

= Charlotte (anime) =

Charlotte (?????? , Sh?rotto) is a 13 @-@ episode Japanese anime television series produced by P.A.Works and Aniplex and directed by Yoshiyuki Asai . The anime aired in Japan between July 5 and September 27 , 2015 . An original video animation episode was released in March 2016 . Two manga series are serialized in ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki G 's Comic . The story takes place in an alternate reality where a small percentage of children manifest superhuman abilities upon reaching puberty . A focus is placed on Yuu Otosaka , a high school boy who awakens the ability to temporarily possess others , which brings him to the attention of Nao Tomori , the student council president of a school founded as a haven for children with such abilities .

The story was originally conceived by Jun Maeda , who also wrote the screenplay and composed some of the music , with original character design by Na @-@ Ga . Both Maeda and Na @-@ Ga are from the visual novel brand Key , and Charlotte is the second original anime series created by Key following Angel Beats ! in 2010 . Maeda had thought up the concept for Charlotte long before he was approached in early 2012 to work on another anime series after Angel Beats ! . Maeda narrowed down the number of main characters compared to Angel Beats ! and attempted to put more of a focus on their behavior . Instead of employing the same staff that had worked on Angel Beats ! , the aim for Charlotte was to bring together a staff that would add a new variety to the creative process to prevent being influenced by the work done on Angel Beats ! .

Charlotte was praised for its unpredictability and evocative moments , but its pacing and structure have been criticized as inefficient . It has been described as approachable for a wide audience and for defying the " moe anime " stereotype . Although the comedic elements have been called dumb and corny , they have overall been lauded for offering some relief from the serious moments , which one reviewer likened to a palate cleanser . P.A.Works ' production was praised for its beautiful animation sequences and expressive cinematography .

= = Plot = =

Charlotte takes place in an alternate reality where a short @-@ period comet called Charlotte passes near Earth every 75 years . When this happens , it spreads dust onto the Earth , which causes a small percentage of preadolescent children who inhale the dust to manifest superhuman abilities upon reaching puberty . The story follows the protagonist Yuu Otosaka , a boy who awakens the ability to temporarily possess others . Although hoping to use his ability to fraudulently live a carefree high school life , he is exposed by Nao Tomori , a girl who can make herself invisible to a specific target . She forces him to transfer to Hoshinoumi Academy (????? , Hoshinoumi Gakuen , " Sea of Stars Academy ") and join its student council , of which she is the president . Also on the student council is J?jir? Takaj? , a boy who can move at uncontrollably high speeds . The student council 's main objective is to ensure the safety of ability users from organizations who seek to exploit their powers . In doing so , the student council warns ability users of the potential danger of openly using their abilities . This leads the student council to Yusa Nishimori , a girl who has the ability to channel the dead as a medium . Yusa 's dead older sister Misa makes use of this ability to freely possess her at any time , which allows Misa to use her own ability , pyrokinesis . Nao soon arranges for Yusa to transfer to Hoshinoumi Academy and join the student council .

Yuu 's younger sister Ayumi eventually awakens an ability to cause anything around her to suddenly collapse , which results in her death . Yuu falls into a deep depression as a result and isolates himself , but Nao successfully manages to pull him out of his depression and gets him to return to the student council . While attending a concert of the post @-@ rock band Zhiend with Nao , Yuu recollects previously suppressed memories of his brother Shunsuke , who has the ability to time travel . Shunsuke had used this ability to found Hoshinoumi Academy and an affiliated organization attempting to develop a vaccine to prevent children from developing abilities before they manifest , but repeated use leaves him blind . Yuu learns that the true nature of his ability enables him to steal someone 's ability by possessing them . Yuu steals Shunsuke 's ability to go back in time and ultimately prevent Ayumi 's death by stealing her collapse ability before she can

use it .

A terrorist group manages to abduct Nao and Kumagami , one of Shunsuke 's closest friends and aides , and holds them hostage in exchange for Yuu , who attempts to rescue them . However , the operation does not go as planned , which results in Kumagami 's death and Yuu being gravely injured . After Yuu recovers , he resolves to protect all of the ability users around the world by stealing their abilities per Nao 's suggestion . As Yuu travels the world stealing abilities , the more powers he takes on soon takes its toll on him as he starts losing his memories and sense of self . However , he still manages to steal everyone 's abilities throughout the world before collapsing , Nao 's parting gift acting as his motivation . Shunsuke rescues Yuu , bringing him back to Japan among friends and family . Yuu is left with no past memories , but Nao tells him she is his girlfriend . Yuu and his friends look forward to the memories they will make from now on as Yuu continues to recover from his ordeal .

= = Characters = =

= = = Main characters = = =

Yuu Otosaka (悠 斗 , Otosaka Yuu)

Voiced by : K?ki Uchiyama (Japanese) ; Ray Chase (English)

Yuu is the protagonist of Charlotte . He develops a rude and narcissistic personality once he discovers he has the ability to take over another person 's body for five seconds , ep 1 but the true nature of his ability enables him to steal someone 's superhuman ability by possessing them.ep 9 Yuu is a first @-@ year student at Hoshinoumi Academy , and he is forced to join its student council . Initially a fake honors student and chronic cheater , Yuu is reluctant to use his ability to aide the student council , ep 2 but as time goes on , he becomes less narcissistic and much more selfless and caring towards others.ep 8 Over the course of the story , he becomes a fan of the post @-@ rock band Zhiend and falls in love with Nao.ep 9 , ep 12 After Yuu travels worldwide to steal every ability user 's power to protect them from being exploited , the strain of it causes him to lose all of his past memories.ep 13 His older brother is Shunsuke and his younger sister is Ayumi.ep 1 , ep 9

Nao Tomori (斗 衣 , Tomori Nao)

Voiced by : Ayane Sakura (Japanese) ; Lauren Landa (English)

Nao is a first @-@ year student at Hoshinoumi Academy and is also its student council president.ep 1 She is a hardworking , intelligent , and shrewd girl , but is also narcissistic , self @-@ righteous , and short @-@ tempered.ep 2 , ep 3 She has the ability to make herself invisible , but this is limited to one person of her choosing at a time . She uses this ability to her advantage to attack others she believes deserve to be kicked , but this causes her to be shunned and bullied by her peers . Although she initially shows no attraction towards Yuu , ep 1 she eventually falls in love with him and stays by his side even after he loses all of his memories of her.ep 13 She is a fan of Zhiend , influenced by her older brother Kazuki (斗 衣 , Voiced by : Kazuyuki Okitsu) , who once had the ability to control air movements and vibrations , which he used when playing the guitar.ep 2

J?jir? Takaj? (斗 衣 , Takaj? J?jir?)

Voiced by : Takahiro Mizushima (Japanese) ; Lucien Dodge (English)

J?jir? is a first @-@ year student at Hoshinoumi Academy and is a member of its student council . His ability enables him to move at very fast speeds , but he is not able to control where he stops , resulting in frequent injuries.ep 1 To counteract this , he wears protective gear under his clothes . He is a huge fan of Yusa Nishimori and is extremely obsessed with her.ep 3

Yusa Nishimori (斗 衣 , Nishimori Yusa) / Yusa Kurobane (斗 衣 , Kurobane Yusa)

Voiced by : Maaya Uchida (Japanese) ; Ryan Bartley (English)

Yusa , also known as " Yusarin " , is a first @-@ year student at Hoshinoumi Academy and is a member of its student council.ep 4 She has a bright and innocent personality that compliments her popularity as a pop idol and singer of the band How @-@ Low @-@ Hello . Although her actual surname is Kurobane , she uses the stage surname Nishimori.ep 3 She has a series of " magic

spells " derived from her time as a regular on a variety show.ep 4 She has the ability to channel the dead as a medium . However , she is initially not aware of this and only thinks that she is sleepwalking whenever she is possessed.ep 3

Misa Kurobane (?? ?? , Kurobane Misa)

Voiced by : Maaya Uchida (Japanese) ; Ryan Bartley (English)

Misa is Yusa 's deceased older sister by one year who died in an accident six months prior to the beginning of the story . Misa freely possess her at any time , represented by a change in Yusa 's eye and hair color . While possessing Yusa , Misa is able to use her own ability , pyrokinesis . Misa has a tomboyish and ill @-@ tempered personality , and she is not afraid to be violent against anyone looking to harm her sister.ep 3 She disappears after Yuu takes away Yusa 's power.ep 12

Ayumi Ootaka (?? ?? , Ootaka Ayumi)

Voiced by : Momo Asakura (Japanese) ; Kira Buckland (English)

Ayumi is Yuu 's and Shunsuke 's energetic younger sister in junior high school.ep 1 She has an innocent personality and deeply cares for Yuu , providing moral support to him . Ayumi often cooks for Yuu and has a tendency to add pizza sauce to every food she makes , unaware that Yuu 's modern tastes cannot handle the sweetness.ep 2 , ep 3 She is a fan of the band How @-@ Low @-@ Hello and an avid admirer of Yusa.ep 6 She eventually awakens an ability to cause anything around her to suddenly collapse , but this is stolen by Yuu to prevent her death.ep 10

= = = Other characters = = =

Shunsuke Ootaka (?? ?? , Ootaka Shunsuke) is Yuu 's and Ayumi 's older brother , who has the ability to time travel . Using this power , he eventually manages to found Hoshinomi Academy to protect his fellow ability users . Overuse of his ability leads him to become blind , preventing him from making further use of it.ep 10 He is voiced by Daisuke Ono .

Kumagami (??) is a mysterious student at Hoshinomi Academy , who has the ability to locate an ability user and determine their ability . He helps the student council in finding ability users.ep 2 He works for Shunsuke , who nicknames him " Pooh " .ep 10 He is killed after protecting Nao from some falling wreckage.ep 11 He is voiced by Eiji Takemoto .

Medoki (??) has the ability of hypnotism , which she uses to make someone fall asleep , but as a result , she falls asleep as well . She works for Shunsuke.ep 10 She is voiced by Asami Seto .

Shichino (??) has the ability of permeation , which he uses to pass through solid matter . However , this causes extreme exhaustion . He works for Shunsuke.ep 10 He is voiced by Kengo Kawanishi

Maedomari (??) has the ability to erase one 's memory , which requires physical contact and time to find the wanted memories . He works for Shunsuke.ep 10 He is voiced by Natsuki Hanae .

= = Production = =

= = = Creation and conception = = =

The original creators of Charlotte are Jun Maeda and Na @-@ Ga of Key , and Charlotte is the second original anime series created by Key following Angel Beats ! (2010) . Hironori Toba of Aniplex approached Maeda in early 2012 with an offer from P.A.Works president Kenji Horikawa to do another anime series with the studio . Maeda was surprised by this , as he never expected to work with P.A.Works again . Horikawa explained that the production staff could now handle things that were not able to be fully materialized during the production of Angel Beats ! . Maeda did not think he would ever be involved in the planning of another anime series , but he said that he had no choice but to accept Horikawa 's offer after discussing it with him . Toba asked Maeda to write a " Key @-@ like story " , and Maeda started out by applying his prior experience of working on Angel Beats ! . He went through a trial @-@ and @-@ error process to work out what kind of setting and story would work well for an anime series .

Long before working on Charlotte , Maeda had thought up a concept for a story with characters who

have imperfect superpowers that must cooperate with each other to resolve any incidents that arise . Maeda originally submitted three separate ideas for a story to Toba , and he asked him which one he liked best . However , after Toba pointed out one of the other two , Maeda made it clear that he wanted to do the story that would become Charlotte . When writing the story , Maeda also reconsidered how he had done certain things with Angel Beats ! . In particular , he attempted to put more of a focus on the behavior of the characters . Maeda also narrowed down the number of main characters in Charlotte compared to Angel Beats ! , which could not put a focus on each and every character . Toba felt that Maeda was influenced by his work on Angel Beats ! , which changed his thought process and what he wanted to depict in Charlotte .

Maeda thought issues had arisen with the large cast of characters in Angel Beats ! , such as overlapping personality traits and not being able to remember everyone , and he used those considerations when writing Charlotte . Similarly , when designing the characters in Angel Beats ! , Na @-@ Ga had been concerned about designs being too similar among the characters , and went on to make use of that experience with Charlotte . When developing J?jir? Takaj? , he originally had a different appearance and personality , but over the course of the development process , he eventually became similar to Takamatsu from Angel Beats ! . Maeda decided fairly early on to make Yuu Otsuka a low @-@ life cheater at the start of Charlotte because he had never created a character like that before . When trying to choose a title for Charlotte , Maeda 's friend Taisei Nakagawa proposed a title which could be abbreviated as " AA " based on its similarity to Angel Beats ! ' s abbreviation of " AB " . However , Maeda did not like the title , and devised the title Charlotte as one that would surpass the original " AA " title . The title Charlotte came from the song " Charlotte " (?????? , Sh?rotto) by the Japanese band Art @-@ School .

= = = Development = = =

When deciding on Charlotte 's staff , Toba thought it would be better not to have exactly the same team that produced Angel Beats ! . Having already decided to stick with Maeda , Na @-@ Ga and P.A.Works , Toba aimed to bring together a staff that would add a new variety to the creative process , and in doing so would prevent being influenced by the work done on Angel Beats ! . With that in mind , Toba wanted a director who had a good understanding of Angel Beats ! and who would also be suitable as Charlotte 's director , leading him to seek out Yoshiyuki Asai . Toba took into consideration the storyboarding Asai had done for two episodes of Angel Beats ! , and he thought that Charlotte would be a good opportunity to have a first @-@ time series director . Asai was also chosen as someone who could handle both comedic and serious moments . When Horikawa first looked at Charlotte 's incomplete script , he told Maeda that it did not feel like it had the same kind of zeal that Angel Beats ! had . However , once he saw the whole script , his concerns with it were dispelled , much to Maeda 's relief .

While the entire script was still in the draft phase , Maeda revised lines that felt unnatural after asking others for their opinions on it , including Na @-@ Ga . When writing the script , Maeda made a conscious effort to write Charlotte in the framework of an anime series , as opposed to when he wrote the script for Angel Beats ! , which he admits he wrote more akin to the framework of a video game . In this way , Toba felt that Charlotte was Maeda 's effort to write a story in its purest form that could not be made into a video game , unlike Angel Beats ! . Toba also noted that the characters in Charlotte are not written for a video game scenario , especially the protagonist , and went on to echo Horikawa 's sentiment that Charlotte is akin to an I novel for Maeda . Toba explained that this is a result of Maeda 's effort to remove the restrictions that come from writing the scenario for a video game .

Kanami Sekiguchi was chosen as the character designer after Horikawa took notice of her work as the animation director of episode nine of Angel Beats ! , and Toba was eager to see how she would render Na @-@ Ga 's original designs . When it came time to choose an art director , Kazuki Higashiji was chosen for his zeal in the workplace and Horikawa 's confidence in his artistic talent ; Higashiji had also been the art director for Angel Beats ! . Similarly , Satoki Iida was brought back to work on Charlotte again as the sound and music director , and he also helped with the proofreading

of the script as he had done for Angel Beats ! . Iida was largely chosen for his good communication with Maeda , and so that he could make the best use of his experience working on Angel Beats ! . When writing the music for How @-@ Low @-@ Hello , Maeda reused some older songs he had composed as a student in the 1990s that he felt were selective of his best songs from that period . At the time , his concept when composing the songs was " early B 'z " , but Maeda notes that this is no longer the case with the completed songs .

= = Media = =

= = = Manga = = =

A four @-@ panel comic strip manga , illustrated by Haruka Komowata and titled Charlotte The 4 @-@ koma : Seishun o Kakenukero ! (Charlotte The ??? ???????????? !) , began serialization in the May 2015 issue of ASCII Media Works ' Dengeki G 's Comic sold on March 30 , 2015 . The first tank?bon volume for Charlotte The 4 @-@ koma was released on September 26 , 2015 . A second manga , illustrated by Makoto Ikezawa and Y? Tsurusaki , is titled Charlotte and began serialization in the September 2015 issue of Dengeki G 's Comic sold on July 30 , 2015 . Charlotte is also available on Kadokawa Corporation 's ComicWalker website . The first tank?bon volume for Charlotte , which contains chapters published before the serialization , was released on August 27 , 2015 . The second volume was released on May 26 , 2016 .

= = = Anime = = =

The Charlotte anime television series is directed by Yoshiyuki Asai and produced by P.A.Works and Aniplex . The series aired in Japan between July 5 and September 27 , 2015 . The screenplay is written by Jun Maeda , who originally conceived the series . The chief animators are Noboru Sugimitsu and Kanami Sekiguchi , and Sekiguchi based the character design used in the anime on Na @-@ Ga 's original designs . Sound and music direction is headed by Satoki Iida . The series is being released on seven Blu @-@ ray / DVD compilation volumes between September 23 , 2015 and March 30 , 2016 in limited and regular editions . The seventh volume featured an original video animation episode . Three drama CDs , written by Maeda and performed by the anime 's cast , were released with the first , third and fifth volumes . In North America , the series is licensed by Aniplex of America , who simulcasted the series on Aniplex Channel , Crunchyroll , Hulu , Daisuki , Viewster , and Animax Asia . The series was obtained by Madman Entertainment for digital distribution in Australia and New Zealand who simulcasted the series on AnimeLab .

The anime 's music is composed by Maeda , Hikarishuyo , and the group Anant @-@ Garde Eyes , who also provided the musical arrangement . The music is released on Key 's record label Key Sounds Label . The single " Bravely You / Yakeochinai Tsubasa " (???????) was released on August 26 , 2015 in limited (CD + DVD) and regular (CD) editions ; the limited edition 's DVD contains the opening and ending videos without the credits . There are two in @-@ story bands : How @-@ Low @-@ Hello featuring vocals by Maaya Uchida , and Zhiend featuring vocals by Marina . One single and one album was released for both bands in 2015 . How @-@ Low @-@ Hello 's single " Rakuen Made / Hatsunetsu Days " (???? / ?????) was released on September 2 , and the band 's album Smells Like Tea , Espresso was released on September 30 . Zhiend 's single " Trigger " was released on September 9 , and the band 's album Echo was released on October 14 as a two @-@ CD set for both English and Japanese lyrics . The anime 's original soundtrack was released on November 4 , 2015 as a two @-@ CD set .

An Internet radio show to promote the series titled Charlotte Radio : Tomori Nao no Seitokai Katsud? Nikki (Charlotte??? ? ?????????????? ? , Charlotte Radio : Nao Tomori 's Student Council Activity Log) streamed 13 weekly broadcasts between July 6 and September 28 , 2015 on Niconico . The show was also available via Hibiki Radio Station and Onsen , and was hosted by Ayane Sakura (the voice of Nao) . Two CD compilation volumes for the show were released between

September 30 , 2015 and January 27 , 2016 .

= = Reception = =

In a review by Anime News Network , reviewer Gabriella Ekens praised the series for " sculpting singular , evocative moments " , but went on to say that a " problem arises when you try to tie them into a bigger picture . " Ekens criticized the pacing and structure of the show , calling it an " inefficient ... collection of sprawling narrative ideas " and comparing it to " Anohana suddenly turn [ing] into Darker than Black . " Ekens also notes that its thematic purpose " seems to be Jun Maeda 's opportunity for melodramatic elaboration on the emotional dilemmas posed by Madoka Magica . " Overall , Charlotte was lauded for its entertainment value and unpredictability , but " disappoints as a work of art . " Early on , Ekens described the series as having " sharp comedic timing , " and by episode four , she praised the comedic elements as " already much funnier than Plastic Memories . " She went on to say that " it 's dumb , but I like it for the same reasons I liked the comedy in Seraph of the End : Vampire Reign . " Chris Beveridge of The Fandom Post found Charlotte 's unpredictability " engaging " and its animation " beautiful " . Ekens praised P.A. Works for their dynamic direction and " expressive cinematography " which offers " a distinct , pleasant aesthetic . "

In a column on Mainichi Shimbun 's Mantanweb portal , Charlotte was praised for the balance it strikes to reach a wide audience , from " core fans " of anime to casual viewers , in regards to its creative use of peculiar characters coupled with a scenario focused on resolving problems . Columnist Ry? Koarai commended Charlotte for pulling in the viewer from the first episode due to Yuu 's surprising , unorthodox personality in contrast with how he uses his superhuman ability in his everyday life . Writer Seiji Nakazawa lauded Charlotte for defying the " moe anime " stereotype at first glance and for instead being what he describes as a " human drama " . He notes that Charlotte is written in much the same way as Maeda 's previous works by inserting jokes between serious moments to offer some relief to the viewer . While Nakazawa admits that some may find the jokes in Charlotte corny , he finds them acceptable and likens them to a palate cleanser .

The seven Blu @-@ ray compilation volumes ranked in the top 15 on Japan 's Oricon weekly Blu @-@ ray sales chart for animation : Volume one ranked at No. 1 , volume two ranked at No. 6 , volume three ranked at No. 9 , volume four ranked at No. 4 , volume five ranked at No. 10 , volume six ranked at No. 13 , and volume seven ranked at No. 3 . The opening and ending theme song single " Bravely You / Yakeochinai Tsubasa " debuted at No. 4 on Japan 's Oricon weekly singles chart , selling over 23 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of sales . How @-@ Low @-@ Hello 's single " Rakuen Made / Hatsunetsu Days " debuted at No. 9 on the Oricon singles chart , selling about 9 @,@ 300 copies in its first week of sales . How @-@ Low @-@ Hello 's album Smells Like Tea , Espresso debuted at No. 12 on the Oricon albums chart , selling about 9 @,@ 500 copies in its first week of sales . Zhiend 's single " Trigger " debuted at No. 11 on the Oricon singles chart , selling about 14 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of sales . Zhiend 's album Echo debuted at No. 4 on the Oricon albums chart , selling about 10 @,@ 300 copies in its first week of sales . The Charlotte Original Soundtrack debuted at No. 9 on the Oricon albums chart , selling about 6 @,@ 600 copies in its first week of sales .