

= Buso Renkin =

Buso Renkin (Japanese : ????? , Hepburn : Busō Renkin , lit . " Arms Alchemy ") is a manga series written and drawn by Nobuhiro Watsuki . It follows Kazuki Muto , who becomes an alchemical warrior in the battle against alchemical monsters known as homunculi . Watsuki envisioned the manga as his last shōnen manga , and then he tried to do as much as he could with that genre . It was serialized in Shueisha 's magazine Weekly Shōnen Jump from June 2003 to April 2005 . The individual chapters were republished by Shueisha in ten tankōbon volumes . The series has been licensed by Viz Media for North American release .

The manga has been adapted into an anime television series , which was produced by Xebec and was broadcast on Japanese television network TV Tokyo from 2006 to 2007 . In December 2007 , the anime was announced for North American DVD release by Viz Media . In 2009 , the series made its American television debut on the Funimation Channel , with American broadcast rights acquired by Funimation from Viz Media . The series has also spawned two drama CDs , two light novels , a PlayStation 2 video game , and many types of Buso Renkin @-@ themed merchandise .

In Japan , the Buso Renkin manga has sold over 3 million volumes and was nominated for a Seiun Award . It received a mixed reception from manga and anime publications . Watsuki 's art received the most positive comments from reviewers , while other aspects of the manga , such as its action and characters , have divided critics ' opinions . The anime , which critics described as a generic shōnen fighting series , received a mostly negative reception .

= = Plot = =

The narrative of Buso Renkin follows Kazuki Muto , who saves Tokiko Tsumura and is killed by an alchemical monster known as a homunculus . Tokiko , an alchemist warrior , feels responsible and revives him by replacing his destroyed heart with a kakugane (??) . The kakugane is an alchemical device which , when activated , takes a weapon form based on its user 's personality , forming a buso renkin ? the only thing that can destroy a homunculus . Kazuki creates his own buso renkin and joins Tokiko in the fight against the homunculi and their master , Koushaku Chouno . Chouno , who has renamed himself " Papillon " , is killed by Kazuki , but is later resurrected by the L.X.E. , a humanoid homunculi group led by Chouno 's great @-@ great @-@ grandfather Bakushaku Chouno , now calling himself Dr. Butterfly . In various battles , Kazuki , Tokiko and Captain Bravo (their team leader) destroy most of the L.X.E. 's members . After learning that Dr. Butterfly believes him to be weak and useless , Papillon rebels against the L.X.E. and kills Dr. Butterfly .

Before his death , Dr. Butterfly drains the energy of the students at Kazuki 's school to heal and revive Victor , a being superior to humans and homunculi . Victor is confronted by Kazuki , but Victor is not interested in fighting and leaves . During the battle , however , Kazuki 's kakugane is revealed to be the same type as the Victor 's ? a black kakugane created by the Alchemist Army as a prototype to the philosopher 's stone . The black kakugane absorbs human life forces ; to prevent this from happening , Kazuki 's death is ordered by the Alchemist Army . Captain Bravo tries to kill Kazuki , but Tokiko finds him alive . A team is commissioned to confirm Kazuki 's death , but Kazuki , Tokiko and Gouta Nakamura (an Alchemist Warrior and former protégé of Tokiko 's) fight their way past the members of the Re @-@ Extermination Squad . Later , Kazuki 's death is postponed because , as the Alchemists ' leader explains , their top priority is to defeat Victor .

Kazuki and Tokiko find the white kakugane , which can negate the effects of the black kakugane and is guarded by Victor 's daughter Victoria , who is herself a humanoid homunculus . During the Alchemist Army 's final battle against Victor , Kazuki applies the white kakugane to Victor , but it only weakens him . To protect humankind from both of them , Kazuki propels himself and Victor to the moon . Later , Papillon creates a white kakugane to heal Kazuki . The Alchemist Army rescues Kazuki , creates another white kakugane and restores Victor 's humanity . Reunited with his daughter , Victor asks the Alchemist Army to turn him into a homunculus and tells them that he and his daughter will lead all the homunculi to the moon . The Alchemist Army dedicates itself to research a way to revert homunculi back into humans , ending their war activities . All Warriors

abdicate their kakugane . Kazuki and Tokiko return to their daily lives together while Papillon becomes an urban legend throughout Japan .

= = Production = =

Nobuhiro Watsuki started writing Buso Renkin thinking it would be his last sh?nen manga ; he tried to do " everything [he] ever wanted " with that genre . He unexpectedly experienced problems drawing the manga 's fight scenes and said he " struggled with the comedic elements " . Watsuki drew references from several sources in Buso Renkin ; from his past works Rurouni Kenshin and Gun Blaze West to American comics , and from films to other anime and manga . Despite dealing with alchemy , Watsuki initially avoided mentioning the philosopher 's stone because he thought he could be accused of plagiarizing another series . He could not omit mentioning it , but he said that it is " general knowledge " . During the series ' publication , Watsuki had four severe colds ; the fourth cold made him so weak that he could not finish the chapter he was due to send to Weekly Sh?nen Jump .

= = Manga = =

The chapters of Buso Renkin were written and illustrated by Nobuhiro Watsuki and were serialized in Shueisha 's sh?nen magazine Weekly Sh?nen Jump from June 23 , 2003 , to April 25 , 2005 . Only the first 79 chapters were serialized in Weekly Sh?nen Jump ; the final chapter was published in another magazine from Shueisha in two installments . Shueisha published the individual chapters in a series of ten tank?bon (collected volumes) , which were released between January 5 , 2004 , and April 4 , 2006 . In North America , Viz Media released the manga 's ten tank?bon volumes between August 1 , 2006 , and February 5 , 2008 . The manga has been licensed in Brazil by Editora JBC , France by Glénat , in Germany by Tokyopop Germany , in Italy by Panini Comics , and in Spain by Planeta DeLibros .

= = Anime adaptation = =

In Japan , the Buso Renkin manga was adapted into an anime series which ran on TV Tokyo ; it was directed by Takao Kato and produced by Xebec . Buso Renkin aired between October 4 , 2006 , and March 28 , 2007 . The episodes were later released by Geneon Universal Entertainment in nine DVD compilations between January 25 , 2007 , and September 21 , 2007 . DVD box sets containing all twenty @-@ six episodes were released on November 26 , 2009 , and on February 27 , 2013 . Geneon Universal Entertainment released an animation soundtrack CD for Buso Renkin on January 25 , 2007 .

On December 8 , 2007 , Viz Media announced the release of the English dub , which would be released in two DVD sets of thirteen episodes each . The first set containing episodes one to thirteen was released on April 29 , 2008 . The second set containing episodes fourteen to twenty @-@ six was released on October 7 , 2008 . Funimation launched Buso Renkin on their Funimation Channel on April 27 , 2009 , marking the series ' American television debut . On December 20 , 2009 , the first three episodes from the series were officially uploaded to Hulu and Viz Media 's portal . Two episodes were uploaded weekly thereafter ; the final episode was uploaded on March 8 , 2010 . Beginning on October 2 , 2012 , Buso Renkin was streamed on Neon Alley .

= = Related media = =

Shueisha released two drama CDs for Buso Renkin . The first CD was released on May 26 , 2005 , and the second CD was released on October 6 , 2006 . It also released two " Expert CDs " , which features the radio drama , opening and ending themes and unreleased soundtrack songs . The first CD , Expert CD 1 , was released on March 28 , 2007 . The second CD , Expert CD 2 , was released on June 8 , 2007 .

Two light novels were written by Kaoru Kurosaki , illustrated by Watsuki , and published under the Jump J Books line by Shueisha . The first one , Buso Renkin Double Slash (1 / 1) , was published in October 31 , 2006 , and Buso Renkin Slash Zeta (1 / Z) was released on May 25 , 2007 . A guidebook titled Buso Renkin Infinity was published by Shueisha on May 2 , 2007 .

Two Nintendo DS fighting games , Jump Super Stars and Jump Ultimate Stars , have featured characters from the series . A PlayStation 2 video game developed and published by Marvelous Entertainment was released on June 28 , 2007 , under the title Buso Renkin Youkoso Papillon Park e (1 / 1) . In Japan , action figures , T-shirts , a trading card game series , key chains , straps , and a variety of other products were sold as merchandise for the series .

= = Reception = =

In Japan , Buso Renkin has sold over three million volumes . In North America , the first volume has featured in the best-selling graphic novel ranking of Nielsen BookScan , and the fourth volume of the series was the seventh best-selling comic book of March 2007 , according to Publishers Weekly . In the same year , it was nominated for the Seiun Award for best science fiction comic title of the year .

The manga 's critical reaction has been mixed . Most critics reached a consensus regarding the high quality of its art , describing it as " crisp " , " solid " , and " clean and well done " . Other aspects of the series have divided critics ' opinions . Manga Life 's Michael Aronson praised the enemy designs , while Carlo Santos of Anime News Network (ANN) criticized them , adding the series " is not much fun to read , and certainly no fun to look at " . Writing for Active Anime , Sandra Scholes found points of interest in the series ' story , and praised its action . Santos said the action " got all the drive and excitement of shounen action " , and Comic Book Bin 's Leroy Douresseaux called the series " a mixture of Dragonball Z and Naruto , but filled with even more weirdness " .

Aronson said the storytelling and action needed " clarity " . Leigh Dragoon from Sequential Tart described Buso Renkin as " derivative " and " hackneyed " , and called the characters " completely forgettable " . Conversely , Patti Martinson writing for the same site said that they " are distinctive and interesting " . Martinson noted " the complexity of the plot " , though she said it is not difficult to follow . She added there was " a lot of strong material " that can be developed throughout the series . Holly Ellingwood praised the final volume , stating that Watsuki did " a fabulous job of covering all fronts and the various characters , juggling them effectively " and that it ends " in an amazing way " .

The anime was met with mostly negative critical reception . ANN critic Zac Bertschy said Buso Renkin " isn 't anything special " , criticizing the " threadbare plot exposition " and its clichés , but praised the way it " get[s] right to the action " . Writing for ANN , Luke Carroll stated the series is generic and that it became " [a] bit more tolerable ... during its light-hearted moments " . ANN 's Carl Kimlinger said the anime follows " shounen fighting formula " ; he praised Tokiko 's characterization , saying it is one characteristic that distinguish the series . Kimlinger also praised the way it " improves considerably " because of its twists in the plot . UK Anime Network 's Andy Hanley also called it " generic " at the start , but said it " has a fairly decent stab " in the second half . Chris Beveridge of Mania praised the balance between the humor and the " lighter side " , and stated that Buso Renkin " took the clichés and obviousness of ideas and ran with it in an engaging and fun manner " .