

THE BEST OF 2018 ISSUE

# konshuu

Volume XLIX, Issue I



SABER ALTER  
*Fate/stay night*

Art by Rika Sato

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hello CAA! Welcome to the start of a new semester, and welcome to Konshuu! I'm your editor-in-chief, Bogeun Choi. For those of you who don't know, Konshuu is a weekly publication created fully in-house by our team of writers, artists, and layout editors. What was once a team of three people has ballooned to 16, making up a majority of our officer team. It's through all their work that this is even possible, and I'm thankful and excited to take the reins for my final semester here at Berkeley.

As per usual, we will be holding weekly game nights on Thursdays 8-10pm in 229 Dwinelle. In addition, we will be having bi-weekly cosplay and anime art workshops! This is a first, so dates and times are to be determined (but will be announced soon!).

We are also working hard to bring you many events, ranging from ice skating to a Japantown trip. In fact, our biggest event is coming very soon -- CAA's very own Maid Cafe! Enjoy delicious desserts, exciting games and activities, and live out your weeb dreams right here in Berkeley! More information below.

If you want to know more about the club or be notified of upcoming events, join our Facebook Page (CAA Group) or our mailing list. Interested in submitting art/articles or even joining the Konshuu team? Let me know in person or by email ([bogeunchoi@berkeley.edu](mailto:bogeunchoi@berkeley.edu)) and we could work something out! As Editor-in-Chief, I'd like to sincerely thank our readers and longtime fans as we move towards another semester. GO BEARS!

## CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA MAID CAFE

Join us for maids, dessert, music,  
games, and fun!

02.10.19

UJI-TIME  
3-6PM

# THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

## ANIME RECOMMENDATION

### BANANA FISH

"Even if the world turns on you, I'll always be on your side." Adapted from Akimi Yoshida's 1985 manga, *Banana Fish* tells the story of Ash Lynx, a runaway from New York raised by the godfather of the mafia, and Eiji Okumura, a Japanese photographer reporting on American street gangs. Filled with fast-paced action, a calculated crime, and subtle romance, the two find themselves wrapped up in a national conspiracy with only two words as a hint: "Banana Fish".



### BANANA FISH

Summer 2018, Studio Mappa  
Directed by Hiroko Utsumi



Winter 2018, Studio Madhouse  
Directed by Atsuko Ishizuka

## ANIME RECOMMENDATION

### A PLACE FURTHER THAN THE UNIVERSE

Mari Tamaki has always wanted to get the most out of her youth, but her fears and anxiety hold her back. Shirase Kobuchizawa has been working hard to plan a trip to Antarctica despite facing doubt and ridicule from others. Hinata Miyake is home schooled and was eager to stand out. Yuzuki Shiraishi is an idol who has never had a real friend. *A Place Further Than The Universe* follows the adventure of these four girls as they explore the beauty of the world.

# 2018: A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE



BOGEUN CHOI

4TH YEAR, APPLIED MATH AND DATA SCIENCE

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Cover picture = my favorite anime of 2018

Ah, 2018. One thing is for certain -- it was certainly a year.

In all seriousness, 2018 was a great year. Anime-wise, I mean. As with every year, new anime come out and although 95% of them are complete garbage, there's the 5% that become beloved classics talked about for years. When it was decided that the first issue of the new semester would be dedicated to the best of 2018, I racked my brain for ideas on what to write about anime-wise. After deliberating for a painstaking 37 seconds, I came to the only conclusion: why not write about all the great anime of 2018? Subjectively speaking, of course. Admittedly, I didn't watch a lot of the "great" anime from this year. In fact, I didn't watch much anime in general. 2018 marked the first time where I watched a single digit amount of airing shows per season. Which, looking back, was pretty inevitable given my busy college schedule and the fact that a lot of seasonal anime suck.



Example #1 of Trashy seasonal anime

The goal of this is to highlight the best and most notable anime of the year. Hopefully there are some anime I talk about here that you didn't know about, ones that slipped under the radar. Who knows, maybe a new favorite could be found. Let's get into it to see.

We start with the first season of the year: Winter 2018. With anime such as *Slow Start*, *Mitsuboshi Colors*, and *Gakuen Babysitters*, it was heaven for moe lovers (e.g. me) and hell for everybody else (e.g. everybody else). Out of all the moe though, two contenders stood out, and they are *Yuru Camp* and *Sora yori mo Tooi Basho (A Place Further Than the Universe, Yorimoi)*. Both cemented themselves as must-watches in the genre in different ways.

*Yuru Camp* took a more traditional approach with the idea that cute girls + random other thing = PROFIT. Unlike most anime that follow this, however, *Yuru Camp* was able to attract a more general otaku audience thanks to its comedy, fun characters, great backgrounds, and general comfy atmosphere. On the other hand, *Yorimoi* may not even be considered a moe anime. Sure, there are girls as protagonists, but it doesn't have many of the characteristics that make a moe anime... moe. Instead, it's an inspiring tale of finding yourself and achieving your goals packed with emotion. Or so I've been told: I stopped after episode 4 because I wasn't a big fan of the characters and the whole concept felt super cheesy to me. Though considering many people consider it their favorite anime of the year, and the New York Times even went as far as to put it in their list of Best TV Shows of 2018 (granted, the international list), I might just be a big fat idiot.

Other personal favorites from this season include *Violet Evergarden* (amazing animation), *Pop Team Epic* (How to Make a Meme Anime), and *Koi wa Ameagari no You ni/After the Rain* (beautifully crafted story from a questionable plotline). Oh, and you may have heard of *Darling in the FranXX*, which ended up being a cautionary tale of hype and collaboration.

Now we move on to Spring 2018, the season of sequels. If you were a new anime fan, this was not the season to start watching. With heavy hitters such as *Boku no Hero Academia*, *Steins;Gate*, *Tokyo Ghoul*, and *Shokugeki no Soma* all having sequels, it was tough times for the originals. Yet as they say, life... finds a way. Except replace life with anime.

Yes, despite the sequel-mania, there were still some great original anime that rivaled the sequels in popularity. Some of the biggest include *Megalo Box* (spiritual successor to *Ashita no Joe*), *Wotaku ni Koi wa Muzukashii* (adult romantic comedy between otaku), and *Hinamatsuri* (absurdist humor with hilarious characters). I personally enjoyed the two that I



RIP Darling in the FranXX hype (2018-2018)

watched above, and the third is on my plan to watch list.

The two anime I want to focus on here are *Comic Girls* and *Uma Musume: Pretty Derby*. Both were underappreciated anime, though admittedly that may be biased coming from someone who has both as the season's best. On the surface, both look like the standard moe show forgotten after a year. But each of them have elements that differentiate them from the pack. For *Comic Girls*, it's easy: the protagonist (Kaos) is not your standard moe anime protag. She isn't the bubbly optimistic girl who finds positivity in every situation. Quite the opposite in fact, as Kaos is pessimistic, lacks self-confidence, and an otaku at heart. In other words, she is me. That, along with the realistic portrayal of being an artist, really makes this an enjoyable watch even through the questionable moments.

*Uma Musume*, meanwhile, overcomes its weird premise (horse girls racing and occasionally idol-ing) and is actually an interesting character story with hype racing and hilarious antics. And before you ask, it is not an idol anime: the idol scenes were limited to a few minutes in the first episode. *Uma Musume* is a cooking sports anime. Some other notable anime from the spring include *Tada-kun wa Koi wo Shinai* (romance show) and *Hisone to Maso-tan* (dragon riding).

Next up is Summer 2018, a season with some great comedies

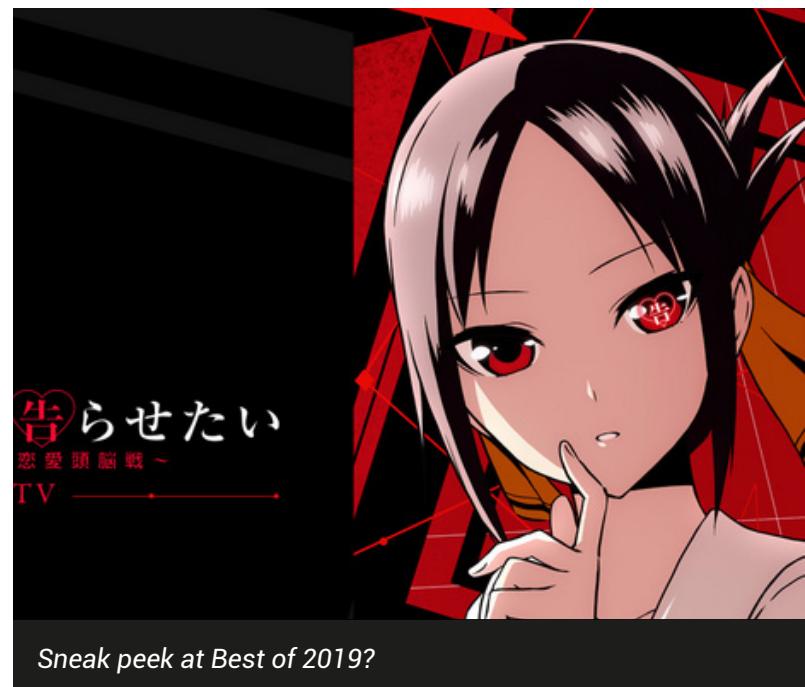


It's not that weird, I swear

(*GrandBlue*, *Asobi Asobase*), underwatched gems (*Shoujo Kageki Revue Starlight*, *Banana Fish*), and anticipated sequels (*Attack on Titan S3*, *Overlord III*, *Free S3*). As someone who watched four shows that season (and only finished one of them), that's all I'll say.

Finally, we have Fall 2018, a season that can't be described in a catchy phrase. If seasons were graded for number of quality anime, this would be tops. Some popular series include *Goblin Slayer* (story: he slays goblins), *Sword Art Online: Alicization* (there's more?), *Tensei shitara Slime Datta Ken* (isekai apparently done right), and *Seishun Buta Yarou wa Bunny Girl Senpai* (one I admittedly have conflicting feelings about). Underrated series (depending on who you talk to) include *SSSS.Gridman* (totally watching for the robots I swear), *Bloom into You* (actually good yuri), and *Kaze ga Tsuyoku Fuiteiru/Run with the Wind* (Marathon Running: The Anime).

My favorite anime from this season ended up being two originals and a short nobody knows about. They are *Zombieland Saga*, *Irozuku Sekai no Ashita kara* (*Iroduku*), and *Gaikotsu Shotenin Honda-san*. *Zombieland Saga* is basically one of the few times a outlandish concept resulted in an actually good anime, offering a refreshing twist to the idol anime genre. *Iroduku*, while having god-tier backgrounds and well-developed character arcs, was an admittedly slow anime that isn't for everybody. Watch it if you are a fan of dramas and/or character-driven narratives. And finally, *Honda-san* is a hilarious short anime (12 minutes) about the life of a bookstore worker. It's a nice insider look into how bookstores work, specifically the manga/comics section. Whew, that was a lot! But hopefully you can see that there are



Sneak peek at Best of 2019?

a lot of notable anime that came out within the past year. And I probably missed a few shows as well -- if I didn't mention your favorite anime, don't be offended. I only had so much space.

Happy watching, and here's to 2019!



# 2018'S (NOT SO?) HIDDEN GEMS

**ABEER HOSSAIN**

**2ND YEAR, MECH E AND ASTROPHYSICS**

STAFF WRITER

The anime industry has become everything we wished for and more.



**Warning: Serious spoilers for *Hinamatsuri* and *Sora yori mo Tooti Basho***

When reflecting back on the great anime and characters from 2018, I wouldn't blame anyone for not going past the most popular shows of each season: *MHA*, *Shokugeki*, *Attack on Titan*, *Overlord*, *Violet Evergarden*, *Steins;Gate 0*, *Slime*, etc.. 2018 was a treat to anime fans of all colors and with the number of good and great anime coming out, procuring the time to watch and, given that you somehow manage to watch all those considered "good," being able to remember them all are serious struggles for anime fans. When asked about my favorite anime from the past year, my mind instantly went to the most recent with *Bunny Girl Senpai*. Then, after a minute of thinking to myself, the two anime that affected me the most weren't the ones I had anticipated for months and years or those I talked to my friends about on a weekly basis. Those two anime are *Hinamatsuri* and *A Place Further Than the Universe*.

Both series I watched after they had finished airing upon seeing their scores on MyAnimeList. I don't normally watch shows with cute girls just... existing; *Hinamatsuri* came off as another gag comedy that I couldn't bother putting myself through. Then, one weekend, I found myself with more time than I could use and decided to catch up on anime I hadn't seen yet this year or possibly some on my way-too-long plan-to-watch list.

First came *Hinamatsuri*. The first episodes had me laughing throughout their entire runtime. The characters were real while also 100% satirical. The eponymous Hina is a child with superpowers who transports to our world and is taken care of by a blonde Yakuza member. Quite a premise if you ask me. The antics the entire cast gets up to are entirely interesting and each character brings a new flavor to the comedy soup the show resides in. While the puns and gags were amazing, what really took the show to another level was its handling of serious and emotional moments in conjunction with comedy. These heartfelt moments almost all came with Anzu, another child with superpowers transported to this world. Unlike Hina, she isn't quite so lucky as to be welcomed into a household upon arriving. No, she becomes homeless and spends her days with a group of homeless men in the park, collecting cans throughout the city so she can raise enough money to purchase food for the day. Not expecting or knowing of the luxuries she didn't have, Anzu lived a happy life being homeless.

The removal of the homeless from the park and her subsequent adoption by a married couple contain scenes that truly showcase the best of humanity. Episodes 5 and 6 follow acts full of laughter with two beautifully executed ones that brought tears to my eyes.



An anime about cute girls doing cute things that also happens to have more heart and sadness than I could take in one sitting.

Then I watched *A Place Further Than the Universe*. The show centers itself around a group of high schoolers who plan to join an expedition to Antarctica, where mostly adult researchers are allowed to visit. Each character has their own reason for taking on this Herculean quest to get teenagers to Antarctica, and they all grow tremendously throughout the show thanks to a few realistically uncomfortable moments of realization and acceptance. These scenes may bring many viewers to deep self-reflection of their own ideals and personalities, something I did not expect from this show. Also accompanied throughout the series is the death of Shirase's (one of the main four girls') mother in Antarctica during a previous expedition. The viewers, like the four girls, are 99.9% sure that her mother passed away in this place beyond the universe. However, the viewers, like the four girls, cling desperately onto the 1% chance that she may still be alive in this coldest of deserts. Spoilers: The scene in the 12th episode of Shirase finding her mother's laptop, unlocking it using her own birthday as the password, the laptop connecting to the internet signal provided by the expedition's base and finally receiving the unread emails Shirase has sent her mother every single day for the past couple years as she breaks down into an ugly cry is one of the most heartbreakingly beautiful moments in anime End Spoilers.

Writing about these two shows just makes me want to watch them again for a third time. They are truly gems of anime in 2018 and shouldn't be missed by any anime fan.

# MY FAVORITE ANIME SCENES FROM 2018

**ANDREW FT. SHAO-LON**  
4TH YEAR, MEDIA STUDIES

STAFF WRITER

Gotta watch *High Score Girl*

**Warning: Spoilers for *My Hero Academia the Movie: The Two Heroes***

Ever since I started watching anime in 2014, I gotta say that 2018 has been my favorite year of anime thus far. There were many sequels to some of my favorites, such as *Saiki Kusuo 2*, *Attack on Titan 3*, *My Hero Academia 3*, and *Steins;Gate 0*, etc. There were also a ton of new anime that I enjoyed, such as *Banana Fish*, *Megalo Box*, *High Score Girl*, and *Wotakoi*, to name a few. In this article, I'm going to outline some of my favorite scenes from the anime that I watched in 2018.

"*Banana Fish*, the kissing scene with the butt-feeling. Episode 3. When they pass the message in the capsule while they kiss, that's hot, it means they must have used tongue. UHH! Nutted. Top tier. Oh man." - Shao-Lon "Michael" Yeh

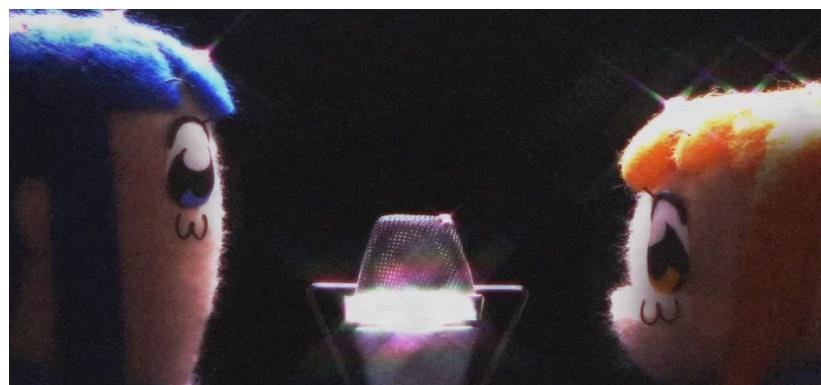
Now that the guest feature from Shao-Lon is over, we'll move onto the next scene. It's from *My Hero Academia the Movie: The Two Heroes*. I absolutely loved the movie, so much that I watched it twice: once at the world premiere at Anime Expo 2018, and again when it showed in theatres in the fall. The scene is from the end of the movie, when Midoriya and All Might are fighting against the villain, Wolfram. All Might starts dashing towards Wolfram, and in the ultimate Father/Son, Master/Successor moment, the movie shows All Might running at top speed, with Midoriya following right behind him in perfect sync. Then, they unleash their wombo combo, the Double Detroit Smash, a synchronized double punch, and obliterate Wolfram. This scene gave me crazy goosebumps, both the first and the second time. I love it because it shows the ultimate synergy between All Might and Midoriya, and also shows that Midoriya is truly All Might's successor. This combined with the godlike song "You Say Run" makes it one of my favorite anime scenes, period.

My favorite scene from 2018 by far is from *Pop Team Epic*. It's the "Let's Pop Together" scene from Episode 4. In the scene, Popuko and Pipimi dance and sing while flashy lights and SFX



*This movie was sick.*

shine in the background. When I saw this scene as it aired, I lost it. It's because the scene is parodying the music video for the song "Let's Groove" by Earth Wind & Fire, and I happen to be the biggest Earth Wind & Fire fan this side of CAA. I instantly realized that it was a parody of "Let's Groove"; when I heard the groovy bass line, robotic vocoders, and funky beat, combined with the cheesy SFX, it instantly clicked in my head. The visuals were very close to the original music video: "Let's Groove" shows two singers facing each other, singing into a microphone; "Let's Pop Together" has something very similar with Popuko and Pipimi. "Let's Groove" has the band dancing with expanding neon lights around them; "Let's Pop Together" has the same thing, but with Popuko and Pipimi. The song itself is also quite similar, from the instrumentation, to the melody. I never thought that an anime would parody my favorite band, so I felt like this scene was tailor-made just for me. It's just a fantastic scene, and truly my favorite from 2018.



*"Let's Pop Together" mirrors "Let's Groove"*

# VOLUME XLIX, ISSUE I — FEBUARY 7, 2018

RIO

*the* Science Girl

**RIO FUTABA**  
Bunny Girl

Art by Deborah Lim



**CLUB  
EVENTS**

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

FUTABA

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

**J.MP/KONSUB**

## STAFF

 Bogeun Choi  
Editor-in-Chief

 Andy Lo  
Layout Editor

 Abeer Hossain  
Writer

 Andrew Wing  
Writer

 Benson Peng  
Writer

 Ethan Carter  
Writer

 Jonathan Qian  
Writer

 Shamin Chowdhury  
Writer

 Shao-Lon Yeh  
Writer

 Ziana Deen  
Writer

**SOCIAL  
MEDIA**

[facebook.com/calanimagealpha](https://facebook.com/calanimagealpha)  
[instagram.com/animagedalpha](https://instagram.com/animagedalpha)  
[discord.gg/h7ymn3A](https://discord.gg/h7ymn3A)

**ATHENA ANGELA**

Art by Sharrel Narsico

