

= School Days ( visual novel ) =

School Days ( ??????? , Suk?ru Deizu ) is a Japanese visual novel developed by Overflow , released on April 28 , 2005 for Windows as an adult game . It was later ported as a DVD game and for the PlayStation 2 ( PS2 ) and PlayStation Portable ( PSP ) . The story , a dramatic slice @-@ of @-@ life , follows Makoto Ito , a high school student who becomes the ambivalent love @-@ interest of several girls during his second term , and the effects this has on himself and his relationships with other characters . Though the game requires little interaction from users , School Days engages the player through a plot that they are given opportunities to change the course of during play . The game concludes with an ending specific to the outcome of the story , some of which became notorious for their graphic violence .

Overflow announced work on School Days in October 2004 and marketed it through public venues that showcased the game 's innovative use of anime @-@ like cinematics and voice . The game ranked as the best @-@ selling visual novel in Japan for the time of its release , continuing to chart in the national top 50 for nearly five months afterward . Overflow would then go on to produce multiple sequels including a spin @-@ off of the original story called Summer Days , and a parallel story called Cross Days . Another spin @-@ off , Island Days , has been developed by Klon for the Nintendo 3DS . School Days was remastered as School Days HQ on October 8 , 2010 and localized in North America on June 27 , 2012 . The original game was officially discontinued April 21 , 2011 .

Following the game 's release , School Days made several transitions into other media . The original story was adapted into a manga and serialized in the Kadokawa Shoten magazine Comp Ace ; it was later published into two volumes . Comic anthologies , light novels and art books were also published , as were audio dramas and several albums of music . An animated television series , two direct @-@ to @-@ video ( OVA ) single releases , and a concert film were also produced , the first of which became a precursor for an internet meme when its finale was pulled from broadcast .

= = Gameplay = =

As a visual novel , School Days contains extremely minimal gameplay . The game 's core onscreen presentation is composed of scenes that are viewed from a mostly third @-@ person perspective . At predetermined intervals , the game pauses , and players are presented with one to two responses or actions relevant to the scene in progress to make , or not make , on behalf of characters . Each selection branches the game 's progress up to that point in an alternate direction , while also causing the player 's love toward a character to blossom , plateau , or diminish , thus providing for a nonlinear storytelling experience . Being an erotic title , relationships between characters may become sexual ; scenes of this kind depict a varying combination of French kissing , masturbation , oral sex and intercourse . Genitalia are pixelated in the original Japanese releases , but the Western release of School Days HQ is uncensored . Sex scenes are omitted from the PlayStation 2 and PlayStation Portable ports of the game .

Each route the game takes invariably concludes with an ending specific to the choices made up to that point . Depending on these choices , the outcome of the story will either be good or bad . School Days became popularly known for its bad endings , which depict the deaths of characters . In one ending titled " The Bloody Conclusion " , a character 's neck is slit open with a d?zuki , causing her to collapse and die in a fountain of blood to the manic laughter of her assailant . In another called " Eternally " , a character commits suicide leaning over and falling off the roof of a school , landing headfirst on a sidewalk to the horror of other characters . The game 's good endings , by contrast , depict the well @-@ being of characters and their relationships . In the ending " Christmas Eve " , a couple share an embrace in a hotel room as snow falls around a surrounding cityscape . In another titled " Two Lovers " , a pair of characters agree to have a polyamorous relationship with the male lead instead of rivaling with each other . Because of the numerous alternate endings that can be achieved , players who wish to watch additional endings and sex scenes will have to play through the game more than once .

Unlike traditional visual novels that consist of static characters with subtitled dialogue , School Days

is unusual in that it incorporates motion and voice , making it reminiscent of an animated series . Cinematics naturally play on their own , and players are afforded the ability to pause , fast @-@ forward , and even skip those they 've seen before . Male and female voices can be muted , subtitles can be turned on or off and the game can be played from a window or fullscreen ratio . Progress can be saved at any time in up to 100 slots and loaded from either the main menu or during play .

= = Plot = =

School Days focuses on the life of Makoto Ito , a first @-@ year high school student living with his divorced and unseen mother in the fictional city of Haramihama . During his second term , he becomes infatuated with Kotonoha Katsura , a soft @-@ spoken schoolmate who shares train rides with him to and from campus . When his homeroom seating plan is rearranged , he becomes acquaintances with Sekai Saionji , an upbeat girl who takes a special interest in his newfound crush , befriending the two and providing them the grounds to meet . In spite of her triumphant efforts however , Sekai becomes jealous of the new couple , having developed feelings for Makoto herself .

= = Development = =

School Days was Overflow 's tenth game to develop . News of School Days first surfaced on October 5 , 2004 when Overflow posted a link to the game 's then @-@ live website and development log on their official site . In the blog , Overflow revealed that School Days had been in pre @-@ production for roughly two years and would be a fully animated game . Updates on the development of the game were scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays , and the company encouraged fans to attend Dream Party 2004 , an upcoming anime convention at Tokyo Big Sight in Ariake , on October 11 , where it would make its first public showcase of the game and characters . A follow @-@ up of the venue was made on October 15 . Toward the end of the month on October 26 , Overflow posted that new information about School Days would be circulated in the November issue of Tech Gian , an adult magazine published by Enterbrain .

Promotion for the game began shortly after . In a November 6 development post , Overflow announced that it was planning a public screening of new game material , but was experiencing difficulty acquiring space for it . The company had initially chosen to have the venue in Akihabara but was unable to find a retailer willing to host it , prompting a visit to Osaka the following week . News that the game would contain music by artists such as Minami Kuribayashi , Haruko Momoi , Yozuca \* and YURIA was posted on November 30 , along with a release date change to February 25 , 2005 .

On December 28 , 2004 , Overflow released a public trial of School Days and announced that the company would be attending Comiket 67 at Tokyo Big Sight from December 29 to 30 , handing out phonecards to the first 50 visitors to their booth . Two months later , on February 2 , 2005 , the company announced that the game had been postponed again to April 28 . From April 5 to April 8 , Overflow concluded their development log with comments from Soyogi T?no , Kaname Yuzuki , Tatsuya Hirai , Yuki Matsunaga , Hikaru Isshiki and Hana Yamamoto , the respective voices of Kotonoha , Sekai , Makoto , Otome , Hikari and Setsuna . To address bugs that were later found in the game , Overflow released a patch to bring School Days to a stable build of 1 @.@ 11 . On June 26 , 2007 , Overflow and Lantis @-@ net radio began to air an internet radio drama called " Radio School Days " . Broadcasts finished up March 28 , 2008 with 39 episodes aired .

On April 21 , 2011 , Overflow announced via their blog that support for School Days was being discontinued .

= = = Release history = = =

School Days was ported to three other platforms . The first of these was by AiCherry , an interactive

movie developer , who announced on August 20 , 2007 that it had picked up the game for development , releasing it as a four disc DVD game on September 28 . That same year , on August 31 , Interchannel posted a link on their blog to the official website of School Days L x H , a PlayStation 2 ( PS2 ) port in development by Guyzware , that would be edited of explicit sexual content . The game was released on January 17 , 2008 and assessed by the Computer Entertainment Rating Organization ( CERO ) , Japan 's primary video game content rating system , receiving a 15 @-@ years @-@ or @-@ older " C " rating for sexual themes and profanity . The third and final port was developed by PalaceGame for the PlayStation Portable ( PSP ) . After postponing the game on May 11 , it was released as four UMDs on June 30 , 2010 .

Overflow opened what would become the homepage for School Days HQ on May 21 , 2010 , a remastering of the original game initially scheduled for release in August . The site was finished June 3 , and on July 16 , the game was postponed to September 24 . A trial was publicly released for download on August 7 , and from August 20 to September 28 , Overflow promoted the game . Customers who had purchased the original School Days would be given the opportunity to upgrade to HQ for a fee until October 11 , by either mailing in their game disc or visiting stores in Akihabara , Osaka or Nagoya . Distributors offered collectable phonecards for reservations , and after a second date change on September 10 , the game was released October 8 .

On March 3 , 2011 , Overflow acknowledged Sekai Project , an unofficial fan translation group , who had reportedly begun localizing School Days in April 2006 . Partnering with American distributor JAST USA , School Days HQ , uncensored in English , was announced for a North American release on March 11 , 2011 . Development instead continued into 2012 , and on May 18 , JAST announced that the company had begun taking pre @-@ orders for the Collector 's Edition , a bundled release of the game packaged with a keychain and mousepad . The company announced weeks later on June 1 that School Days HQ had gone gold . Following news on June 26 that the company would exhibit the game at Anime Expo 2012 , JAST made an update to the June 1 announcement that School Days HQ had begun shipping . The downloadable version of the game was later released on August 6 .

= = Sales = =

In a national sales ranking of bish?jo games in PCNEWS , a now @-@ defunct Japanese online magazine , School Days premiered as the number one game sold for the second half of April 2005 , the second and seventeenth for the first and second halves of May , the fifth and twenty @-@ sixth for the first and second halves of June , and twenty @-@ seventh for the first half of July . The School Days renewal edition , released a week after the previous ranking , continued to chart on behalf of the game ; it ranked as the thirty @-@ third most sold game for the second half of July , before ending as the thirty @-@ fifth and forty @-@ ninth for the first and second halves of August .

Getchu.com , a major distributor of visual novels and domestic anime products , recorded similar sales . School Days for Windows premiered as the number one game sold for the month of its release , and seventh most for May , ranking as the number one game sold for the first half of 2005 and ninth for the year . The following year , the School Days renewal edition charted as the twentieth most sold game for July 2007 , dropping to thirtieth from August to October . School Days HQ ranked as the sixth most sold game for October 2010 but failed to chart thereafter .

According to Gamasutra , a video gaming news site , School Days L x H ranked as the number one PlayStation 2 game sold for January 2008 .

= = Media = =

= = = Related visual novels = = =

Overflow developed several visual novels related to School Days , sharing the same universe . Prior to the development of School Days , Overflow developed the Radish Vacation visual novel series .

The first is Snow Radish Vacation released on December 28 , 2001 , followed by Summer Radish Vacation on April 1 , 2003 and finally Summer Radish Vacation 2 on August 13 , 2004 .

A spin @-@ off titled Summer Days , was released on June 23 , 2006 , retelling the original game during summer vacation and from the perspective of Setsuna Kiyoura . Unlike its predecessor , however , Summer Days was almost universally panned for its heavily bugged state , loads of patches , and recall . Another spin @-@ off titled Cross Days was released on March 19 , 2010 . Set in the same continuity as School Days , Cross Days follows the life of another protagonist , Yuuki Ashikaga , a high school freshman who also finds himself caught between the affection of two girls , Roka Kitsuregawa and Kotonoha Katsura , during his second term at Sakakino Academy . The game also features yaoi scenarios , during which Yuuki cross @-@ dresses as a maid . Overflow released Shiny Days on February 2 , 2012 which establishes a solid link between the Days series and Radish Vacation series . A third spin @-@ off , Island Days , was developed for the Nintendo 3DS and was released in Japan on July 3 , 2014 . The game , developed by Klon , focuses on Makoto and the girls becoming trapped on a remote island and includes tower defense elements .

= = = Manga = = =

Based on the story of the original game , School Days was reimagined as a manga , illustrated by Homare Sakazuki and serialized in the Kadokawa Shoten magazine Comp Ace from May 26 , 2006 to September 26 , 2007 . On July 12 , 2007 , Overflow announced that the manga had been collected into its first volume , comprising five chapters set to be released on July 26 . Later that year , the second and final volume , comprising the remaining seven chapters , was released on November 26 .

Various artists also produced short manga of School Days that were compiled into two comic anthologies . The " School Days Comic Anthology " was released by Ohzora Publishing on October 25 , 2005 under their P @-@ mate Comics imprint , containing nine short manga by individual artists . On February 25 , 2008 , Ichijinsha printed the " School Days Kotonoha Anthology " under their DNA Media Comics imprint , a collection of manga primarily featuring the character Kotonoha Katsura .

= = = Books and publications = = =

In addition to the manga , School Days was adapted into other print media . The first of these was the " School Days Visual Guide Book " published by Jive on September 16 , 2005 , an artbook of character illustrations , model sheets , screenplay , storyboards and a visual hierarchy of the choices and corresponding scenes in the game . Separate editions for the anime television series and Playstation 2 game were also published , on December 1 , 2007 and March 21 , 2008 , respectively . Collections of production work from the Windows game such as character and environment art , screenplay , artist commentaries and all manufactured promotional items were collected in the " School Days Official Visual Art Works " ( School Days ??????? ? ??????? , School Days Koushiki Bijuaru Atowa Kusu ) on December 16 , 2005 and also featured in the " SummerDays [ sic ] & School Days Visual Collection " on August 31 , 2006 .

The first of four light novels , all illustrated by Junji Goto , was written by Ryuna Okada and printed by Harvest Publishing under their Harvest Novels imprint . Released on December 1 , 2005 , " School Days : Sekai Hen " ( School Days ??? ) retells the original story from the perspective of Sekai . Okada would follow up the book with " School Days : Kotonoha Hen " ( School Days ??? ) on January 1 , 2006 , switching to the perspective of Kotonoha . Two light novels were also published by Jive , the first of which was written by Takuya Baba , " School Days : Kimi to Iru , Sora " ( School Days ????? ? ? ) and printed on December 16 , 2005 , and a second by Hiro Akiduki , " School Days : Innocent Blue " , released on April 28 .

= = = Anime = = =

School Days was adapted into a twelve @-@ episode anime television series by TNK . Concrete news of this first appeared on June 1 , 2007 , when Overflow announced via its blog that the show 's official website had gone live . Stations participating in the broadcast included TV Kanagawa , Chiba TV , TV Aichi , TV Osaka , TV Saitama and AT @-@ X , the premiere of which would air on TV Kanagawa on July 3 . The anime was aired until September 27 and finished its broadcast on AT @-@ X. From September 26 , 2007 to February 27 , 2008 , the series was compiled into six limited and regular edition DVDs .

TNK also produced two direct @-@ to @-@ video ( OVA ) episodes of School Days . The first , titled " Valentine Days " , was bundled with limited edition copies of School Days L x H , and features an unrelated comedic romp through Valentine 's Day as Kotonoha , Sekai , and Otome try to give Makoto giri choccos . The second , " Magical Heart Kokoro @-@ chan " , jaunts the series into magical girl territory , portraying Kokoro Katsura as the superheroine Magical Heart ; it was released on March 26 , 2008 .

Discotek Media has acquired the television series and the " Magical Heart Kokoro @-@ chan " OVA to be released on DVD on June 24 , 2014 with English subtitles .

== = Delay of finale == = =

On September 17 , 2007 , the day before the twelfth and final episode of the televised anime was to air on TV Kanagawa , a sixteen @-@ year @-@ old girl murdered her forty @-@ five @-@ year @-@ old father in their Kyoto home with an axe . TV Kanagawa promptly cancelled the Tuesday airing of the finale for its similarly violent content , replacing it instead with a thirty @-@ minute video slideshow of scenery footage played to August Wilhelmj 's " Air on the G String " . Newspapers such as The Japan Times and Mainichi Shimbun reported on the killing and episode preempt on September 19 . According to Mainichi Shimbun , Chiba TV and TV Aichi had also cancelled their airings , with AT @-@ X the only station remaining indecisive . Overflow issued an apology through their blog the same day , asking viewers to stay tuned for updates . In the following week , Overflow announced that it had arranged for two screenings of the edited finale at the Akihabara 3D Theater on September 27 . Those wishing to attend would be required to register a seat by email , be at least 18 years old with photo ID , and bring a Windows copy of School Days or Summer Days . That same day AT @-@ X announced that it had decided to air the unedited finale on September 27 and October 1 .

In the wake of the broadcast change , a screen capture of the Norwegian M / S Skagastøl from the slideshow surfaced on the Internet alongside the caption " Nice boat . " , a phrase which gained popularity in Japan . Google Trends recorded a spike in " Nice Boat " searches around the third @-@ quarter of 2007 while Yomiuri Shinbun , a Japanese newspaper , reported that " Nice boat " was the tenth most popular Yahoo ! Japan search from September 17 to September 23 .

Nice Boat had become so well known that it was used in other media . The meme appeared as an Easter egg in the first episode of Ef : A Tale of Memories . , and was parodied on February 13 , 2009 when the Kadokawa Pictures YouTube channel uploaded a short montage of sailboats instead of the previously scheduled premiere of The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya . Overflow capitalized on the popularity of the phrase , naming their booth at Comiket 73 " Nice boat . " and selling meme inspired merchandise . TNK also paid homage to the meme in " Magical Heart Kokoro @-@ chan " , a special direct @-@ to @-@ video episode of the animated series .

== = Concert film == =

Besides the video releases of the School Days anime , a concert film , the School Days Secret Live DVD , was also produced by HOBiRECORDS . Released on June 26 , 2006 in conjunction with Summer Days , the film contains footage of a concert held on June 15 , 2005 featuring the performances of Miyuki Hashimoto , YURIA , rino , yozuca \* and Minami Kuribayashi .

== = Audio CDs == =

From 2005 to 2010 , Lantis published six albums of School Days music . The " School Days Vocal Album " , a compilation featuring all nine of the game 's closing themes , as performed by artists yozuca \* , Miyuki Hashimoto , YURIA , Halko Momoi , Minami Kuribayashi , rino , and Kanako Ito was the first to be distributed , sharing its April 28 , 2005 date with the release of the game itself . The remaining twenty @-@ eight background scores , composed by KIRIKO / HIKO Sound , were released on July 21 , officially completing the game 's soundtrack . Another compilation , the " School Days Vocal Complete Album [ sic ] " featuring songs from Summer Days and Cross Days , was released on October 8 , 2010 .

Three weeks after the premiere of the televised anime on July 25 , 2007 , Lantis published the single " Innocent Blue " by DeviceHigh , a four @-@ track disc featuring the anime opening of the same name , a disco @-@ inspired song called Dancin ' Joker , and their instrumentals . Lantis followed with " School Days : Ending Theme + " on August 22 , a sixteen @-@ track disc containing all of the show 's closing themes and background scores on September 26 .

In addition to music albums , six audio dramas were also produced . " School Days Little Promise " , a chronicle of Sekai and Setsuna 's childhoods , was the first . Featuring music by KIRIKO / HIKO Sound and Kanako Ito , HOBiRECORDS published " Little Promise " as a two @-@ disc set , which Overflow scheduled for release January 27 , 2006 . Pre @-@ releases were sold at Comiket 69 from December 29 to 30 , 2005 . Sometime afterward however , Overflow announced that pre @-@ released copies of Little Promise were defective , and asked customers to mail in their discs for replacements . The release was also postponed to February 24 . Lantis released the remaining five dramas . " School Days Drama CD Vol . 1 Himitsu Hanazono " ( ? ? ? ? ???? ) , a merrymaking of the series six main girls , was released on August 8 , 2007 . A second , " School Days Drama CD Vol 2 . Koi no Nou @-@ hau " ( ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ) , was released October 24 , 2007 . Radio School Days was compiled into three separate albums : " Futakumidake no Taiikusai " ( ????????? ) was released on November 21 , 2007 , " Futakumidake no Shakaika Kengaku " ( ??????????? ) on February 6 , 2008 , and " Futakumi Ijou no Rakkasan Butai " ( ??????????? ) on June 21 .

= = = Merchandise = = =

Considerable effort was made to market and promote School Days before and after its release , including the sale of brand merchandise and use of incentives . Through public venues and through the company 's online store , Overflow sold brand keystraps , mousepads , phonecards , book covers , mugs , t @-@ shirts , dakimakura cases , PVC figures , lanyards , business card holders and cosplay material such as the girls ' school uniforms and plastic d?zuki .

= = Reception = =

UK Anime Network , a British online anime and manga magazine , gave the television series a 7 out of 10 , summarizing it as " An utter subversion of the high school romance genre , which is disturbing and unsettling ... yet oddly compelling in its own way . " THEM Anime Reviews , a website devoted to the review of anime , gave the series a less favorable 1 out of 5 stars , citing " overblown , shallow , and flat " characters and that although " School Days looks fascinating when you see screenshots of it and read episode guides " , the reviewer found it to be " annoying , stupid , mean @-@ spirited , and full of some of the biggest idiots [ he had ] seen in an anime in a long time . "