 166

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CORA
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Art by David Chang