

= Himegoto =

Himegoto ( ヒメゴト , lit . Secret ) , also known as Secret Princess , is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Norio Tsukudani . It was originally serialized in Ichijinsha 's Waai ! magazine , but was later featured in three additional magazines published by Ichijinsha : Waai ! Mahalo , Comic Rex and Febri . Collectively , Himegoto was serialized across the four magazines from November 2011 to June 2015 and was collected into six tankōbon volumes .

The story focuses on Hime Arikawa , a high school boy whose sizable debt is paid off by the girls of his school 's student council . In exchange , he agrees to join the student council and spend the rest of his high school life dressed as a girl . A 13 episode anime adaptation , directed by Yūji Yanase and produced by Asahi Production , aired in Japan between July and September 2014 . Critics pointed out a general focus on humiliation and shame , and panned it for its characters and reliance on a single joke throughout the series .

= = Plot = =

Himegoto follows Hime Arikawa , a second year student at Shimoshina High School ( ヒメゴト , Shimoshina Kōkō ) . Forced to assume a large amount of debt from his now absent parents , Hime is saved by the three girls of his school 's student council after he is chased down by debt collectors . In return for paying off his debt , Hime agrees to their conditions of becoming the student council 's " dog " and spending his high school life dressed as a girl .

= = Characters = =

Hime Arikawa ( ヒメアリカワ , Arikawa Hime )

Voiced by : Yūki Kuwahara

The protagonist of the series , Hime is an extremely feminine looking second year student who gets troubled by debt collectors because his parents have racked up a large amount of debt in his name for constantly traveling overseas . When the student council pays off his creditors , he is obligated to join them as a servant , and must also cross dress for the rest of his time in high school . [ vol . 1 ] While at first he only cross dresses because he has no other choice , he starts to slowly shows signs of enjoying it , much to the delight of his brother and the student council .

Aruku 18 kin ( アルク18 , Aruku Jūhachi kin , " Walking 18 + " ) / Tōya Shimoshina ( トウヤ , Shimoshina Tōya ) [ vol . 5 ]

Voiced by : Yuka Matsumoto

18 kin is the student body vice president . [ vol . 1 ] She often forces Hime into unreasonable situations . Her father is the board chairman of the school . [ vol . 1 ] Despite how much she enjoys making fun of Hime , she never allows actual harm to come to him . She has feelings for Hime and likes kissing . [ vol . 5 ]

Unko ( アンコ ) / Sadako Ijūin ( サダコ伊住 , Ijūin Sadako ) [ vol . 5 ]

Voiced by : Saki Ono

Unko is the student council president at Shimoshina . [ vol . 1 ] She is an intelligent and athletic girl . [ vol . 1 ] Although her name is actually Sadako , this reminds her of the horror character Sadako , so she prefers to use Unko because she is afraid of ghosts . [ vol . 2 ]

Albertina II ( アルベティナ2 , Aruberutina Ni sei ) / China Abe ( チナアベ , Abe China ) [ vol . 5 ]

Voiced by : Hisako Tōjō

Albertina II , who also goes by " Bell " ( ベル , Beru ) , is the student council secretary . [ vol . 1 ] She is a popular manga artist , and uses Hime as the basis for the title character in her manga Magical Boy Hime Kiss ( マジカルボーイヒメキス , Mahō Shōnen Hime Kissu ) . [ vol . 2 ] She is sensitive about her small chest and gets upset whenever the issue of size comes up . [ vol . 1 ]

Kaguya Arikawa ( カグヤアリカワ , Arikawa Kaguya )

Voiced by : Chinatsu Akasaki

Kaguya is Hime 's younger brother who cross @-@ dresses by choice because he enjoys the attention he receives from it . He dislikes that 18 @-@ kin and the student council pays so much attention to Hime . [ vol . 1 ] He is the lead character in the spin @-@ off series Himegoto + . Kaguya joins the public morals committee at his school . He has a number of admirers at school he refers to as his " servants " . [ vol . 1 ]

No. 1 ( 1? , Ichi @-@ g? ) / Ichigo Ichig? ( ?? ??? , Ichig? Ichigo ) [ vol . 5 ]

Voiced by : Minami Tsuda

No. 1 is Kaguya 's classmate ; her moniker refers to her status as Kaguya 's foremost and closest admirer . [ vol . 1 ] While she normally dresses as a boy ( for Kaguya 's sake ) , when she dresses as a girl , she has a large bust size and is regarded as incredibly pretty . [ vol . 5 ] She has known Kaguya for five years and is very close with him . [ vol . 6 ] She joined the public morals committee with Kaguya . [ vol . 1 ]

Mitsunaga Oda ( ?? ?? , Oda Mitsunaga )

Voiced by : Ayane Sakura

Nicknamed " Mittan " ( ???? ) , Mitsunaga is a third @-@ year student at Shimoshina High School and is the chairman of the public morals committee . As the head of the Oda family , he is forced to cross @-@ dress until he reaches adulthood due to a family rule . [ vol . 5 ] Similar to Kaguya , Mitsunaga dislikes 18 @-@ kin due to her lax morals and disregard for his authority . [ vol . 1 ]

Hiro Toyotomi ( ?? ?? , Toyotomi Hiro ) [ vol . 5 ]

Voiced by : Azusa Tadokoro

Hiro is Mitsunaga 's classmate and assistant in the public morals committee . [ vol . 1 ] His family has served the Mitsunaga family for generations as their servants . [ vol . 1 ] Due to feeling sorry for Mitsunaga being forced to cross @-@ dress , Hiro willingly dresses as a girl and normally dresses in a maid outfit . [ vol . 5 ] He has a homosexual relationship with Mitsunaga . [ vol . 4 ]

Y?ma Tadokoro ( ?? ?? , Tadokoro Y?ma ) [ vol . 5 ]

Voiced by : Takuya Eguchi

Tadokoro is Hime 's classmate and they have been friends since junior high school . He is somewhat of a playboy , but never gets far . [ vol . 1 ]

= = Development = =

Norio Tsukudani based Himegoto on an earlier four @-@ panel manga she drew for fun during her time as a student . At that time , the main characters that make up the student council were instead members of the drama club . However , Tsukudani decided to change this when developing Himegoto to be serialized in Ichijinsha 's Waai ! magazine , and she decided it would be easier to manage a cross @-@ dressing character if he was in the student council . Before creating Himegoto , Tsukudani read various works of fiction that featured cross @-@ dressing boys , but many of them featured the boys being paired with other boys . When she proposed the idea of Himegoto , she wanted to pair a cross @-@ dressing boy with girls , which Tsukudani herself wanted to read . In this way , she thought that a variety of different people would enjoy it .

When drawing the manga , Tsukudani aimed to write scenes that were easy to read , something she felt she was unable to do well when the manga 's serialization began . What she felt was most important was depicting the characters as cute as possible . When developing the characters , she based the female members of the student council and Tadokoro on friends she had in the drama club when she was a student . However , Hime was created from scratch using Tsukudani 's ideals for a cross @-@ dressing boy as a basis for the character including his pink hair , side pigtails , and him being forced to cross @-@ dress . When developing the members of the public morals committee , Tsukudani had already decided on having a pair of cross @-@ dressing brothers , which lead to Kaguya 's development . Tsukudani 's editor suggested making Kaguya the protagonist of the spin @-@ off manga Himegoto + , and she wanted to give Kaguya a partner , so she created No. 1 and thought she might as well make her into a cross @-@ dressing girl . For Mitsunaga and Hiro , she wanted them to cross @-@ dress due to some preconceived issue . Tsukudani was careful to design the characters to maintain a balance between them , including

what hair color they would have .

Although Tsukudani kept a notebook with story ideas , she admitted that on many occasions the theme of a chapter was born out of her own daydreams . Once she decided on a theme , she had the characters move around in her head and then worked out the plot and storyboard . Since she had a solid grasp on who the characters were , she noted that they moved around for her on their own . Conversely , if the characters were stiff with a given theme , Tsukudani could not develop an interesting story and moved on to another idea . The theme developed for the manga serialized in Febri had to do with bonus aspects to the story that she was unable to draw in the main serialization , as well as events that occurred between chapters in the main story .

= = Media = =

= = = Manga = = =

Himegoto is written and illustrated by Norio Tsukudani . It began serialization in volume seven of Ichijinsha 's Waai ! magazine on November 25 , 2011 as a four @-@ panel comic strip manga , and continued until February 25 , 2014 when Waai ! suspended publication . A spin @-@ off series titled Himegoto + was serialized in Waai ! ' s sister magazine Waai ! Mahalo between April 25 , 2012 and December 25 , 2013 . Another version of Himegoto was serialized between the December 2013 issue of Ichijinsha 's Comic Rex magazine sold on October 27 , 2013 and the August 2015 issue sold on June 27 , 2015 . Tsukudani serialized another version of Himegoto in Ichijinsha 's Febri magazine between volume 23 sold on June 20 , 2014 and volume 29 sold on June 17 , 2015 . Ichijinsha published six tank?bon volumes between February 19 , 2013 and July 27 , 2015 . A special edition of volume four was bundled with a drama CD . Ichijinsha published an anthology titled Himegoto Comic Anthology ( ????????????? ) on September 3 , 2014 .

= = = Anime = = =

A 13 @-@ episode anime television series adaptation , directed by Y?ji Yanase and produced by Asahi Production , aired in Japan between July 7 and September 29 , 2014 on BS11 . Each episode is about five minutes long . The screenplay is written by Kazuho Hyod? , and Masaaki Sakurai based the character design used in the anime on Norio Tsukudani 's original designs . The opening theme is " Troublemaker " ( ????????? , Toraburum?k? ) and the ending theme is " Makeup ! " ( ??????? ! , M?kyappu ! ) ; both are sung by I My Me Mine , a group composed of Y?ki Kuwahara , Yuka Matenr? , Saki Ono and Hisako T?j? . The single containing the theme songs was released on March 5 , 2014 . The series was released on Blu @-@ ray in Japan on November 26 , 2014 .

An Internet radio show hosted by the members of I My Me Mine to promote the anime called Shimoshina Seitokai no Himegoto Radio ( ????????????? , Shimoshina Student Council 's Himegoto Radio ) broadcast 24 episodes between April 16 and September 24 , 2014 . The show was streamed online every Wednesday and was produced by the Japanese Internet radio station Onsen . Six CD compilation volumes were released between July 1 and October 18 , 2014 .

= = = Episode list = = =

= = Reception = =

Reviewer Chris Beveridge described the anime 's short episode format as offering " more direct comedy , quicker hits and more playfulness and abuse when it comes to the gender issues . " He initially called the premise " familiar yet fun " with " enough off kilter material " to amuse the audience . By the end of the series , Beveridge noted that its approach focused on humiliation and shame , and went on to say that it " works one gag and does its best to run it into the ground as much as

possible . " Tim Jones at THEM Anime Reviews heavily panned the series , calling the treatment of the student council girls towards Hime as " sinister and tasteless " . Jones pointed out his frustration with every episode , going on to heavily pan the characters and use of a " terrible one @-@ joke premise " .