

= Saint Young Men =

Saint Young Men ( Japanese : ? ( ???? ) ? ????? , Hepburn : Seinto Oniisan ) is a Japanese slice of life comedy manga series written and illustrated by Hikaru Nakamura . Its plot involves Jesus Christ and Gautama Buddha , who are living as roommates in an apartment in Tokyo . It has been serialized by Kodansha in the monthly seinen manga magazine Morning 2 since September 2006 , with chapters collected in twelve tankōbon volumes as of November 2015 . A @-@ 1 Pictures adapted the manga series into two original animation DVDs ( OADs ) and an anime film which was released on May 10 , 2013 .

In Japan , the Saint Young Men manga has sold over 10 million copies . Individual volumes of the series have frequently appeared on lists of the weekly and annual best @-@ seller manga in Japan . It received a Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize and was nominated at the Angoulême International Comics Festival . Its film adaptation has been well received by the Japanese public .

= = Overview = =

Jesus Christ ( ??? ? ???? , Iesu Kirisuto , voiced by Mirai Moriyama in the anime ) and Gautama Buddha ( ???? ? ??? , G?tama Budda , voiced by Gen Hoshino in the anime ) , the founders of Christianity and Buddhism respectively , are living together as roommates in an apartment in Tachikawa , part of the suburbs of Tokyo . While taking a vacation on Earth , they attempt to hide their identities and understand modern Japanese society . Each chapter shows their lives during an average day , when they are sightseeing , drinking beer , blogging , or playing video games .

While Jesus is portrayed as an impassioned person for his love for all ( even for shopping ) , Buddha tends to be calm and thrifty , and also likes manga . The comedy often involves visual gags and puns , as well as jokes in reference to elements of Christianity and Buddhism ; for example , Jesus creates wine from water in a public bath and Buddha shines when excited .

= = Production = =

Before writing Saint Young Men , Hikaru Nakamura was working on Arakawa Under the Bridge , which started to be serialized on December 3 , 2004 , in the first issue of Square Enix 's manga magazine Young Gangan . It attracted the attention of an editor of the magazine Weekly Morning , who wanted Nakamura to publish a series for the magazine . She accepted the offer because of her admiration for Kaiji Kawaguchi 's works , such as Zipang and The Silent Service , that were serialized in Weekly Morning . The series ' title is derived from a song by Denki Groove and Scha Dara Parr called " Saint Ojisan " ( ? ? ???? , Seinto Ojisan , literally " Saint Old Man " ) . Starting from sketches of two friends wearing casual shirts , she conceived the idea of portraying Jesus and Buddha as average people .

Nakamura envisioned a comedy manga in which the protagonist would be a " very very powerful character " , and realized a divine character would fit this premise . She first planned Jesus to be a character in the series , but to make the gags work well , Buddha was added to the series . Their opposing personalities was inspired by Nakamura 's sister and her sister 's husband ; by observing their relationship , she saw some amusing situations . She also saw a resemblance between her version of Buddha and Osamu Tezuka 's version .

Despite the religious references in the series , Nakamura stated she used only her personal knowledge and some aspects of modern society , such as yakuza and blogging , which were not intended to be critical but were added because they fit the story . Similarly , secondary characters were only introduced in the series if a chapter needed a new character to introduce a topic . The themes of the chapters were created before the situations and jokes . However , if Nakamura had a specific theme , she created several jokes and then connected them to form a story . When creating a simpler chapter as compared to the more elaborate , thematic ones , she wrote without worrying about creating jokes and situations in advance . With the help of her four assistants , on average she took between ten days and two weeks to make a complete chapter .

== Media ==

=== Manga ===

Saint Young Men , written and illustrated by Hikaru Nakamura , began its serialization in Kodansha 's seinen manga magazine Morning 2 on September 26 , 2006 . The series was put on hiatus between September 22 , 2011 , and March 22 , 2012 , because of Nakamura 's pregnancy . Its first tank?bon ( collected volume ) was released by Kodansha on January 23 , 2008 , and the twelfth volume was published on November 20 , 2015 . A guidebook was released on April 23 , 2013 .

The series has been translated in other languages , including Chinese by Tong Li Publishing , French by Kurokawa , Italian by J @-@ Pop , and Spanish by Norma Editorial . Ed Chavez , editor of the American publisher Vertical , contacted the Japanese licensor of the series to request its publishing in North America . The Japanese licensor of the series refused to allow it to be published in North America , because it was thought that Americans might take offense to it .

=== Volume list ===

=== Anime ===

The production of an anime film was first announced in issue No. 44 of Weekly Morning . Before the film release , a guidebook to the film was published on April 30 , 2013 . The film was directed by Noriko Takao and written by Rika Nezu . Its characters were designed by Naoyuki Asano and the music was composed by Keiichi Suzuki and Ryomei Shirai . The film was produced by Aniplex , Kodansha and Toho , was animated by A @-@ 1 Pictures , and distributed by Toho . It premiered in Japan on May 10 , 2013 . Its soundtrack was published by Aniplex on May 8 , 2013 . Later , on October 23 , 2013 , it was released in DVD and Blu @-@ ray formats . In addition to the film , the same staff produced an original animation DVD ( OAD ) that was released along with the eighth manga volume . A second OAD was released along with the ninth volume .

In an interview with NHK World , the staff for the anime noted that they wanted to stay loyal to the artwork of the manga while creating the movie . They decided to focus more on the art and character designs , and decided to give it a " sketched " look , instead of the traditional " bold , dark lines " typically used . All the shadows were colored by pencils , sometimes even scribbled to make sure that the " sketched " look came through . Like the manga , the anime film also recreates various attractions of Tachikawa , including the Showa Memorial Park .

== Reception ==

=== Manga ===

Saint Young Men received the 2009 Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize for Short Work Manga . The 2009 edition of Takarajimasha 's guidebook Kono Manga ga Sugoi ! , which surveys people in the manga and publishing industry , named it the best manga series for male readers . It was nominated for the category " Best Comic " at the Angoulême International Comics Festival . As the result of its popularity , issues of Morning 2 started selling out on newsstands ; because of this , in May 2009 Kodansha began making the magazine available online the day it is published . It has been among the top 20 of best @-@ selling manga series in Japan in 2009 , 2011 and 2013 . All individual volumes except for the 12th appeared on lists of the 50 best @-@ selling manga of their respective year in Japan . By May 2013 , the manga had sold about 10 million copies in Japan . The manga was also displayed at the British Museum in 2011 . In 2014 , The Daily Dot reported a growing

Western fandom that spread various Tumblr GIFs of the series .

Comics writer Paul Gravett chose it as one of the best comics of Japan in 2008 , while writers Shaenon Garrity and Jason Thompson elected it as one of the most wanted titles for licensing in 2010 . Japanese manga critic Kaoru Nagayama has noted that the manga is " fun to read " and commended Arakawa for keeping Jesus and Buddha faithful to their real character ? of kindness ? even when confronted by evil . Carlo Santos from Anime News Network criticized it for its art and questioned its capacity to evolve into something other than " Jesus and Buddha hanging out , while normal people do embarrassing things to them " . Santos complained that Jesus ' and Buddha 's philosophical differences and personalities are not explored . However , Santos praised the series ' comedy , noting its simplicity and saying , " its brilliance comes not from purposely trivializing two of the world 's great religions , but by highlighting the quirks of the secular world when these famous religious figures are placed in it " . According to him , the series does not lose its capacity of making readers laugh as it progress , unlike other manga . Jolyon Baraka Thomas of The Guardian praised the constancy of " visual gags and puns " , and wrote : " Her story is not an introduction to abstruse religious doctrines , nor does it feature much overt commentary on the role of religions in contemporary society . "

= = = Film = = =

The anime film adaptation of Saint Young Men debuted at number nine in Japanese theaters , grossing ¥ 49 @,@ 930 @,@ 836 ( US \$ 491 @,@ 369 ) on 75 screens . In the subsequent weekends it decreased on its placement from nine to eleven , and then to twelve , closing its run with ¥ 300 million yen ( \$ 1 @,@ 888 @,@ 062 ) grossed . Its DVD release ranked seventh on its first week on the list of best @-@ selling anime DVDs in Japan , dropping to twenty @-@ ninth place on its second week on the list .