

= Azumanga Daioh =

Azumanga Daioh (Japanese : ????????, Hepburn : Azumanga Dai?, lit . " Great King Azumanga ") is a Japanese yonkoma comedy manga series written and illustrated by Kiyohiko Azuma , which was serialized in MediaWorks ' Dengeki Daioh magazine between 1999 and 2002 . Three additional chapters were published in Shogakukan 's Monthly Shounen Sunday in May 2009 to celebrate the manga 's tenth anniversary . The manga was first released in English by ADV Manga , and was later re @-@ issued by Yen Press .

A television anime adaptation titled Azumanga Daioh : the Animation was produced by J.C.Staff and aired in Japan between April and September 2002 , consisting of 130 five @-@ minute segments compiled into 26 episodes . The compiled episodes were released on DVD and Universal Media Discs (UMDs) by Starchild Records , and an English @-@ language version was produced by ADV Films . Prior to the series , a theatrical short and an original net animation were also produced . Several soundtrack albums were released , as well as three Azumanga Daioh video games .

Both the manga and anime have been praised for their humor driven by eccentric characters , with Azuma acclaimed as a " master of the four @-@ panel form " for both his art style and comic timing .

= = Title = =

The series title has no particular significance to the story . " Azumanga " is a portmanteau of the author 's name " Azuma " and " manga " , while " Daioh " comes from the magazine in which it was originally published , Dengeki Daioh . In the anime , " daioh " is mentioned during the next episode previews , used in context with the meaning " great king " .

" Azumanga " is also used as a general term for Kiyohiko Azuma 's other comics and illustrations . Two previous collections of Azuma 's works , including official tie @-@ in comics of Pioneer animations , were published as Azumanga and Azumanga 2 in 1998 and 2001 , respectively . Azumanga was later republished in a reduced @-@ size edition called Azumanga Recycle .

= = Plot = =

Azumanga Daioh chronicles the everyday life in an unnamed Japanese high school of six girls and two of their teachers : child prodigy Chiyo Mihama and her struggle to fit in with girls five years older ; reserved Sakaki and her obsession with the cute animals who seem to hate her ; spacey Ayumu " Osaka " Kasuga with a skewed perspective on the world ; Koyomi " Yomi " Mizuhara 's aggravation at an annoying best friend ; Tomo Takino , whose energy is rivaled only by her lack of sense ; sporty Kagura and her one @-@ sided athletics rivalry with Sakaki ; their homeroom teacher Yukari Tanizaki ; and her friend , physical education teacher Minamo " Nyamo " Kurosawa .

Secondary characters include Kimura @-@ sensei , a creepy male teacher with an obsession with teenage girls , and Kaorin , a female classmate with a crush on Sakaki .

The story covers three years of tests , talking between classes , culture festivals , and athletic events at school , as well as time spent traveling to and from school , studying at Chiyo 's house , and vacations at Chiyo 's summer beach home and the fictional theme park Magical Land , concluding with the graduation of the main cast . It is generally realistic in tone , marked by occasional bursts of surrealism and absurdity , such as Osaka imagining Chiyo 's ponytails being " unscrewed " from her head and an episode featuring the characters ' New Year 's dreams .

= = Media = =

= = = Manga = = =

Azumanga Daioh was written and illustrated by Kiyohiko Azuma , largely in yonkoma (four @-@ panel) format . The unnumbered chapters were serialized by MediaWorks ' in the monthly magazine Dengeki Daioh from February 1999 to May 2002 . The series was collected in four tank?bon volumes . Each of the four volumes covers about a year in the characters ' lives . A new edition in three volumes was released in Japan by Shogakukan to commemorate the manga 's 10th anniversary , with volume one , covering the first year of high school , being published June 11 , 2009 . The reprint edition contains three additional 16 @-@ page chapters serialized in Monthly Sh?nen Sunday starting in May 2009 under the title Azumanga Daioh : Supplementary Lessons (??????? . ??? , Azumanga Dai? Hosh?hen) .

The series was licensed in English in North America and the United Kingdom by ADV Manga , which released all four volumes between 2003 and 2004 . ADV later reprinted the series in an omnibus edition (ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 4139 @-@ 0364 @-@ 5) on November 7 , 2007 . In 2009 , Yen Press acquired the North American and UK license of Azumanga Daioh , and released a new translation in December 2009 in an omnibus volume . In Europe , Azumanga Daioh is licensed in French by Kurokawa , in German by Tokyopop , in Spanish by Norma Editorial , and in Finnish by Punainen j?ttil?inen . In Asia , the series has been licensed in Korean by Daiwon C.I. , in Thai by Negibose Comics , in Vietnam by TVM Comics , and in Chinese by Tong Li Publishing . It was the first yonkoma manga translated in France .

= = = Anime = = =

The anime television series , Azumanga Daioh : the Animation , was produced by J.C.Staff and aired from the week of April 8 , 2002 until the week of September 30 , 2002 . It was broadcast on TV Tokyo , TV Aichi , TV Osaka , and AT @-@ X in five @-@ minute segments every weekday , then repeated as a 25 @-@ minute compilation that weekend , for a total of 130 five @-@ minute segments collected in 26 episodes . For the compilation episodes , the respective opening and ending themes were " Soramimi Cake " (????? , Soramimi K?ki , Cake of Mishearing) and " Raspberry Heaven " , both performed by Oranges & Lemons . The compilation episodes , which were the only versions to include the title and credits sequences , were released on 6 DVDs in 2003 and 9 Universal Media Discs between 2005 and 2006 by Starchild Records , and a DVD box set of all episodes was released on June 24 , 2009 ; the five @-@ minute segments can be distinguished by their individual titles .

Besides the anime television series , there have been two other animated adaptations : The Very Short Azumanga Daioh Movie , a six @-@ minute trailer released to movie theaters to publicize the upcoming television series , and Azumanga Web Daioh , a shorter original net animation made available for paid streaming on chara @-@ ani.com beginning from December 28 , 2000 , then offered as a paid download for a limited time . Azumanga Web Daioh was originally intended to gauge whether there was enough interest to create a web @-@ released anime adaptation ; because of overwhelming demand , the original plan for web @-@ release was changed to a television release . It featured different voice actors and music from the regular series .

In the United States , the anime television series was released in six DVDs on September 9 , 2005 , and then later in a five DVD volume " Thinpak " set , both by ADV Films . The sixth DVD volume included The Very Short Azumanga Daioh Movie . In 2009 , Nokia offered the first five episodes of Azumanga Daioh on its Ovi phone service . Madman Entertainment licensed the series for release in Australia and New Zealand . As of September 1 , 2009 , all of ADV 's former catalog are transferred to AESir Holdings , with distribution from Section23 Films . The series was later re @-@ licensed in 2016 by Sentai Filmworks .

= = = Soundtracks = = =

Several soundtrack albums for the anime of Azumanga Daioh were released by Lantis , including two volumes of the Azumanga Daioh Original Soundtrack , collecting the show 's score and themes ; two tribute albums ; and Vocal Collection , collecting character image songs . One single was

released for the opening and closing theme of the anime , and eight singles of image songs were released for the main cast members . Most of the releases charted on the Japanese Oricon charts , with the highest ranking album being Tribute to Azumanga Daioh at number 68 , and the highest ranking single being Soramimi no Cake / Raspberry Heaven , the opening and closing themes , at 36th .

The opening and closing theme single Soramimi no Cake / Raspberry Heaven was released on April 22 , 2002 , and peak ranked 36th on the Oricon singles chart . The two volumes of the soundtrack were released on June 26 , 2006 and October 23 , 2002 , and peak ranked 72nd and 99th on the Oricon albums chart , respectively . The soundtrack albums were re @-@ released as a two @-@ disc set on June 24 , 2009 in conjunction with the 10th anniversary release of the DVD box set . Azumanga Daioh Original Soundtrack Volume 1 was released in the United States by Geneon .

Azumanga Daioh : Vocal Collection collects the character image songs performed by the voice actors in the personas of the characters they played , and the opening and the closing theme songs . It was released on December 25 , 2002 in Japan , Eight image song singles were released as Azumanga Daioh Characters Songs Volumes 1 through 8 , which focused in order on Chiyo , Sakaki , Osaka , Tomo , Kagura , Yomi , Sensei , and Kaorin . Volumes 1 and 2 were released May 22 , 2002 , Volume 3 on June 26 , 2002 , Volumes 4 and 5 on July 27 , 2002 , Volume 6 and 7 on September 4 , 2002 , and Volume 8 on September 25 , 2002 . Azumanga Daioh Characters Songs Volumes 3 through 8 peak ranked 63rd , 80th , 79th , 70th , 75th , and 49th on the Oricon singles chart , respectively . Azumanga Daioh : Vocal Collection was released in the United States by Geneon on July 5 , 2005 .

Two tribute albums , Tribute to Azumanga Daioh and Tribute to Live Azumanga Daioh , were released on October 2 , 2002 and December 10 , 2003 . Tribute to Azumanga Daioh peak ranked 68th on the Oricon albums chart . Tribute to Live Azumanga Daioh is the live album of the concert held on October 4 , 2003 at the public hall of Toshima , Tokyo .

= = = Other media = = =

Two art books for the anime were published under the titles Azumanga Daioh the Animation Visual Book 1 (??????? THE ANIMATION ???????? (1)) (ISBN 4 @-@ 8402 @-@ 2203 @-@ 7) and Azumanga Daioh the Animation Visual Book 2 (??????? THE ANIMATION ???????? (2)) (ISBN 4 @-@ 8402 @-@ 2290 @-@ 8) were published by MediaWorks on August 26 , 2002 and December 10 , 2002 , respectively .

Three Azumanga Daioh video games were released . Azumanga Donjara Daioh , a puzzle game similar to mahjong , was released by Bandai for the PlayStation on April 18 , 2002 . Azumanga Daioh Puzzle Bobble was released by Taito Corporation as an arcade @-@ only Puzzle Bobble spin @-@ off in December , 2002 . Azumanga Daioh Advance , a card @-@ playing game , was released by King Records for the Game Boy Advance on April 25 , 2003 .

= = Reception = =

In Japan , the Azumanga Daioh manga was named a jury recommended work of the sixth Japan Media Arts Festival in 2002 . The manga was named as one of the top 25 manga at the 2006 Japan Media Arts Festival .

English reviewers have commented positively about Azumanga Daioh . In Manga : The Complete Guide , Jason Thompson refers to it as a " charming comedy " and a " quiet master of the four @-@ panel form " , praising the series comedic timing and use of running gags . He felt one of the series ' best points was its " character @-@ driven writing " , but does warn that its moe nature and the jokes that revolve around the " vaguely pedophilic teacher " might disturb some newer readers of manga . He later said that Azumanga Daioh was an " almost totally innocent " kind of moe , centered around " peep [ing] at the chaste world of girls " , in which " adorable girls do adorable things " . The French manga dictionary Dicomanga noted that despite being a moe series targeted

at otaku , it also appealed to female readers for celebrating " friendships between girls as well as [its] comedy . " Marc Hairston describes Azumanga Daioh as being " slightly disjointed " , with " frequently oblique " and " culturally biased " humour , and says it is both " lighter " and " more wry " than Maria @-@ sama ga Miteru . He describes the characters of Azumanga as being " individuals with slightly offbeat personalities " . Mark Thomas , writing for Mania.com , says that each character has " a defining personality trait that is ramped up to abnormal levels " and that each has a foil , which highlights these traits and prevents them from becoming too annoying or unbelievable as characters . Thomas said that the yonkoma format does not lend itself to " complex story arcs " , and the story is presented as " quick snapshots of random moments in their daily routines " , noting that the narrative is character @-@ driven . Patrick King , writing for Anime Fringe , considered it to be " one of the funniest , most adorable manga series I 've read " . IGN noted the lack of background art , but said that the expressive faces of the characters made up for it .

Fred Patton of Animation World Magazine described the anime as " delightfully witty and even an educational window onto what Japanese high school life is really like . " Chris Beveridge of Anime on DVD , stated that " There 's a lot to laugh with here and a cast of characters that grow quickly on you as you start finding those you favor and those you don 't . " Andrew Shelton from Anime Meta explains that " The character of the girls is extremely well brought out . The superb observation , and ability to capture expression , makes the anime incredibly fun to watch in addition to meeting the story requirements . The action , and very rich comedy , are also wonderfully represented . There is just so much meaning , and charm , in even the most minor of expressions . " The reviewers of THEM Anime and Anime News Network felt that fans who had already graduated high school would feel nostalgic at times while watching Azumanga Daioh .

The licensed manga had sales that reached top 100 lists on occasions and was included in the top 25 manga recommended by International Correspondence in Retailers Guide to Anime / Manga . The English dub for the show was well received , earning six ADR Awards from fans voting on AnimeonDVD.com and Dubreview.com. Four of the girls were included in Newtype 's top 100 anime heroines of 2002 : Osaka was awarded 7th , Chiyo 11th , Sakaki 21st , and Yomi 78th . Together they made Azumanga Daioh the second most popular series of 2002 for female characters .