

# **konshuu**

presented by: Cal Animage Alpha

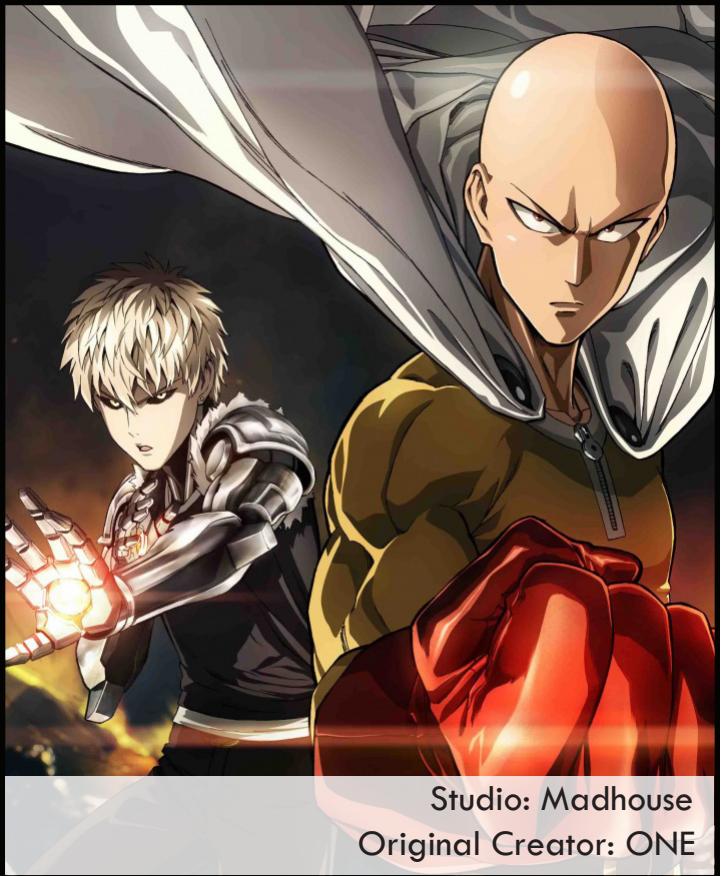
Cover by: Jacky Zhao, Junior, CS/Art

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# THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

## ► ANIME SHOWING ONE-PUNCH MAN

In a chaotic metropolis called City Z, villains and monsters constantly wreak mass destruction. Heroes rise up to vanquish them, but not many can go for long without facing defeat ... that is, until one man named Saitama (a self-proclaimed hero for fun) comes to the rescue. Bald and decked out in a yellow jumpsuit and red cape, he doesn't give off the most intimidating impression. However, Saitama effortlessly destroys all of his foes in the blink of an eye with the most powerful punch in the world. Saitama becomes bored of fighting weaklings, so he joins the Heroes Association in the hopes of finding stronger opponents. Along the way, he meets a firepowered cyborg, a "speed o' sound" ninja, an evil scientist, and havoc-wreaking beasts of all shapes and sizes. But of course, none of them can defeat him. Is there anyone who can challenge Saitama?

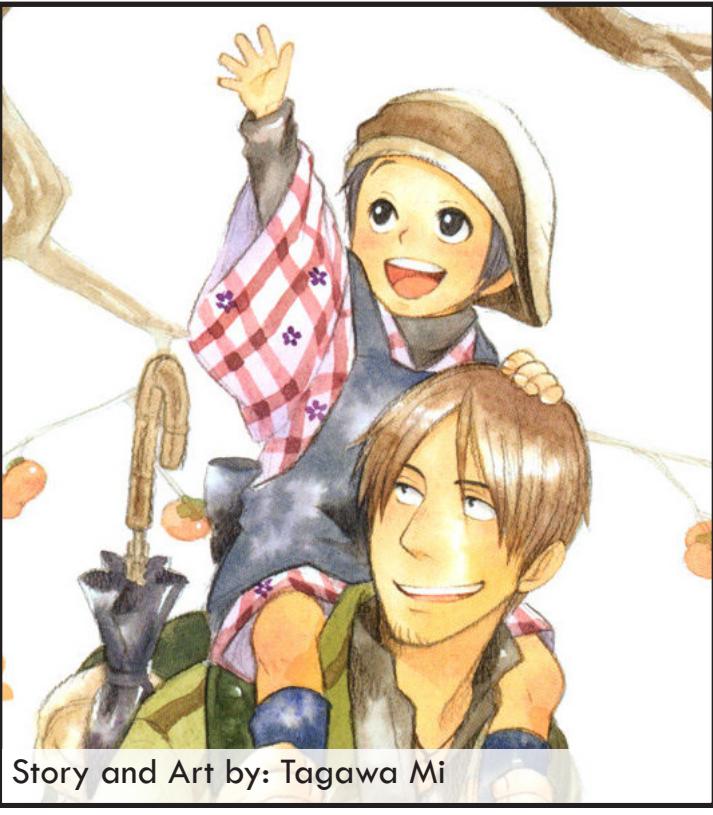


Studio: Madhouse

Original Creator: ONE

## MANGA SOCIAL CHICHI KOGUSA

Torakichi, a medicine seller and father of one, has fallen into the unfortunate trap of placing career above family. His son Shirou has been mostly raised by his wife, and he's been less of a father and more of a father figure. This all changes when tragedy strikes their family, leaving Torakichi without a wife and Shirou without a mother. Now, the (formerly) lone medicine seller must travel with the young boy as an unexpected companion. Will Torakichi be able to adjust to this new lifestyle? How will he and his son cope with their loss? The answers will reveal themselves during their journey. Who knows? Along the way, they might just learn a few lessons about the true meaning of family.



Story and Art by: Tagawa Mi



# ZOMBIES AMONG US

## THE MANY-NAMED ANIME THAT RETURNS EVERY SEASON

AARON "STURGEON" CHON

There is a boy. He is a high school student, and as high school students do, he goes to school. But this is no ordinary school; this is a sacred academy for those with a certain type of ability. And for some reason, he finds himself in a rather awkward situation that involves himself and a girl who is partially clothed at best. If he is lucky, he will get away with an earful, but if not, he will receive all manner of physical and verbal abuses. The catch is, this girl is one of the most, if not the most, powerful in this academy. On the other hand, he himself is not particularly gifted ... or is he? We may never know. At least, not until our brash lady becomes a damsel in distress. And what he has up his sleeve may be more than what any intruder may have been prepared for.

Along the way, our unfortunate (or fortunate?) hero will accumulate a following that may include, but is not limited to, the following: the class rep, the childhood friend, the ambiguously related sister, the rich bitch, the mute, and the tease. Soon, it becomes apparent that there is a mysterious group, a lingering evil that is working behind the scenes, and unless our hero does something, life at the academy will come grinding to a halt, if the world doesn't outright end first. Often, this ragtag team will have to prove their worth by competing in a tournament, within or outside of the academy, which (who would have thought?) will be the site for our shadow group's next appearance. What will happen to the main character? Can he stop the imminent forces of evil? Will he actually pick one girl?



If this sounds like a familiar script, then fear not; you are not going insane, nor is your Reading Steiner activating. In the past decade, there has been an uprising of anime with this story; they have different characters/settings/concepts, but ultimately the same plot. This many-named anime has spread like a metaphorical cancer, appearing under many names at least once per season in recent history and showing no signs of stopping anytime soon. What is the name of this strange creature? Those in the know have been spreading the good word; you thought it was Dio, but it is the light novel adaptation!

While the makeshift script listed at the top does not accurately capture all of the shows that are part of this multifaceted beast, it is more or less what you should expect from a stock light novel adaption. There have been many light novel to anime adaptations before this recent trend, as titles such as Suzumiya Haruhi and Spice and Wolf took the otaku community by storm. However, the emergence of this creature in the popular community is most evident in the series IS: Infinite Stratos. For those of you who have done yourself a service by not watching, IS: Infinite Stratos includes many elements that have found themselves in the light novel: a main character who is a dense pervert, accidental or otherwise, the girl (because regardless of the accumulation of female members of the cast, there is always the "one"), the other girls, the school, and the evil organization, which reveals itself in later volumes. Of course, not all of these are shared among all of these light novel adaptations, but what is universal is the lewd factor. Immediately, a follow up with this formula that is as, if not more, popular is Highschool DxD, which took the above and took the ecchi to an entirely new level. Most stock light novel adaptations position themselves in between the two in terms of female following and lewdness.



Unsurprisingly, this recent trend has not been a well loved one critically, possibly even popularly. Some are popular enough to warrant a second cour, but most fade into the sea of obscurity that is known as unpopular anime. Why do these shows keep coming out if nobody really likes them all that much? The answer is unusually normal. Because the western half of the world doesn't directly produce anime, they have the option to selectively import and translate works they believe will be successful. The reception in Japan is critical to whether a show will be received in the US and Europe. On the other hand, most light novel adaptations are exactly that: light novel adaptations. More often than not, they serve as little more than advertising for the actual light novel, which is often multiple volumes ahead. This is apparent in the fact that the endings are often inconclusive, although the minor arc will find itself resolved. Any success the actual anime receives serves as an added bonus.



A cover is to a book what animation is to an anime. We all say “don’t judge a book by its cover,” but in the end, we still do. The same holds true for anime and manga. A reputable artist can make or break the success of a manga series, and a beautiful animation style can draw in a lot of viewers for an anime series. Of course, these aspects do not come cheap. A lot of money is poured into visuals as a sort of gamble for success. Take Okami, for example: a game released in 2006 for the Playstation 2. Okami is critically acclaimed for its mesmerizing gameplay visuals. Set in classical Japan, the plot references Japanese culture multiple times through characters like “Susanoo,” “Amaterasu,” and “Orochi.” The game features ink-styled cel-shaded graphics and absolutely gorgeous cutscenes. In this era, the use of cel-shaded graphics was controversial and “kiddish,” but Okami took it one step further by combining it with Japanese styles. To this day, I have not seen another game that deviated from the norm quite like Okami.



How did it do? Well, it was successful, but arguably not successful enough. The game’s company unfortunately shut down a few years after. Ironically enough, Okami generated enough fan support to spawn a sequel and a high-definition remake!

The innovative mixture of two different art styles can potentially entice many viewers to watch a show. Take Avatar: The Last Airbender, for example. It is clearly evident that Avatar heavily borrows from popular Japanese media like Cowboy Bebop and Miyazaki films. The names, religions, and themes all seem to allude to Japanese culture. In fact, the creators based Appa off My Neighbor Totoro’s Catbus! Who knew? The distinct animation draws American viewers in, and they end up continuing to watch it due to the other well-written aspects of the show. An example of the reverse, an Americanized anime, would be Panty & Stocking with Garterbelt, a series that draws inspiration from American cartoons.



The art style or animation is a major ingredient in a manga or anime’s success. Sometimes it’s the defining characteristic of a show. There’s a reason why we can differentiate anime from American cartoons like Family Guy and Danny Phantom. They look and feel entirely different from Japanese anime. For example, the openings for the different types of media are totally and utterly dissimilar. An anime opening generally features running, birds, dramatic camera movements, and beautiful scenery, whereas a Western cartoon opening typically has catchy songs and comedic moments or jokes.



I've been constantly talking about good art in this article, but what exactly is good art? Well, a good artist gives meaning and substance to each and every panel. In vibrant worlds like Oda's One Piece, pages are filled to the brim with bustling cities in the background, among other things. In contrast, Bleach is often devoid of any background or depth. Nothing complements the characters drawn in the panel at times, which contributes to a very lifeless artstyle. In the middle of the manga, a villain fires off a giant black energy wave, and the entire 2-page spread is just...black.



Kubo Tite sure could use some more creativity. Although, he's not exactly any better than Akira Toriyama, who's been drawing Kamehamehas and similar characters for his entire life.



Art and animation could even be a recipe for disaster! After all, the visuals of a manga or anime have to fit the genre. Could you imagine Puella Magi Madoka Magica characters designed by Hirohiko Araki, creator of Jojo's Bizarre Adventure? Suddenly, the girls in Madoka would be masculine and fabulous! How about Death Note by Kyoto Animation? A cutesy Yagami Light would truly be a fearsome villain.



Hopefully, you can look past the foreground and see the intricacies behind an artist/animator's animation/art. Personally, I am a terrible illustrator, so I appreciate any drawing effort. The terrible art in certain Hunter x Hunter chapters might be the sole exception. Anyway, art and animation can be appreciated by all types of readers, whether they enjoy girly, manly, creepy, silly, or even bad art. All in all, try to take a step back and closely look at a manga's art or anime's animation before making premature judgments. You might notice something interesting hidden behind the panels or behind the scenes!





# ANIME REVIEW: MARS OF DESTRUCTION (AKA TWENTY MINUTES OF TORTURE)

JOSH "BUBEEZ" ROQUE

Let me preface this review by saying this is the lowest rated anime on MyAnimeList. It. Is. Bad. So bad that the anime community finally has something to agree on—this anime deserves to be called the bottom of the MyAnimeList barrel, with everyone hoping that it never sees the light of day again. However, like an eccentric British chef on the brink of insanity, I believe that trash deserves a pedestal, so it may become a monolith to the mistakes of mankind, so brightly polished that it reflects the faces of disgust pointed in its general direction.



## Plot: 0/10

Astronauts were sent to Mars because who cares, they exploded in the atmosphere because who cares, and the debris from the spaceship (something convenient, like bacteria) has necessary data for who cares. However, the bacteria in the spaceship summoned ... lame Space Trek baddies called “Ancients.” Equipped with lasers for eyes, they generally do nothing but stand around and aim at things. A “team” of “trained” “specialists” who all happen to be generic female high schoolers with laser submachine guns is tasked with protecting citizens from the laser-spamming fishmen aliens; oh, and they have one laser swordsman who wears armor that looks like a glow-in-the-dark Madcatz controller. The good guys win. We lose interest, hope in humanity, quality of life, and the ability to appreciate narrative. (Mild spoiler ahead, not that it matters.) In the end, we learn that humans invaded Earth from Mars a long time ago. Want me to explain a little further? I can’t. The aliens speak Japanese. The aliens say they are from Earth. Cut to black. Be glad that they didn’t go any further.



## Visuals: 0/10

Imagine a bowl of Lucky Charms cereal left in some milk for a good part of a decade. Mix in the occasional glowstick, and you have the color palette for the next twenty minutes of your viewing pleasure. Bland, unassuming, boring colors are contrasted with rave-like beam swords and lasers that look cut out of the latest Speed Racer movie; sometimes it’s a sub-par watercolor painting, and other times, it’s a flashy, banned episode of Pokémon with epilepsy warnings. Sadly, I think I would have had better perception and object recognition has I been repeatedly blindfolded with a flashlight shone in my face instead. The animation is as fluid as dragging a large piano over a speed bump: abrupt fight scene pauses, character reactions that last millennia, etc.



## Sound: 0/10

There is no music, save for some weird opera in the beginning; the entire twenty minutes is cricketing silence, with abrupt pauses in all noise. Playing this anime creates a vacuum with its emptiness at times. When the anime actually makes noise, you only wish it would go back to piercing your ears with absolutely nothing again. The laser sounds may have been modern in the 1950s, but now they carry the impact of a pillow covered in Play-Doh. The “Ancients” are human grunts, and I would have mistaken them for zombies if I didn’t barely discern their silver, chromatic heads and obnoxious Play-Doh lasers. The final explosion is the Instant Transmission sound from Dragon Ball Z. When your epic moment is a simple movement in another anime, you know you have the impact of a piece of gum landing in a bouncy castle.

**Final Thoughts:** There’s a reason this is the lowest rated anime on MyAnimeList. This should be a form of punishment. Mars of Destruction is nothing short of a train wreck and deserves a gold medal in “Accomplishing Nothing.” I am sure that even a goldfish, with its glorious two-second memory span, would agree that this is quite uninteresting and takes far too long. Mars of Destruction, I tip my hat to you.

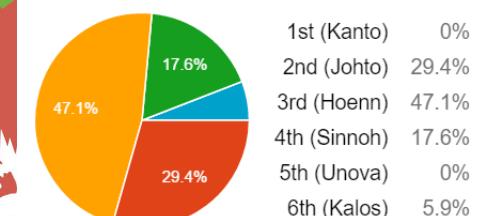
# STAFF PLAYLIST

## "DON'T LOSE YOUR WAY!"

	Title	Artist	Series	Added by
	Again	Yui	FMA: Brotherhood	Nimsi
	Bahasa Palus Jazz'n Mix	Taku Iwasaki	Katanagatari	Edward
	Closer	Joe Inoue	Naruto: Shippuden	Andy
	Gouin ni MAI Yeah	Zetsubou Girls	Sayonara, Zetsubou-Sensei	Rika
	MOBILE SUIT	Hiroyuki Sawano	Gundam Unicorn	Andrew
	Shichiten Hikki Shijou Shugi!	KOTOKO	Hayate no Gotoku	Austin
	Tasogare no Starlight	Yoshino Nanjo	Grisaia no Rakuen	Aaron
	Tsuna Awakens	Toshihiko Sahashi	Katekyo Hitman Reborn!	Tina
	Uragiri no Yuuyake	Theatre Brook	Durarara!	Josh

## LAST WEEK'S POLL - RESULTS

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE POKÉMON GENERATION?



## THIS WEEK'S POLL

HOW MANY ANIME DO YOU FOLLOW EACH SEASON?

VOTE NOW AT: [J.MP/KONPOLL4209](http://J.MP/KONPOLL4209)

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



## PUBLICATION STAFF

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**Writers:** Aaron Chon, Andrew Oeung,

Andy Chen, Austin Tai, Josh Roque

**Illustrator:** Rika Sato

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

### Anime Showings and Socials

243/247 Dwinelle

Mondays, 7:00 - 10:00pm

### Manga Socials

Wheeler Steps (facing Sather Gate)

Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30pm

### Game Nights

85/87 Evans

Thursdays, 7:30 - 10:00pm

## WEEKLY SHOWINGS

Gangsta.

Gakkou Gurashi!

NEXT WEEK'S SHOWING: GAME OF LAPLACE

An illustration showing two anime characters in a dynamic, action-oriented pose. One character, a girl with blue hair and a white lab coat, is in the foreground, looking intensely at something off-camera. The other character, a boy with glasses and a white lab coat, is behind her, also looking intently. They appear to be in a laboratory or industrial setting with pipes and machinery in the background. The overall mood is dramatic and focused.