

= Speed Grapher =

Speed Grapher ( ????????? , Sup?do Guraf? ) is a 2005 anime series created by Gonzo . The series ran for 24 episodes from April to October 2005 on TV Asahi . It tells the story of former war photographer , Tatsumi Saiga and his quest to save Kagura Tenn?zu from Ch?ji Suitengu and the members of a fetish club , the Roppongi Club . In 2006 , the series was licensed for release in North America by Funimation Entertainment and aired on the Independent Film Channel between March 7 and August 15 , 2008 .

The series was adapted into a manga by Tomozo . Originally serialized by MediaWorks in Monthly Dengeki Comic GAO ! , it was released to three tank?bon between September 2005 and September 2006 . The manga series was then licensed to Chuang Yi , who released the three volumes in English and Chinese in Singapore , and later to Tokyopop , who released the first two volumes in North America in September and December 2008 . A light novel was also created and was written by Minoru Niki . It was published by Hayakawa Publishing and released on July 21 , 2005 .

= = Plot = =

Speed Grapher follows the exploits of former war photographer Tatsumi Saiga , who investigates a secret fetish club for the ultra @-@ wealthy called the Roppongi Club . He tries to photograph the club 's " goddess , " a 15 @-@ year @-@ old , exploited girl named Kagura , but is discovered . As he is about to be killed , Kagura kisses him , granting him the ability to destroy anything he photographs . Saiga soon discovers that Kagura 's body fluids , like her saliva , in combination with a certain " virus " , can give people bizarre abilities relating to their secret desires , fetishes , and obsessions . Club members strive for the honor of becoming " gifted " via Kagura 's power . Saiga soon becomes entangled in this secret underground society and the powerful and corrupt Tenn?zu Group mega @-@ corporation that operates it . He attempts to free Kagura , a move that puts the two of them on the run from the Tenn?zu Group and blood @-@ thirsty members of the club with bizarre and often horrifying special powers .

Saiga and Suitengu engage in a game of cat and mouse ; Saiga and Kagura manage to evade capture several times before Suitengu himself attacks Saiga , severely injuring him , and takes Kagura captive . To take over Tenn?zu Group , Suitengu murders its president , Shinsen Tenn?zu , who also is Kagura 's mother . Kagura inherits the group , so Suitengu marries her and takes legal control of it . Saiga , having recovered from his wounds , interrupts the wedding and rescues Kagura . Together , they attempt to leave Japan but are enticed back by the prospect of defeating Suitengu once and for all . The plan , however , ends up being a trap set up by Prime Minister Kamiya , Seiji Ochiai and other Cabinet members as a way to control Suitengu and take control over the club . But , Suitengu knew of their betrayal and after trapping all the Cabinet members , the police superintendent and other members of government inside the club , he went to Kamiya 's mansion to exact his revenge against him . He then took away Kagura from Saiga by promising not to kill Saiga if Kagura comes with him willingly . Saiga and his policewoman friend Hibari Ginza make one final attack on Suitengu 's stronghold ? the main building of Tenn?zu Group . In addition , a group of politicians from around the world fire missiles at Tokyo to kill Suitengu . Saiga and Suitengu battle , but Saiga is unable to defeat Suitengu before going blind from overusing his power . Suitengu spares Saiga 's life , and , in a final act of defiance , destroys all the money he gathered before being killed by the missiles . The world collapses into a financial crisis , but Saiga and Kagura finally reunite , no longer under threat of attack .

= = Media = =

= = = Anime = = =

The episodes of Speed Grapher are directed by Kunihisa Sugishima , animated by Gonzo , and

produced by TV Asahi . They initially aired on TV Asahi between April 8 , 2005 and September 30 , 2005 in Japan . It was then released to twelve DVD compilations , each containing two episodes , between July 2005 and June 2006 by Sony Pictures Entertainment .

The North American adaptation was licensed to Funimation , who released it to DVD and on iTunes . The six DVD compilations , containing four episodes each , were released to Region 1 between July 2006 and March 2007 . Several " Limited Edition " DVDs were also released on the same dates as the regular DVDs . On March 11 , 2008 , a box set was released . Speed Grapher aired on the Independent Film Channel between March 7 and August 15 , 2008 . On September 28 , 2006 , Madman Entertainment revealed that it had received a license to distribute Speed Grapher to Australia and New Zealand . Madman released the first DVD volume with a collector 's box on October 11 , 2006 . A box release , with all six DVD compilations , was released on March 19 , 2008 . In the United Kingdom , Speed Grapher was licensed to MVM Films , who released six DVD compilations between April 16 , 2007 and February 4 , 2008 . Speed Grapher was also aired internationally by Animax . In Latin America , Animax aired the series in Brazil , Argentina , Venezuela , and Mexico . Future showings are also planned in Asia .

== Manga ==

Based directly on the anime , a manga series , also entitled Speed Grapher , was released in Japan by MediaWorks and was originally serialized in Monthly Dengeki Comic GAO ! . Illustrated by Tomozo , the series was collected into three tank?bon , which were released between September 2005 and September 2006 .

The series was licensed to Chuang Yi in Singapore , who released all three volumes of the manga in English on December 11 , 2007 , July 22 , 2008 , and November 2009 respectively . Chuang Yi also released the series in Chinese . The Speed Grapher manga received another English release by Tokyopop in North America , who released the first two volumes on September 16 , 2008 and December 2 , 2008 respectively . The third volume was set to be released on March 10 , 2009 , but was cancelled shortly beforehand . In Germany , the manga was licensed to Carlson Comics , who released all three volumes .

== Light novel ==

A light novel version of Speed Grapher , written by Minoru Niki , was also released . Hayakawa Publishing released it on July 21 , 2005 . The novel was also licensed to Tokyopop in North America and was set to be released on November 11 , 2008 , but was cancelled alongside volume three of the manga .

== Music ==

A drama CD was released in Japan on September 22 , 2005 by King Records . In addition , " Break the Cocoon , " the second ending theme by Yoriko , has been released as a single . The other pieces of theme music , " Girls on Film " by Duran Duran was placed on the Japanese edition . Funimation was unable to obtain legal rights to use Duran Duran 's theme so they re @-@ edited the opening with an in house recording of their own theme song . " Hill of Poppies " ( ?????? , Hinageshi no Oka ) by Shione Yukawa , and " Shutter Speed " by Shinkichi Mitsumune , which were never released in an album related to Speed Grapher .

== Reception ==

Speed Grapher received mixed reviews from critics . Zac Bertschy and Theron Martin of Anime News Network both found the animation to be sub @-@ par when compared to other Gonzo releases . In addition , Zac found the storyline to be " totally silly " and strange though it was possibly very entertaining because of its uniqueness . Theron found that later episodes felt " more natural "

and cited the characters to be part of this improvement , though the animation was " still second @-@ class ( at best ) . " Compared to the Japanese release , Theron Martin greatly preferred the English dubs , noting that " the English dialogue has more punch and better flow than the drier and sometimes awkwardly @-@ worded Japanese . " Tasha Robinson of Sci Fi Weekly found Speed Grapher to have a " rich feel that 's mirrored in the lovely visuals " and a complicated storyline . She also commented that " Its dry , serious central plotline is also clearly aimed at viewers who value sophisticated , drawn @-@ out serial stories over instant gratification . " D. F. Smith of IGN disliked the storyline , though for different reasons . He felt that the series was " trying way too hard to push the content envelope " and that the characters were not likable . However , in contrast to the Anime News Network reviewers , he found the art and animation to be a " first @-@ rate job . "