

konshuu

SPECIAL EDITION: STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS!

presented by: cal animage alpha



ANIME SHOWING: **ANO HANA: THE MOVIE**

Anohana: The Flower We Saw That Day is known as one of the elites of the emotional anime category: This, of course, means that death is involved. Set off the beaten path in a sleepy town in Japan, six childhood friends become five after the death of Meiko “Menma” Honma; this leads to a separation between them as they struggle with her death and moving on. Jinta, whose struggle is especially great, begins to see a grown-up apparition of his since-dead childhood friend: the same friend that has seemingly driven him to a lonely, shut-in life. Menma’s “ghost” seems to be pushing Jinta to reunite their old friends; however, after so long, it is easier said than done. Flashes from the past are peppered throughout the narrative, bringing together old friends and linking the past with the present, lingering feelings with new ones, and the dead with the living.



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome to Cal Animage Alpha – UC Berkeley’s Anime Club! If you’re a returning member, we hope you’ll continue to enjoy all the activities and events that we have planned for you. If you’re new to the club or even to the campus, we hope you’ll find CAA a welcoming environment to make friends who all share a love of anime and manga. As I approach the end of my studies here at Berkeley, I’m glad to say that joining CAA was probably one of the best decisions of my time here. Three years ago, I was an ambitious freshman who intended to major in business and therefore prioritized joining professional clubs over social clubs. While the professional clubs were supportive of my career goals, I nevertheless found it difficult to meet people who shared my non-academic passions. I was aware that an anime club existed on campus, but the traditional stigma associated with similar clubs made me reluctant to attend. I took the plunge and my preconceptions were proven wrong. What I found in CAA was a diverse group of people with various majors and backgrounds who all simply shared an interest in anime. I met inspirational cosplayers, artists, writers, and many more others. Most importantly, I made friends who not only supported me in my academic and personal life, but also with whom I could discuss the latest shows and attend conventions. I’m confident that my experience is not atypical. Talk to any of the other officers and they will each tell you similar stories about the invaluable relationships and experiences they’ve found in CAA. We understand that there are a plethora of clubs on campus, but we hope that you’ll find a home here at Cal Animage Alpha.

KEVIN “HIME” SO, President of CAA

ANIME: ERGO PROXY

Genres: cyberpunk, psychological, sci-fi

Inspired by gnosticism and Descartes' *cogito ergo sum*, Ergo Proxy is a thought-provoking exploration of autonomy and creation. The series follows inspector Re-L Mayer as she navigates a dystopian environment where humans and androids, known as AutoReivs, coexist—though not always peacefully. Her adventure begins with a discovery: the existence of ghoulish, immortal humanoids known as Proxies. Accompanied by Pino, an AutoReiv with newly developed self-awareness, and Vincent Law, a model citizen turned accused criminal, she escapes the protected city of Romdeau to discover the truth behind the Proxies' existence. The outside world proves to be harsh and disorienting, but full of eye openers. Re-L grows as both an inspector and individual as she goes through fierce battles, philosophical experiments ('sup, Rousseau), and sober goodbyes. Pino raises a number of existential questions as she learns about the world around her. Vincent reveals that there's *much* more to him than meets the eye. Though Ergo Proxy is neither fast-paced nor particularly straightforward, its distinct atmosphere and visual style are never compromised. It straddles the line between dark and vivid, adding elements of fear and suspense to a dreamlike universe. If you're looking for a balance between philosophical discourse and psychological thriller—something that's undeniably riveting, but can still compel its viewers to press pause and think—then this series is for you.



Recommended by:
TINA "MECHATO" NGUYEN

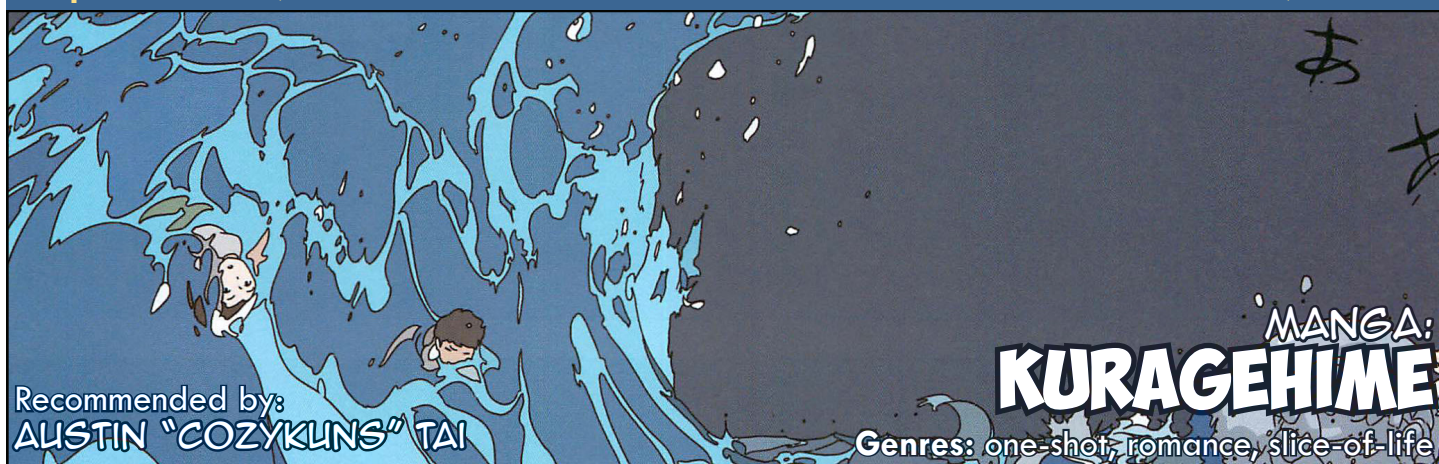


Recommended by:
JOSH ROQUE

ANIME: GANGSTA.

Genres: action, drama, seinen

Gangsta. Just saying the word echoes the feeling of watching the anime itself: punchy, gritty, down and dirty. Set in the city of Ergastulum, an imaginary mixture of the architecture of Venice and the family-style gangster families of New York, Gangsta centers around two for-hire bounty hunters called 'Handymen.' Whether it's the police or the gangster families of Ergastulum, Nicolas and Worick take jobs spreading peace through violence: something akin to government-sanctioned mercenaries. Nicolas, a deaf swordsman in the era of bullets, has no qualms about slashing 'the bad guys'—the people he is paid to kill and any others aiming guns in his general direction. Worick, on the other hand, is the cigarette-smoking, smooth-talking brains of the operation... who happens to carry a gun and deadly, one-eyed accuracy. This is not the story of heroes; they don't exist in Ergastulum. This is a story of two amiable hitmen who found themselves in a world of prostitution, money, drugs, and human folly, stuck in the crossfire between organizations and causing a much higher body count. Anyone living in a grimy world like that can't be afraid to get their hands dirty, and Nicolas and Worick certainly are not. They're cold, calculating, brutal, operating on their own morals. They are, in a word...Gangsta.



Recommended by:
AUSTIN "COZYKLUS" TAI

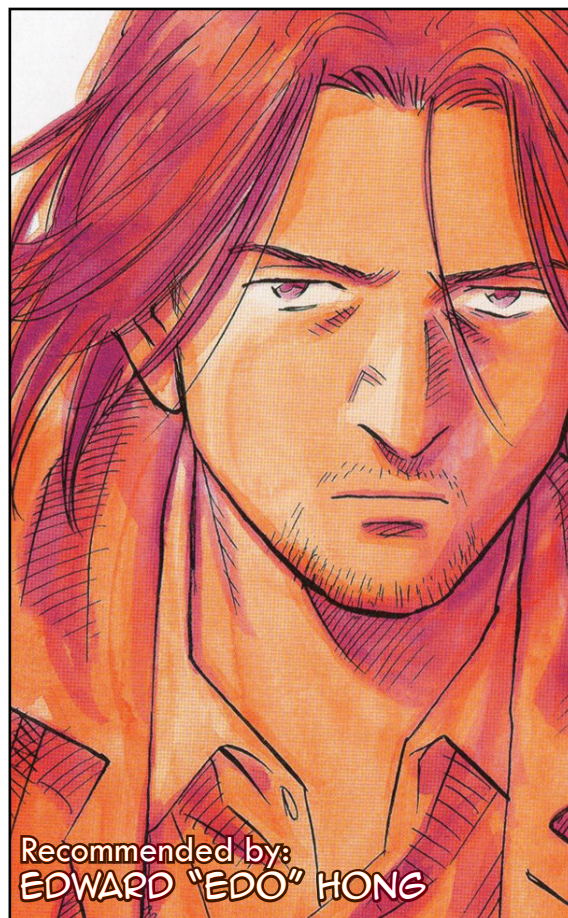
Genres: one-shot, romance, slice-of-life

If the title "Kuragehime" is ever mentioned, it's probably in reference to Princess Jellyfish, the award-winning fashion josei manga written by Akiko Higashimura. While it's an amazing manga in its own right, the Kuragehime that I always think about is nowhere near as grand or massive in scale. The manga that I'm recommending is a tiny one-shot by Uki Atsuya, most famous for his one-shot Cencoroll, which was eventually adapted into an animated movie and was popular enough to receive a sequel. Kuragehime is extremely short; in fact, the entire manga is only 17 pages long! Yet, contained within those 17 pages is enough emotion, expression, and brilliance to make it a worthwhile read. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the manga at first glance is the artwork. Atsuya's unique art style is immediately recognizable and brilliantly showcased in these full color pages. The colors that Atsuya uses are fairly diluted and soft, yet the composition and outlining of his panels makes them very impactful. The story itself is nothing special, but given the length and capacity of the short, it definitely serves its purpose of being a sweet, short, boy meets girl tale. All in all, if you're feeling down one day and just want a short, sweet story with some hints of romance on the side, then keep Uki Atsuya's Kuragehime in mind, as it'll definitely be enough to put a smile on your face.

MANGA: MONSTER

Genres: horror, mystery, psychological

Dark, gritty, and thought-provoking, Monster is the perfect cup of tea for anyone looking for a psychological thriller to keep their heart thumping and their hand turning the pages. This critically acclaimed series by Naoki Urasawa stars Dr. Kenzo Tenma, a talented brain surgeon working in Germany. One fateful night, he is forced to choose between saving the life of either a young boy or the city mayor. Dr. Tenma ultimately operates on the boy, only to find out nine years later that the boy has become a serial killer whose list of victims continues to grow. Seeking atonement for his unintentional mistake, Dr. Tenma embarks on a solitary journey across the nation to end the very life he had once saved. Urasawa's signature narrative style involves shifting the focus to a group of new characters every arc, then connecting them to the main storyline as the arc reaches its climax. Combined with his realistic art style and knack for distinct facial expressions, this allows Urasawa to keep Monster's complex story engaging despite involving a large cast. With an HBO series based on the manga in the works, there's no time like the present to indulge yourself in this masterpiece and unravel the mysteries of the boy who became a Monster.



Recommended by:
EDWARD "EDO" HONG

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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

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Anime Showings (243 Dwinelle)
Mondays, 7:00 - 10:00pm

Manga Socials (121 Wheeler)
Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30pm

Game Nights (87 Evans)
Thursdays, 7:30 - 10:00pm

EDITORIAL STAFF

Managing Editor: Tina Nguyen
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Layout Editor: Edward Hong

WEEKLIES: GAKKOU GURASHI!! AND GANGSTA.

