



Kikaida!
Kikaida 01!



Metalder!



Bijinda!



Xenorama #46 presents:
Jinzo Ningen Kikaida



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InTakes:

Jinzo Ningen Kikaida, AKA *Kikaida*, AKA *Kikaider*, *Android of Justice*, has always been a favorite series of mine. I was introduced to the character in the pages of *Famous Monsters of*



FilmLand #114. The article was a basic explanation of the series, and I was very interested in seeing the show. I had no idea about the sequels, or anything other shows that were popular in the early to mid-70s in Japan.

I have included all the spinoffs and adaptations I could find here, including the cartoon series, the movie, and the quasi-remake Metalder. Now, SWITCH ON for fun!

JUST IMAGINE A JAPANESE ANDROID



kikaider vs. blue kong!

By Masao Kono

the ultimate robot

AN AUTOMATON that can move & think independently. A science fiction dream come true. This is Kikaider, the amazing mechman from Japan!

Kikaider's only imperfection is his incomplete conscience circuit. The diabolical Professor Gill exploits this flaw. The power-hungry scientist heads the Dark Corps (composed entirely of androids) and thru the use of a catalytic flute controls Kikaider's electronic circuitry to make him perform evil deeds.

Kikaido

July 8, 1972, to May 5, 1973

A Toei Production

Starring: Ban Daisuke, Mistuo Ando, Izu Hajime, Mizunoe Jun, Ueda Shin, Kamiya Masahiro, Mayami Joji, Masaaki Okabe

action scenes: JAC

43 episodes and one 3D movie

Music by Michiaki Watanabe

Songs by Yuki Hide with Columbia Cradle Club

created by Shotaro Ishinomori

AKA *Jinzo Ningen Kikaida*, *Kikaider*, *Android of Justice*,

人造人間キカイダー





Professor Gill of the Dark Empire is constructing androids to help him in his goal of acquiring power. He somehow has Professor Komyoji make many of these destructoids. Unbeknownst to Gill, Komyoji has also created a good android, named Kikaider to battle the Dark Destructoids. After losing his memory, Komyoji wanders off. Jiro helps his children, Mitsuko and Matsuro look for him. They are aided occasionally by the detective Hattori Hanpei.

A story about a robot wanting to be a man. Pictures of this series fired my imagination in 1975 when I saw them in Famous Monsters of Filmland #114, though at the time I naively thought Kikaider was a giant superhero in the mode of Ultraman or Giant Robot since that was all the reference material I had at that point. Not many people in the US knew there was already a wide variety of superheroes in Japan, ranging from brave insect men to heroic cat samurai to five-member task forces, along with towering giants like Ultraman. The monsters in the pictures didn't look like the ones that I had seen fighting Ultraman, but that didn't matter to me.

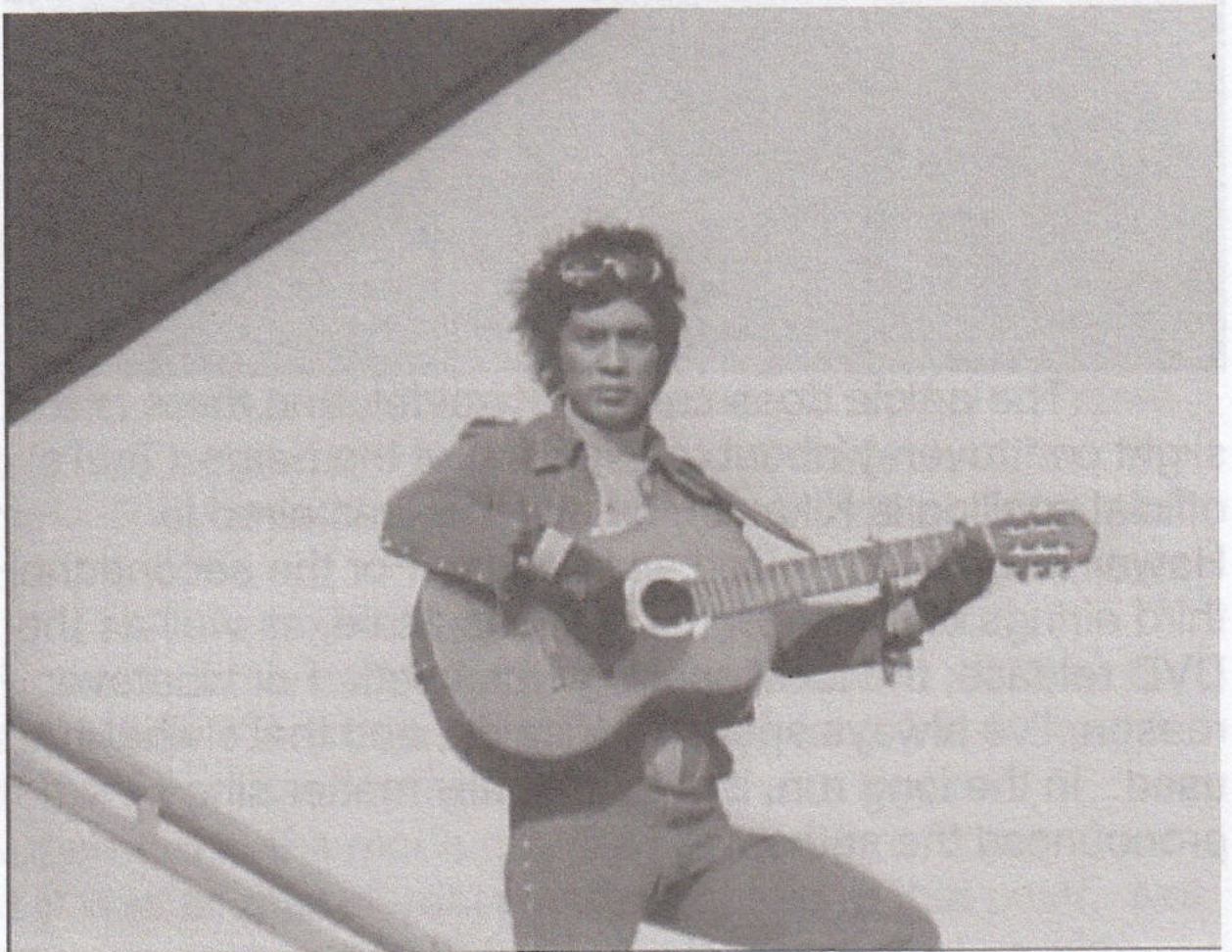
That review only covered a few of the first dozen episodes, so it might have been a reprint from a previous issue. There was no way to get any context from it back then, though Kikaida was airing in Hawaii at that time, and was a giant success.



The article does call him Kikaider, and there is a slight controversy about the spelling of the name. Toei's official spelling is Kikaider, but when it was aired in Hawaii it was Romanized as Kikaida. For the second the third airings of the show in the Aloha State, as well as the DVD release, the local spelling was used. For whatever reason, I've always spelled it Kikaida, and that's what I used. In the long run, it doesn't really matter since it's pronounced the same way.

When I finally got to see a few episodes over 20 years later I was less than impressed at the time, since they were random episodes with no context. However, thanks to the show being incredibly popular in Hawaii tapes of the entire series, subtitled in English started making the trading rounds in the mid-90s. Seeing the whole show was a revelation in how good it was overall, not just in the monster fighting action parts. The subs were not the best at the time, but it was great to watch anyway.

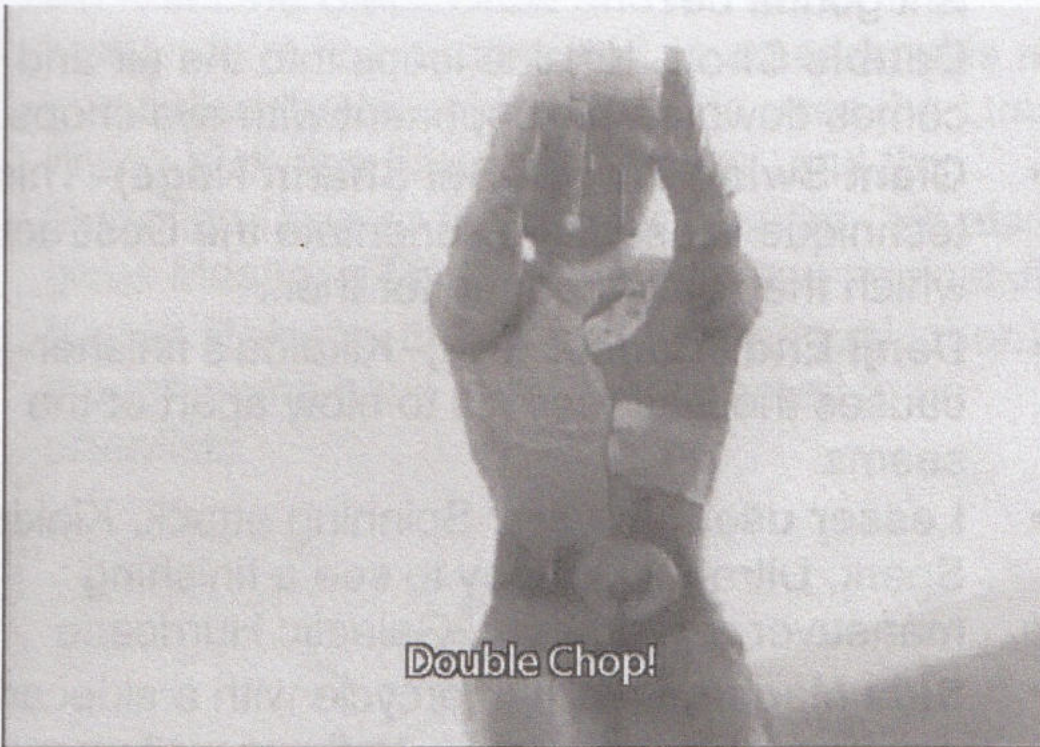
The action scenes are again inventive and well-staged. The JAC had improved their choreography and were more confident in their stunts, which is to be expected. There are some dangerous fight scenes in here as well, which are still thrilling to watch now.



Another cool thing about the show is that it goes *all* over Japan. This was a common event in early hero shows. I am sure many viewers like seeing the parks and hotels from that time period. This makes these early shows time capsules.

The heroes:

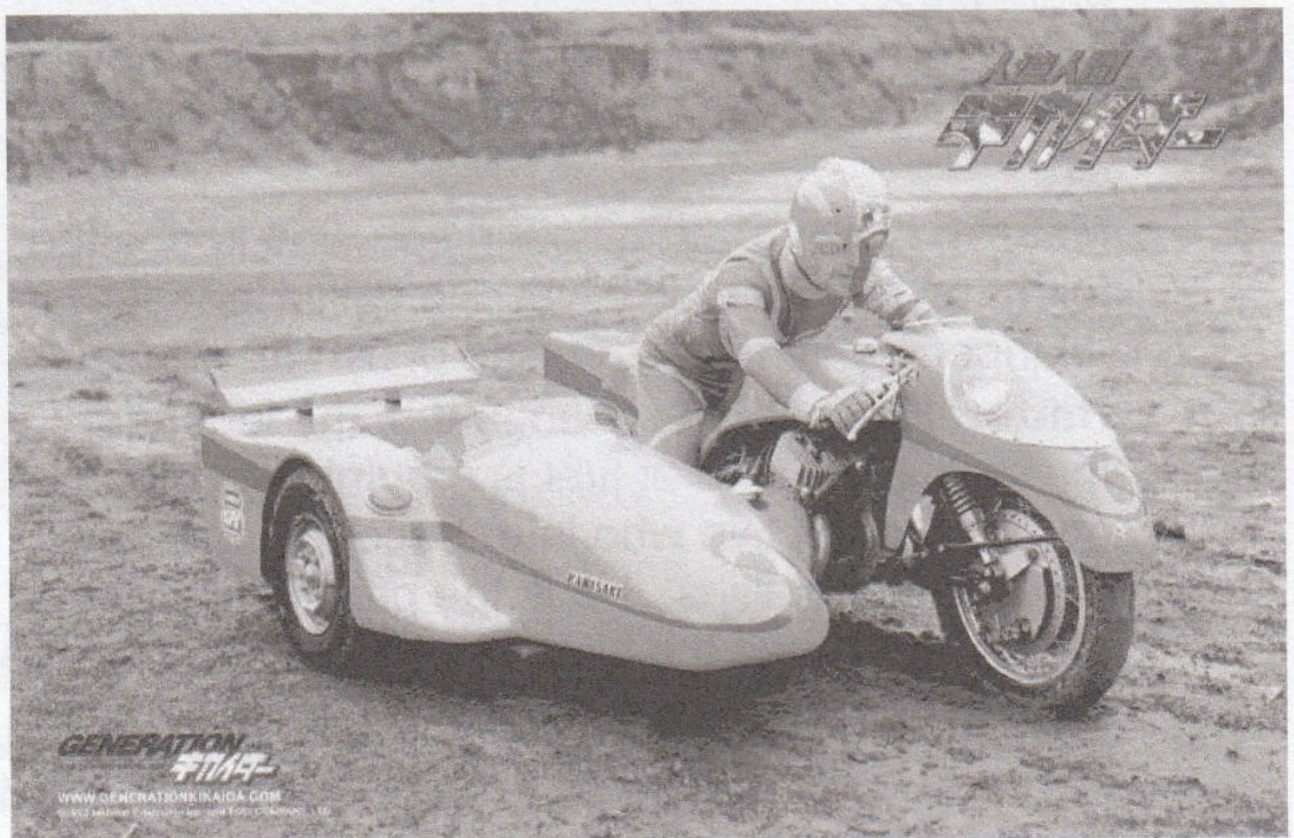
- **Jiro/Kikaida-** a powerful android, he has a sense of humor about most things going on. He has an incomplete conscience circuit, which causes him to be more human.



- **Professor Nobuhiko Komyoji-** a robotics genius who was working for Professor Gill for unknown reasons. After an explosion, he becomes an amnesiac.
- **Mitsuko Komyoji-** the brilliant daughter who also has extensive robotics knowledge. She loves Jiro.
- **Masaro Komyoji-** the young son who keeps the faith that his father is alive. He calls Hanpei "Hanpen" which is some kind of fish dish.
- **Hattori Hanpei-** a descendant of the legendary Iga ninja clan, who at first is a bumbling, money-grubbing detective who later becomes one of Jiro's staunch allies. He is the protagonist of the series, as he has the strongest character arc. His car should also have a name, as it is a character in and of itself, often acting with a mind of its own.

Kikaida's Powers:

- **El Kabong-** Jiro uses his guitar as a weapon while he is in human form. Yeah, I know that's not even close to having a name, but really, what else is it gonna be?
- **Double Chop-** Kikaida leaps into the air and comes down on his opponent with two chops.
- **Giant Swing Throw (Dai Sharin Nage)-** This technique is used to disorientate the Destructiods, which then sets them up for the...
- **Denji End (Magnet End)-** Kikaida's finisher- it causes the Destructiods to blow apart at the seams.
- **Lesser used powers:** Spinning attack, Kiakida Spark, Ultra Kick (funny to see a finishing maneuver named that), Galactic Hurricane
- **Side Machine-** the motorcycle with a sidecar that Jiro has. It has the ability to fly as well as move over the land at high speeds. It comes with a drill as well, when burrowing through the Earth is needed.



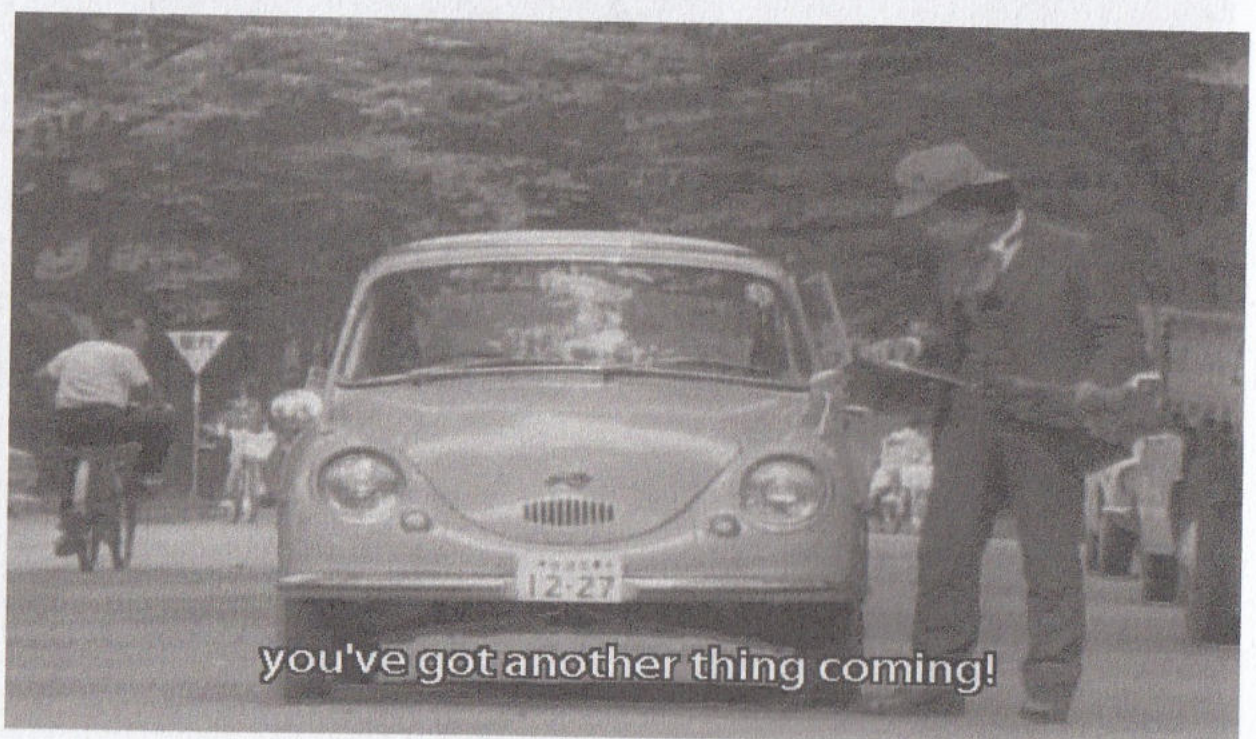
The Villains:

- **Professor Gill**- the man in charge of the Dark. He has a flute that can cause Jiro much pain.
- **Hakaida/Saburo**- named as the third son of Dr. Komyoji, his only purpose is to destroy Kikaida. He rides the Black Crow and his weapon in human form is a dagger and as an android is a gun called the Hakaida Shot. He uses the Lunar Flying Kick, the Five Steps to Hell, and the Guillotine Drop as fighting maneuvers. He also gives Masaru a Death Whistle to use against Jiro.
- **Hench Robots**- they exist to do manual labor, though some have been programmed to be scientists.



The Episodes:

1. **Grey Rhino King: Harbinger of Evil-** DARK finally makes their move, and Kikaida is born to stop them.
2. **Green Mantis: Bizarre Killing Machine-** Green Mantis frames Dr. Komyoji for a murder.
3. **Orange Ant's Challenge to the Death-** Orange Ant is rounding up people for android experiments.
4. **Blue Buffalo's Fiendish Trap-** Dark has open bidding on Blue Buffalo.
5. **Yellow Jaguar: Claws of Evil-** The Death Belt is given to a child to destroy Kikaida.
6. **Black Horse: Showdown at DARK Execution Ground-** Black Horse captures Mitsuko and Masaru.
7. **Bull Kong: Malevolent Monster Mayhem-** Bull Kong manages to damage Kikaida.
8. **Carmine Spider: Menacing Bloodsucking Laughter-** The Spider is out for the blood of certain children.
9. **Red Condor: Screech of Death-** Red Condor takes over a village to capture the Komyogi children.



10. **Scorpion Brown: The Ultimate Weapon-** The Scorpion is loaded with weapons to battle Kikaida.
11. **Gold Wolf: Tormented Howls from Hell-** Gold Wolf has an even more incomplete conscience circuit than Jiro's, which leads them into conflict.
12. **Silver Cat: Ruthless Sorceress-** Silver Cat has to steal the Crown of Munga.
13. **Pink Tiger: Terror at the Amusement Park-** Pink Tiger looks for a secret circuit in an older robot.
14. **Silver Tortoise: Destructoids Reborn-** Kikaida has to destroy many Destructoids, again.
15. **Golden Bat: Cursed Shadow from the Past-** DARK uses Taro's image to catch Dr Komyoji.



16. **Rouge Jellyfish: Invitation to the River Styx-** mini jellies bred in polluted water are used to poison people.
17. **Red Hornet: Hostage Terror-** Red Hornet launches the ASF to destroy the environment.
18. **Black Chameleon: The Grand Heist-** DARK takes over an uranium mine.
19. **King Crab Maroon: Keeper of the Death Ray-** a giant emerald is needed for the Death Ray.

20. Blue Water Scorpion: The Skull Weed

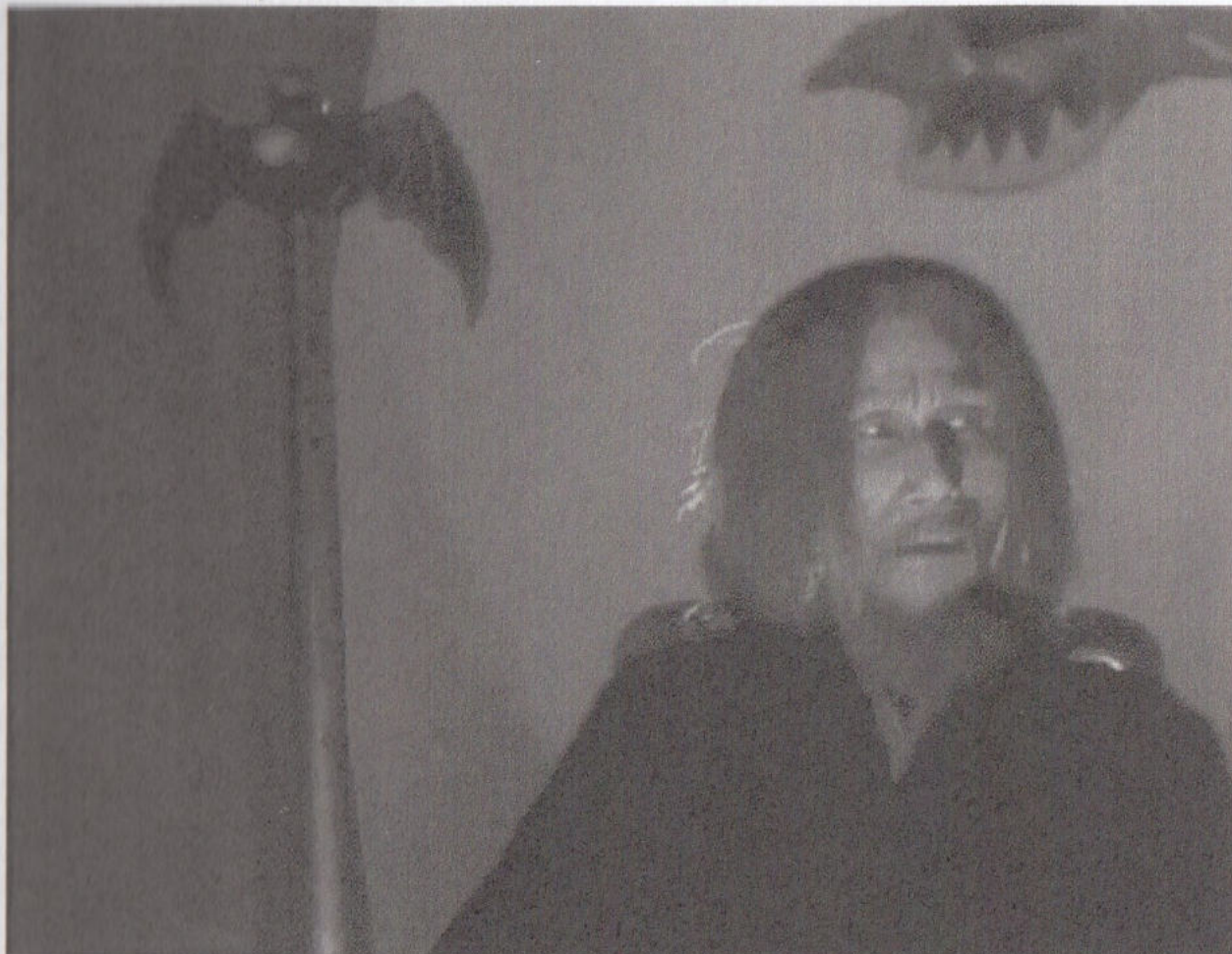
Conspiracy- a mind-controlling drug is released into the city's water supply.



21. Purple Rat: Brutal Fangs of Poison- Purple Rat infects Dr Komyoji with its deadly poison.

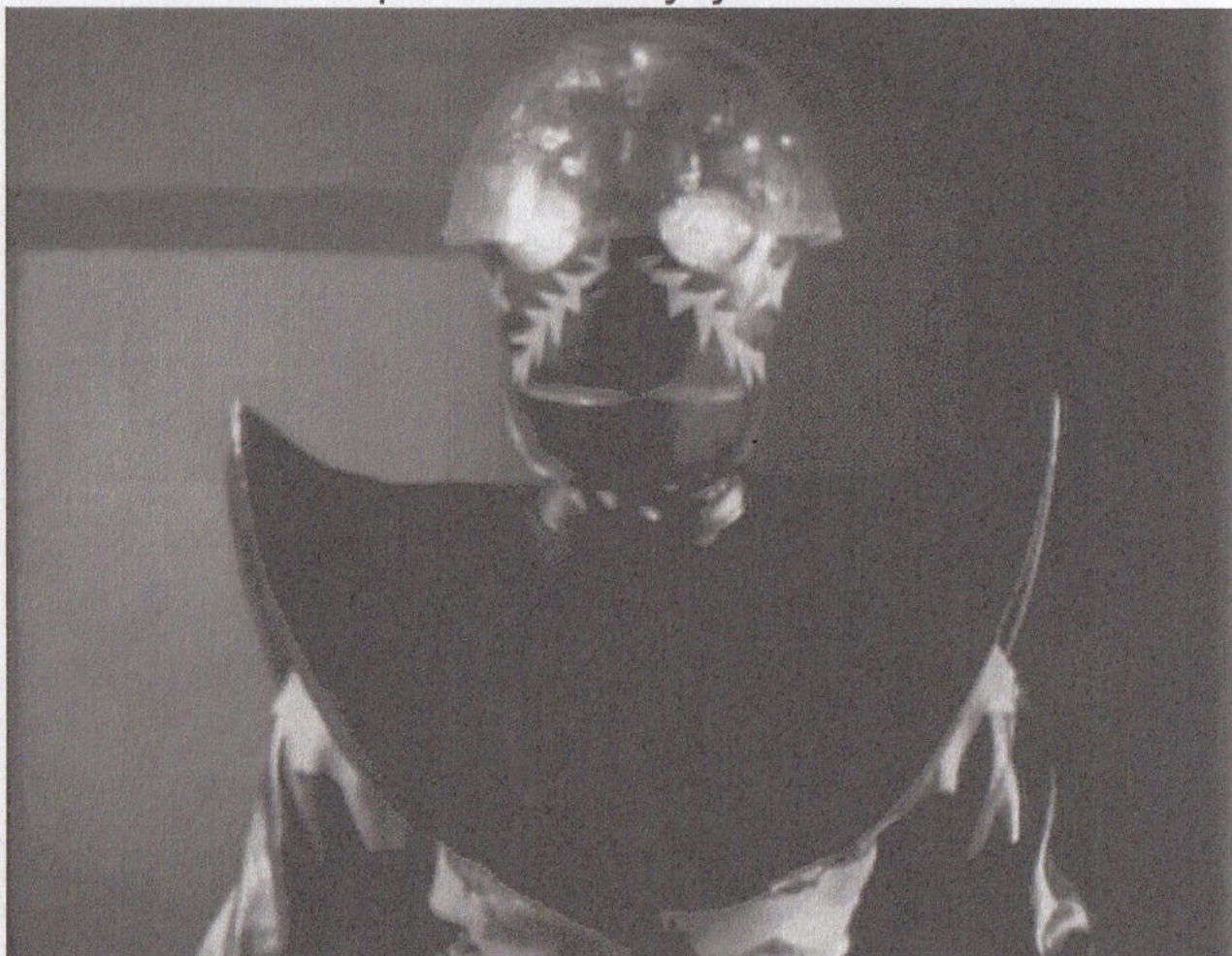
22. White Saw Shark: Twelve-Hour Nightmare- Gill plans to crash an airplane into a large housing complex.

- 23. **Yellow Antlion Brothers: Alphabet Attack-** the Brothers target a wedding.
- 24. **Pink Armadillo: Sinister Temptress-** She uses surgery to reprogram men to be human bombs.
- 25. **Orange Snail: Whistle of Death-** Dr Komyoji is tricked into working for DARK again.
- 26. **Green Mammoth: The Next Ice Age Project-** DARK plans to freeze the world.



- 27. **Violet Turbo: Sinister Love-** Violet Turbo wants Dr Araki's new schematic plan.
- 28. **Red Devil Stinger: Making Little Boys Cry-** DARK is still after the conscience circuit schematic.
- 29. **Green Sponge: Third Self-Resurrection-** He needed one more resurrection.
- 30. **Crimson Squid: Stalker of Pretty Coeds-** the Squid wants their brains to improve his battle tactics.
- 31. **Golden Octopus: Prelude to Jiro's Death-** Gold Octopus wants revenge for his fallen comrades.

- 32. **Blue Electric Eel: Accordion Arm Agony-** Jiro is a one-armed hero fighting Electric Eel.
- 33. **Mask Crab Red: Enforcer of the Dark Code-** The Crab Brothers have issues.
- 34. **Black Spiny Anteater: Destructoid with Child-** Spiny wants a missing microfilm.
- 35. **Black Crow: The End of "The End"-** Crow is sent out to capture Dr Komyoji.



- 36. **Jiro Attacks Dr Komyoji-** Gill's flute finally overpowers the conscience circuit.
- 37. **Hakaida: Jiro's Formidable Younger Brother-** the good doctor is forced into creating Hakaida.
- 38. **Hakaida: Kikaida Killer-** it's Kikaida vs Hakaida, round one.
- 39. **Kikaida: Wanted Dead or Alive-** Mitsuko searches for Jiro to prove his innocence.
- 40. **Crisis! Jiro Stops Functioning-** the Grasshopper Gray Mad Cycle can immobilize Kikaida.

41. **Jiro Blows Apart!** Red Mine Toad does the previously thought impossible and makes Kikaida explode.
42. **Hakaida Rebels-** Hakaida is unable to fulfill his mission, which leads him to question his purpose in life.
43. **Jiro's End or Dark's Demise?** Jiro is unable to change to Kikaida for his battle with Skeleton Flying Squirrel.
- **Kikaida: Coming Atcha!** Slotted between episodes 34 and 35, this is an episode in movie form, and has the added bonus of being in 3D. Professor Gill creates a machine to review any of the previously destroyed Destructoids. Multi-Colored Sand Lizard is their leader when they attack Kikaida all at once.



The movie plays out like a longer episode, but it's fun to see it in 3D. The DVD comes with 3D glasses and the movie tells you when to put them on. It's fun, but it also follows in the path of the Kamen Rider movies, which the resurrected Destructoids are far easier to dispatch the second time around.

Then there is Hakaida- the Destroyer. He is truly a great villain, with an air of tragedy about him as well as being a deadly opponent for Kikaida. It's a great idea to have Dr. Komyogi's brain used for Hakaida, and that he needs to have regular blood infusions to keep him active. He has the powerful Hakaida Shot gun, which can destroy all machines. He can also walk down the sides of buildings. He is called Saburo- "Third Son" in his human form. He is created only to destroy Kikaida, and when that job is taken from him, he has a meltdown of sorts.

Some fans think Hakaida is a sort of anti-hero, because he won't hurt children or women, nor does he like kidnapping plots. However, he lies to Mitsuko and Masaru about his purpose and why he was created. He won't use them as pawns, either so he is a great character. He is still a villain, and the series goes out of its way to let the viewers know that.

The actors in this series are all excellent. Ban Daisuke is probably second to the great Hiroshi Miyauchi in terms of superheroes portrayed.

Kikaida was introduced as part of the JAQK universe in the excellent *JAQK vs Gorangers* movie. It is stated he is fighting in Mongolia against the Hell Boxer. It would be several more decades before we got to see Kikaida actually show up in a Kamen Rider movie.



The series ran a perfect 43 episodes, plus one movie made in 3-D and widescreen. I have watched this series completely several times. The episodes zoom along, and it is never a chore to sit through any of them.

The show was amazingly popular in Hawaii when it was aired, leading to it being rebroadcast in the 90s and then the DVD release. GN Productions also licensed several other shows for DVD release, but none were quite as successful as this one.

The series was released one DVD at a time, with five episodes on each disc, except for the last one. That one had the final three episodes and the 3D movie on it. It did come with special 3D glasses and a plethora of great extras. The DVDs are still on sale and can be purchased at GenerationKikaida.com, as well as Amazon and other places.



Kikaider 01

May 12th, 1973, to March 30th, 1974

Toei

starring: Ikeda Shunsuke, Ban Daisuke, Etsuko Shihomi,
Yoshihide Goto, Kazuyo Sumita, Minoru Kuri, Hijiri
Matsuki, Masaki Okabe

46 episodes

created by Shotaro Ishinomori



Three years after Kikaida destroyed the Dark Empire, Gill-Hakaida is reborn. His top three scientists are also remade in his image. Kikaida 01, Kikaida's "older" brother is activated to stop this evil. He also has to contend with the mysterious Shadow Organization, as well as the mysterious robots Bijinda and Waruda.



Kikaida is around for a while to lend a helping hand.

Kikaida 01 (May 1973 to March 1974) is the sequel to *Kikaida* (July 1972 to May 1973). It was a Toei Production. These two shows were aired at the very beginning of the "Henshin" boom on Japanese television. About midway through the series, Jiro disappears (after episode #20) or is only seen in stock shots. This is because Ban Daisuke began filming his next starring series, *Inazuman*, and was too busy to shoot both programs. I guess Ban continued to do the voice-over for Kikaida though. This is not a bad thing, as it gave the other actors some extra time in the spotlight.

The sound effects are well done here, as during the fights you hear a nice loud "clank" when the robots strike each other. The visual effects are not as good, although some of the mattes are nice. The miniatures look good but are miniatures. The various animated rays are functional and used VERY sparingly (which is a good thing; it makes them stand out when you see it). Toei obviously didn't have the budget the various Ultraman shows did, but they were going for more action anyway. It's good to play to your strengths. Like the first series, this show was shot all around various parts of Japan, so there is a nice snapshot of what the country was like in the early 1970s.

While I greatly enjoy this sequel, it's not as good as the original, despite the increase in budget and action. It doesn't have as strong a story as *Kikaïda* and tends to meander a bit in the middle section. It does get points for not being the exact same story as *Kikaïda* though. The cast is also varied, with lots of female members getting a turn in the spotlight. The addition of Mari/Bijinda is also quite nice. Etsuko Shiomi, one of the JAC's top female stars, plays her. She later went on to fame as the titular characters in **SISTER STREETFIGHTER** and *DRAGON PRINCESS*.

The action content in this series is actually better than the first show. The Japan Action Club had a few more shows under its collective belt, so they could do more with the fights and stunts than the series that came before.

Ikeda Shunsuke plays Ichiro/01 and does a good job with the role. He is not given the problems Jiro has, his weakness is that he is solar-powered and is not nearly as powerful at night as he is during the day. There's no way for him to be tormented via a flute, like his younger brother Jiro was in the previous series. Nor is there a real tragic love interest like Mitsuko's pining for Jiro as well. It does appear Mari had a thing for Ichiro, but that is never really explored in the show.

I like the character of Bijinda a lot, but the overall design of the costume is a bit clunky. As sleek as the Kikaida brothers AND Hakaida are, you'd think hers would be as well. It's not. It's too ornate, with hearts everywhere. I can see what they are going for, but it's just too much. She announces her presence with the sound of a harp. Mari also has to go through a lot of trials and people mistaking her intentions. She definitely provides a different element to the series. Add to that the constant danger of her being a nuclear bomb and she makes a great character.



Etsuko's portrayal of her is great as well. She's an excellent martial artist, although I think that a man is playing her costumed form. A humorous side- while battling the Shadow minions a pleasant harp and organ theme is heard, quite a pleasant contrast to the vicious beatings she dishes out to the villains! Of course, her main weapon, "Bijinda Laser" is fired right from her chest. An interesting thing is that she calls Ichiro "01" all the time, even in his human form. She also tends to think of herself as two people, Mari and Bijinda.

Shihomi would later go on to star in many movies before retiring in 1987. She had a major US release with 1974's *Sister Streetfighter*, which was voice actor Corinne Orr's favorite movie to dub, since "98% of it was grunting and yelling". She was trained in karate and kenjustu and of course, her mentor was the one and only Shinichi "Sonny" Chiba.

One really unique twist is having the "miniature H-Bomb" inside her as well. It will activate if the third button on her shirt is undone. So, we have the added suspense of not knowing when it may go off with someone trying to help her. The producers were smart, and didn't have this happen in every episode, so as to make it more surprising and stressful when it occurred.

It is also very nice to see Hattori Hanpei (Shun Ueda) return in episode #36. His adept comedic abilities are in stark contrast to the photographer Gunta. It also provides some more continuity to the first series. It would have been nice to see Mitsuko and Masaru make an appearance or two here as well, but alas, only their father makes an appearance later on in the series. They must have been too busy in America to be bothered to show up.

Showing up late in the series is the samurai assassin robot Waruda. He falls for Bijinda big time but can't understand why she wants to be like 01. He does have honor, and won't sneak attack 01, preferring to notify him of their coming battle in writing. He plays a small flute, resembling a piccolo. The interplay between Waruda, Bijinda, and 01 is well done. Bijinda wants to become more human like 01, while Waruda is certain he is just a lowly assassin. He won't attack women or children though and is constantly being taught lessons about good and evil just as Bijinda is. I'm not sure who made him though. His name is pronounced "Warda" incidentally, despite the spelling. Waruda has a most interesting weakness- he has a pronounced fear of dogs. His origin is never revealed in the show.



The other villains are a nice lot of evil; Zaddam certainly is an interesting creation, utilized with two actors in the suit. Big Shadow is a good leader. Interestingly, he occasionally speaks English words. Shadow Knight does look cool, except he's a bit bulky. His rivalry with Hakaida is fun to watch. This is the first series in which I've seen the villains actively dislike each other enough to sometimes sabotage the plans to make themselves look better.



Hakaida is the character that suffers the most, as he is nowhere near as tragic as he was in the first series. It does make him a lot easier to hate because it is Professor Gill's brain in there. The viewers want to see his plans fail. His loyalty to the other Hakaidas is a nice touch. The other Hakaidas do not get as much personality and are only in the show for the first ten episodes, as they are destroyed one by one by 01.

It's interesting that people in this show really don't seem to find such advanced robots scary or even that unique. It must be commonplace in this world. Kids trust good robots automatically (most of the time). That must be a plus to be able to be that aware of good and evil at such a young age.

The climax is pretty well done. The final four episodes are quite good, especially with the guest appearance of Jiro Chiba, playing Eisuke Toge. He is Shinichi "Sonny" Chiba's younger brother and has been in many tokusatsu series, including *Kamen Rider*, *Robot Detective* and *Akumaizer 3*. He really gets to show off his karate skills in the two episodes he is in, making one wish he had been a part of the cast.



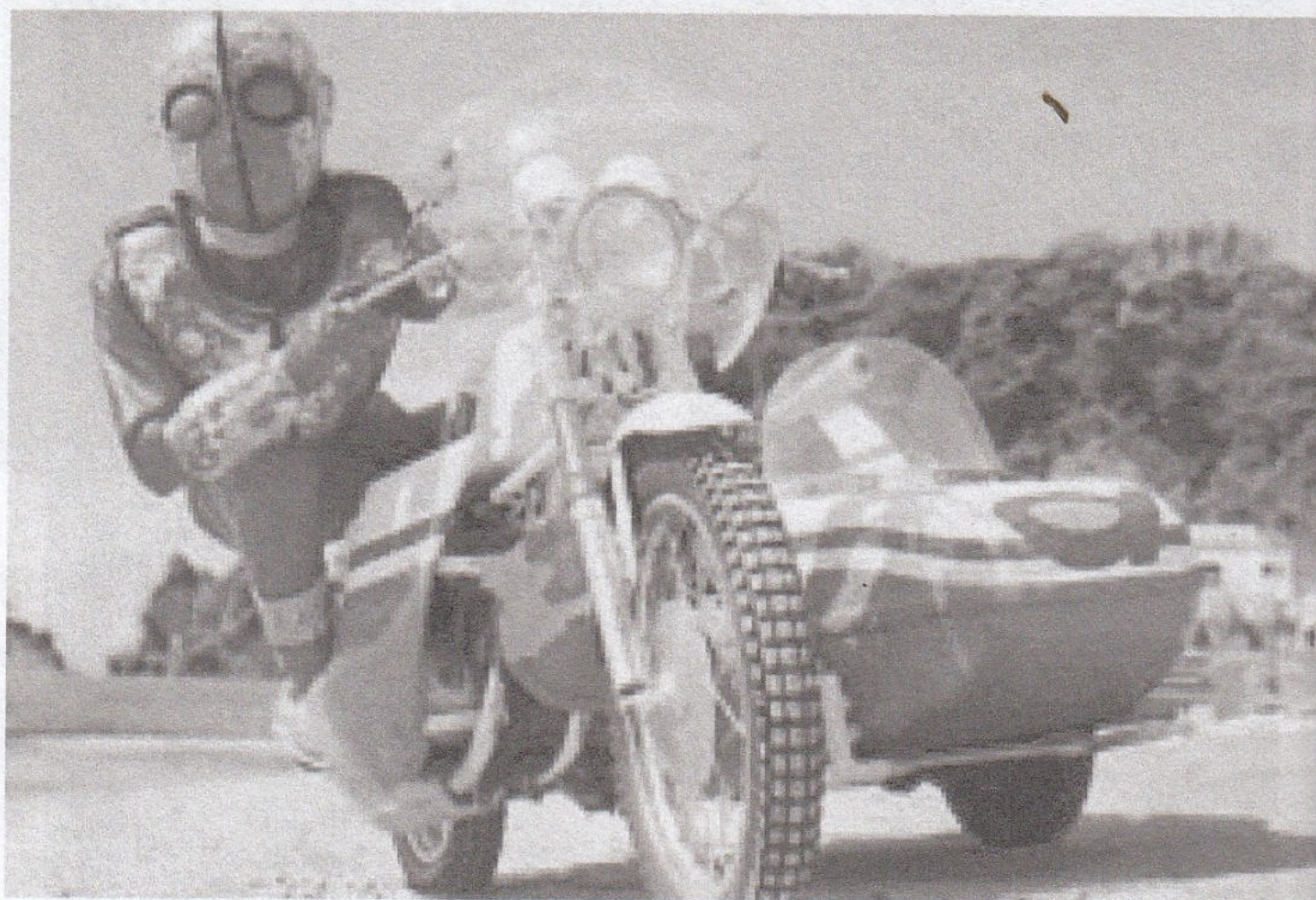
It's nice to see Professor Komyoji show up for the final episode. I had forgotten this originally. It's too bad Jiro didn't get to ask him how the rest of his family is doing though. That would have been a nice little touch to bring both series a little closer together at the end of this show.

The music in the show is mostly recycled from *Kikiada*, but there are a few new themes. Naturally, 01 gets his own opening and closing theme ("Kikaida 01, sung by Masato Shimon, and "01 Rock" also sung by Shimon). I love "01 Rock" and it's used during many battle sequences. When you hear that music start, you know there is going to be some serious ass-kicking about to happen. Bijinda gets her harp theme, but no vocal theme at all. It would have been nice to hear Mitsuko Horie belt out a theme for Mary/Bijinda.



The Heroes:

- **Ichiro/01-** The solar power android who has a complete conscience circuit. He needs sunlight to restore his powers.
- **Jiro/Kikaida-** The younger brother, see the previous notes for more about him.
- **Rieko-** a mysterious woman who protects Akira for as long as she can.
- **Akira-** Professor Gill's youngest son, who has part of a diabolical plan tattooed on his back.
- **Hiroshi-** Professor Gill's oldest son, with the other part of the plan on his back.
- **Gunta-** a photographer who is supposed to be the comedy relief.



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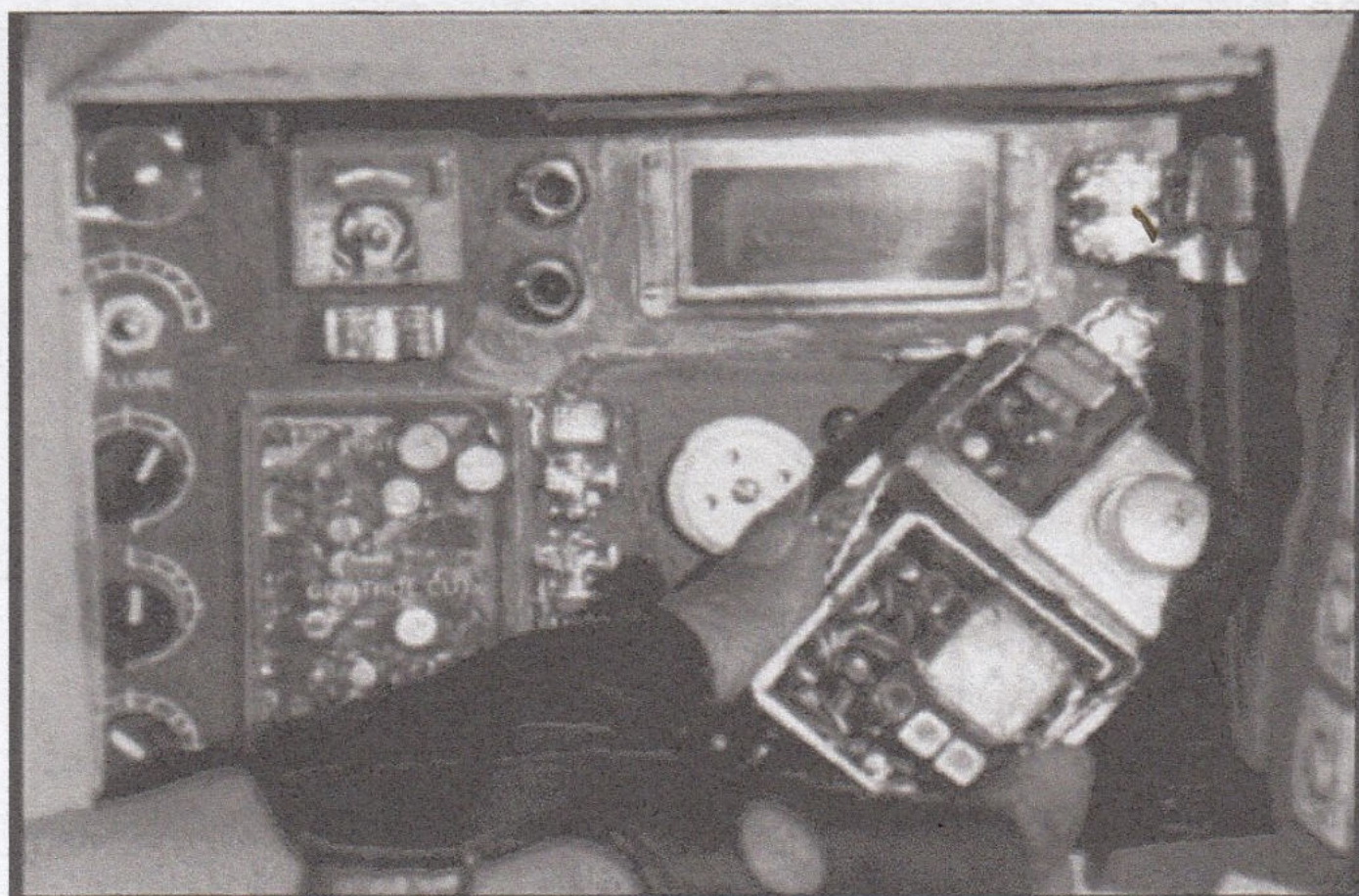
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13. Ghost Story: The Challenge of the Goblin, Rokuro-Kubi! Shadow wants to destroy Tokyo to be able to grab Akira in the confusion. The Robot Flex-Neck is sent out to cause more chaos. Flex-Neck is based on a famous Yokai monster. Shadow Knight and Hakaida squabble a lot.

14. Ghost Story: Gill's Spirit Damned to Hell- Big Shadow has Shadow Knight revive the ghost of Professor Gill from Hakaida's brain to find out Akira's secret. Gill reveals that Akira is his son, and he has another child as well.

15. Explosive: The Secret of Giant Devil Shadow sends Deathbot #42 out to get Professor Yamagata's daughter, Sachiko, who has befriended Akira.



16. Terror! The Mummy's Nitro Bombs- Mummy Man and Shadow Golem capture Rieko to find out where Akira's brother Hiroshi is.

17. Titanic Saga!! The Terrifying Giant Devil Moves! Shadow sends the Mendicant Six, led by Mendicant Dokuro out to get a formula for hiselium, which will power the ultimate robot, Giant Devil.

18. Supreme Disaster!! Exploding Androids- Shadow plans to use robot Akiras to destroy Kikaida and 01.

- 19. King Indian Casts a Deadly Spell!** Shadow uses a very stereotypical Indian Robot to try to kill Kikaida, while Hakaida summons Professor Gill to help him power up.
- 20. Outrage: The Identity of Shadow's Leader Revealed-** Big Shadow wants to build Devil Rock Castle and has Hakaida brutalize and murder members of a conservation group.
- 21. Vampire Mission: Terror in a Girl's Dorm!** Shadow uses women from the Junshin Academy to make robots with human blood, resulting in 01 having to fight three Vampire Bat robots (#16-18).
- 22. Today's Special Lesson: Murder!?** Big Shadow has Scorpion Strong (#22) train children to kill 01. Shadow Knight and Hakaida continue their rivalry.
- 23. Demonic Starfish Women: Annihilate the Human Race!** Shadow's new robot, Devil Star can multiply when destroyed. They need blood for fuel.
- 24. Devil's Trade!? Planet of the Pig's Plan-** Parents of a girl named Midori ("green") are really the Pig Androids (#104 and #105) in charge of this plot. Rieko is showing more unusual battle skills and reveals herself to be another android. Which surprises everyone.
- 25. The Devil's Spawn: Zaddam Departs Moonbase** Big Shadow summons Zaddam from their Lunar Base on the moon. Both Hakaida and Shadow Knight battle Zaddam, but he easily defeats them.
- 26. Duel in Nanki!! Zaddam Unleashes Supernatural Powers-** Zaddam wants Hakaida to kill a woman, Katsura. She has made a PK (psycho-kinetic power) Blocker that Zadam doesn't want to be installed in 01.
- 27. Battle in Uncharted Territory! Zaddam's Hell Trap** 01 battles Zaddam in a canyon. They place a Hell Belt on Katsura and tell her to be under the Toroko Bridge at 3 PM.

28. Town of Madness: Terrifying Mermaid Strikes

Back- Zaddam is using Princess Mermaid (#55) to replace people with robot replicants. Hakaida greatly enjoys her "Mer-bot" form. Her beauty manages to blind 01 by frying his optical sensors. How can he repair them to stop the evil plan?

29. Red Devil, Blue Devil: 10 Gigavolts of Terror!

Zaddam plans to use thunderbolt energy to make his "greatest creation", Raijin Plus and Raijin Minus ("rai" mean "thunder" so these are "thunder-men").

30. Devil? Angel? Enter Bijinda! Zaddam plans to use Contamination Catfish to draw 01 out and kill him. Big Shadow believes "there can be no progress without destroying nature".

31. Sorrowful Android Bijinda's Explosive Demise-

Ichiro saved Mari from destruction, not knowing she's wearing a Shadow Nuclear Bomb set to go off.

32. Hades Beckons Bijinda- Zaddam wants to reprogram

Bijinda, but she fights back.

Despite the pain Zadam causes her with her incomplete conscience circuit

(sound familiar?)

she

declares

herself free

of Shadow and escapes.



- 33. Heartless: The Tears of Lone Gorilla and Son-** 01 battles Shadow's Gorillas while the kids wrestle (Misao is in a mask). 01 doesn't want to hurt Big Gorilla because of Mini-Gorilla.
- 34. The Cursed Clock: Bijinda in Peril-** The sound of clocks is making people fight and it is Crazy Cuckoo that's doing it.
- 35. Kimono Maiden: Bijinda's Hell Picture Scroll-** Big Shadow is very upset about 01 defeating all of his robots.
- 36. Strange 4th Dimension: Terrifying Trip Through Time-** While looking for nighttime lodging, Misao falls into a time tunnel. Hattori Hanpei, a friend of justice, does exactly the same thing.
- 37. Master Swordsman: Waruda Emerges From the Mist-** Misao has a dream that a mysterious man kills Akira and Hiroshi. Big Shadow makes Hakaida kill all the dogs in the area, so they won't upset Waruda.
- 38. Deadly Gambit: Three-Way Bloodbath!** Waruda meets Mari and gives her a letter. He also tells Ichiro he will challenge him to honorable combat.
- 39. Fearsome Flying Saucer Brings Enemy Spacemen-** A UFO seriously injures 01. A brother and sister rescue him. Later the Spacebots start freezing the children.
- 40. Escape!! A Frozen Bijinda in Danger-** Hakaida is showing Big Shadow the design of their new fortress. The men working for them revolt.
- 41. Mightiest on Heaven and Earth: The Sky Dreadnaught Explodes!** There's a big explosion, and a ship (the Sky Dreadnaught) rises from the ocean. It attacks a city and Big Shadow is pleased.
- 42. Fighting Themselves: The Flame Throwing Shadow Gun** Zadam has perfected The Shadow replicator, which makes replibots that last three minutes and are twice as powerful as the original and are the exact opposite of them.

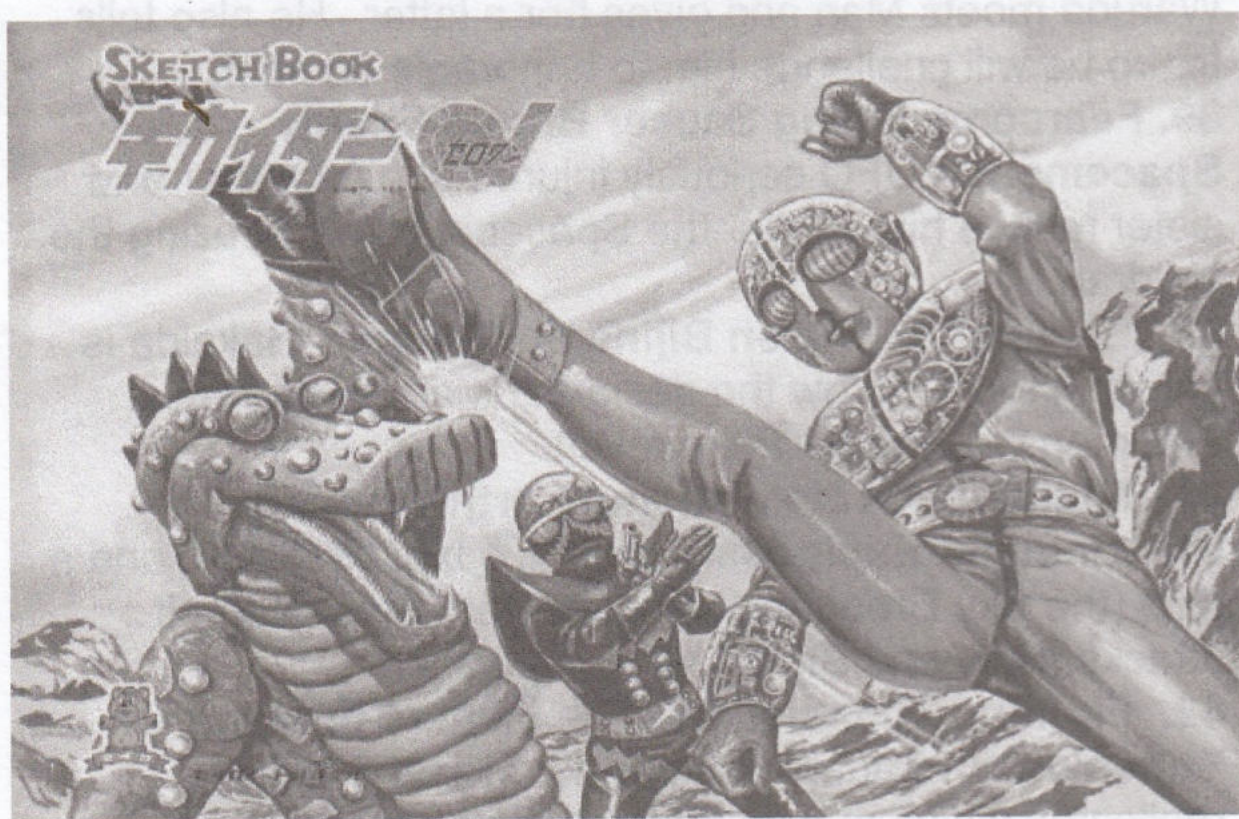
43. The Man Who Loved Bijinda- The 70s oil crisis has hit evil organizations as hard as the rest of the world-Shadow has no oil.

44. Bijinda's Poignant Farewell- Hakaida "buys outs" trucks full of fruit causing a food shortage by cornering the fruit market. Shadow's overall plan is to ruin the character of the human race.

45. Samurai Waruda Dies at Dawn- Hakaida shoots an arrow into Ichiro's arm. It has special ink on it that causes Shadow's "Bloodlust Swords" to find their target.

46. Our Friends: Androids Are Forever! Hakaida kidnaps Dr. Komyoji. Then Jiro, Ichiro, Rieko, and the kids all get letters and report to the Komyoji house. Hakaida makes Komyoji invent an instant replicator, giving Shadow an unlimited supply of robots.

Daisuke Ban shows up for the last episode, but only for a few minutes as Jiro.



JN Productions has released the entire series as a box set. Much like their earlier DVD releases, this is an excellent set. It comes with remastered video and great sound. There are lots of extras on here, episode factoids and an essay about the series by the indefatigable August Ragone, interviews with Ban (Jiro) Daisuke and Ikeda (Ichiro) Shunsuke, Kikaida memories and more! There are six discs in the set, which makes for a wonderful companion to the nine discs of the original series. For more information, please see generationkikaida.com which is loaded with all sorts of goodies for the computer as well. In fact, the episode titles come from GK and August, so all thanks to them for making such a great show available to Western audiences.





I would have to say ***Kikaider 01*** is a worthy successor to ***Kikaider***. It isn't quite as good and tends to meander in the middle of the series, but it rights itself at the end. There is a ton of great action and music, and the actors are all very good in their roles. The kids play important roles as well and do not ever become too cutesy or whiny. It may not be the greatest superhero show from the 1970s, but it is one of the better ones.

Since the original article was written and published, Ikeda Shunsuke passed away on June 11, 2010. Aside from Ichiro, he played Takeshi Minami in *Return of Ultraman* (1971-1972)

Metalder

Chojinki Metalder, Super Machine Metalder

March 16th, 1987, to January 17th, 1988

Toei

starring: Seiko Seno, Hiroko Aota, Hiroshi Kawai, Geboai Hayashiya

music by Seiji Yokoyama



God Neros begins his invasion of the Earth. He has plenty of minions to help him with this plan. Professor Koga returns to Japan and brings the android Metalder to life to stop Neros. Metalder must learn about his powers and his new life in Tokyo and stop the dangerous machinations of Neros.



Hindering Neros' plan are his underlings who are constantly jockeying for power. They all want to be the second in command of the empire and will go behind the back of any other robot or monster that gets in their way. They have an elaborate system of ranking their ability, and they also fall in love on occasion. Sometimes a fighter will defect and that is considered highly dishonorable.

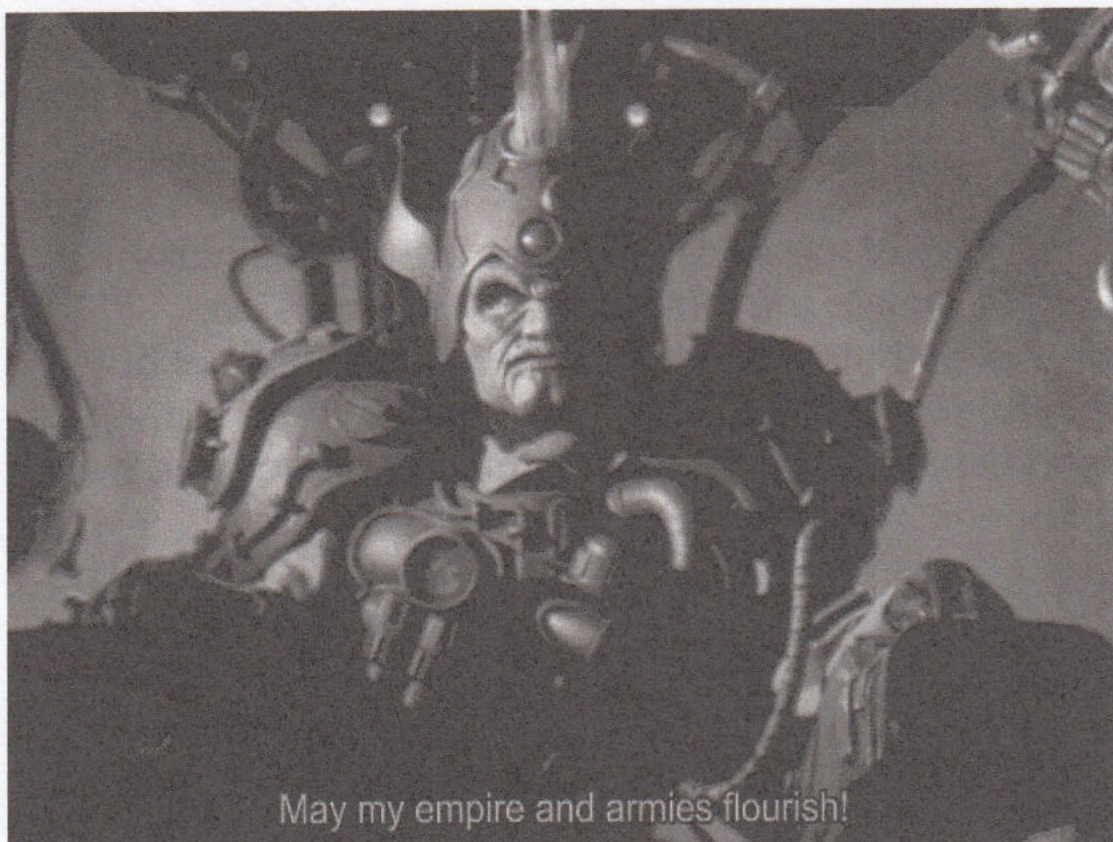
"Just because you are an android doesn't mean you have to act like one."

Many of the early episodes are about Ryusei finding his way in the human world. There is an emphasis on balance within him as being artificial but having human feelings. He becomes far more human as the series progresses, including being able to tell if water is hot or cold when swimming.



The battles are shot more like a samurai movie, with Metaldar and his various opponents sizing each other up before attacking. It's an interesting way to shoot fight scenes, but not always the most exciting. Fortunately, they mix it in with regular JAC-style

fight scenes so it's a little more exciting than some other series of the same time frame.



May my empire and armies flourish!

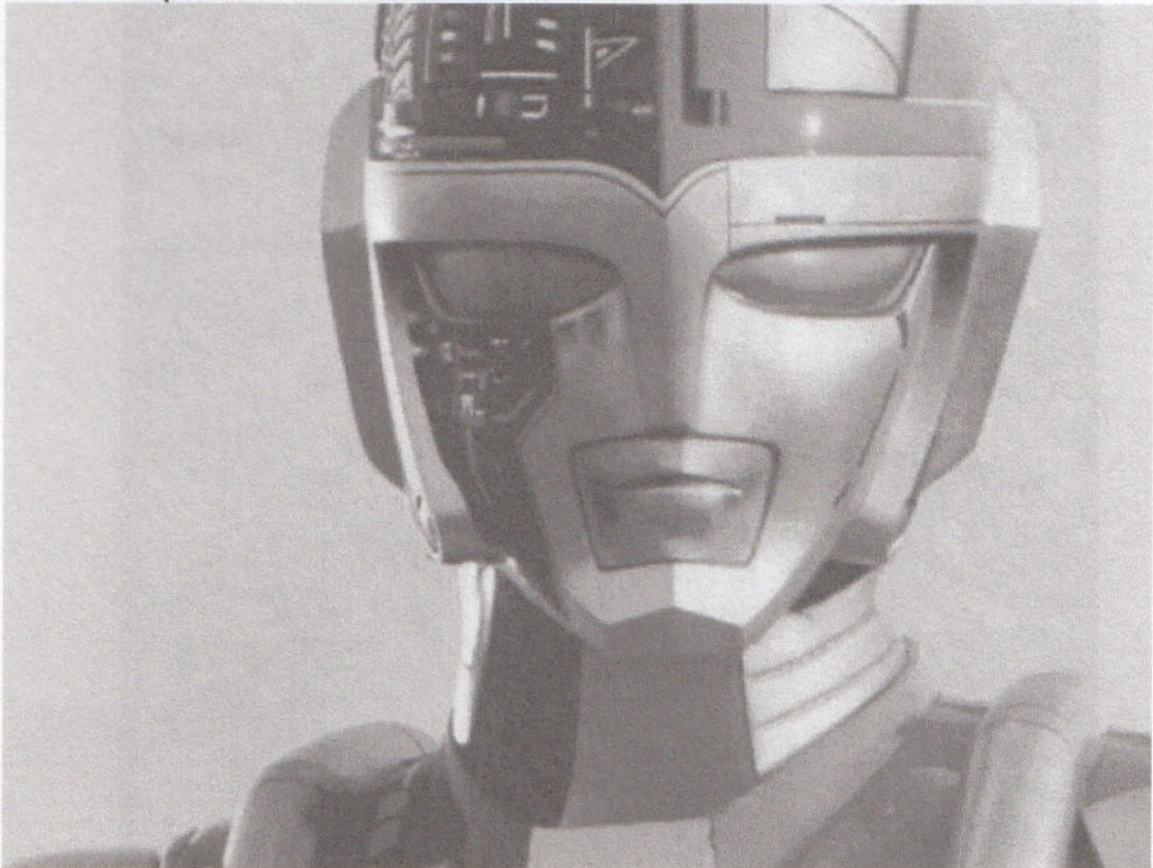
This was a remake of *Kikaida* with better effects and less action. It's not bad at all, though it seems a little rushed at the end of the series. It also lacks the action of its inspiration, and like *Kamen Rider Black*, Metaldar gets beat up a lot before making his comeback. This can be used to show how powerful your opponent is, but it should not happen that often as it makes the hero look weak.

In fact, the feeling and look of both this show and *Kamen Rider Black* are very similar. Both series play up the fish out of water sort of element in the first several episodes. Even their human forms have similar attire.

"Cover me in the darkness of night!"

The costumes are all well done, especially for the villains. Metalder moves well, but his costume looks rather clunky, especially when compared to his inspiration. I know they wanted him to look more robotic, but something is off in the overall design. It has a rather plastic look, rather than the metallic they were going for. It's a little bulky, especially compared to the sleek look of Topgunder.

Portions of this show later turned up in Saban's *VR Troopers*, with similar lousy dialog as the Power Rangers had everyone endure. The show had a similar plot line running through it, but I couldn't watch more than 2 or 3 episodes. It didn't help they mashed it up with one of the Space Sheriffs either.



This show has really grown on me. I didn't think I would like it as much as I did. I love *Kikaida* and while this isn't quite that good, it's really well put together. The two leads work well together and have good chemistry with each other. Even the villains have interesting stories. There are many subplots about love and redemption that I was pleasantly surprised to see here.

The fight scenes were also better than I thought they would be. They are not up to JAC 70s standards, but the special effects tend to enhance the action, rather than overshadow it. This can only be considered a plus for the show overall.

There are two episodes that feature several JAC graduates, and many were in other shows. These episodes are top-notch as far as the action and the stunts for this series, that's for sure.



The Heroes:

- **Ryusei Tsurugi/Metaldar-** he drives the Metal Charger car and rides the Side Phantom motorcycle. His binary computer brain is able to figure out his enemies' weaknesses quickly during battle. He enjoys playing the saxophone (usually his own theme song).



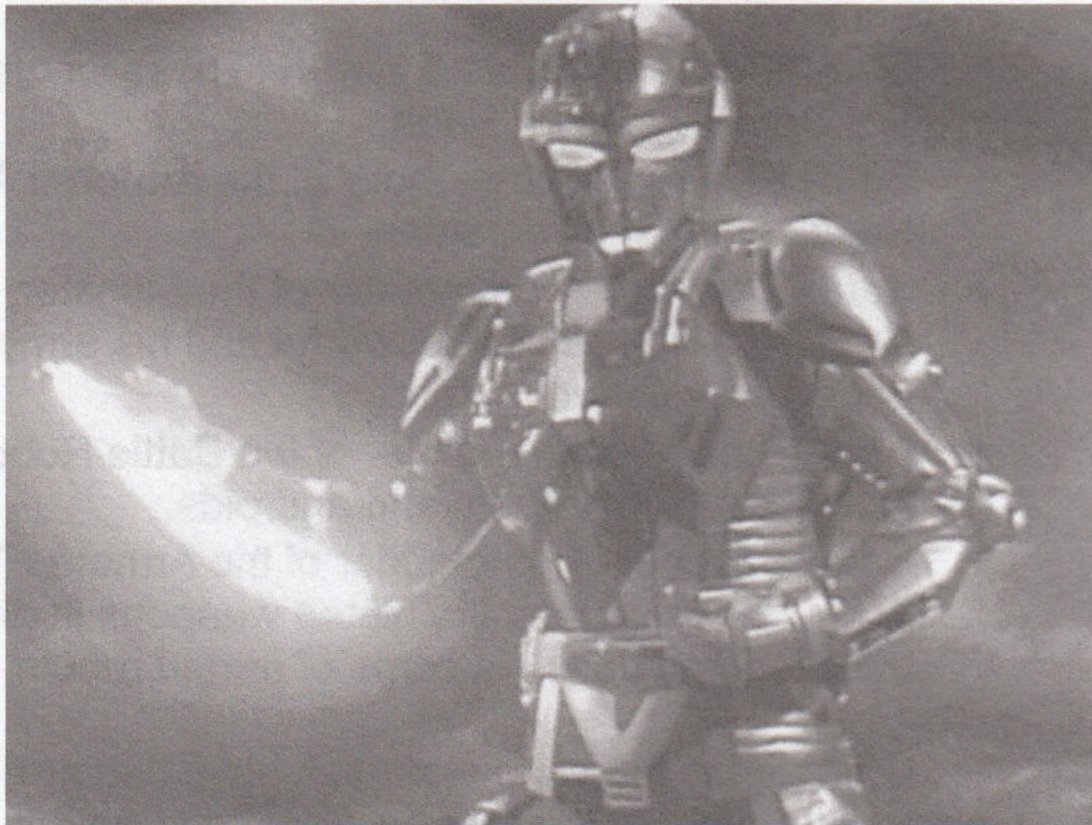
- **Springer-** the android dog left by Dr. Koga to help Ryusei out. He can speak and knows robotics. He is the cybernetics engineer who repairs Metalder if he gets injured while fighting.



- **Mai Ogi-** a reporter/photographer who is interested in Ryusei and knows he is an android. She rides a scooter of some kind and obviously develops feelings for Ryusei.
- **Topgunder-** a mysterious robot who fights with honor. He leaves Neros to fight by Metalder's side. He is killed by Neros in ed #37. His appearance is an homage to *Hakaider the Destroyer* which should be apparent to all viewers.
- **Hakko Kita-** a Grand Prix Racer, and a rival for Mai's affections. He joins the fight against Neros when Metalder saves his life.
- **Shinjo Ogi-** Mai's reporter father who shows up to help battle Neros late in the series.

Metalder's Weapons:

- **Laser Arm-** when activated it can slice through most of the robot adversaries. It does drain a lot of Metalder's energy.

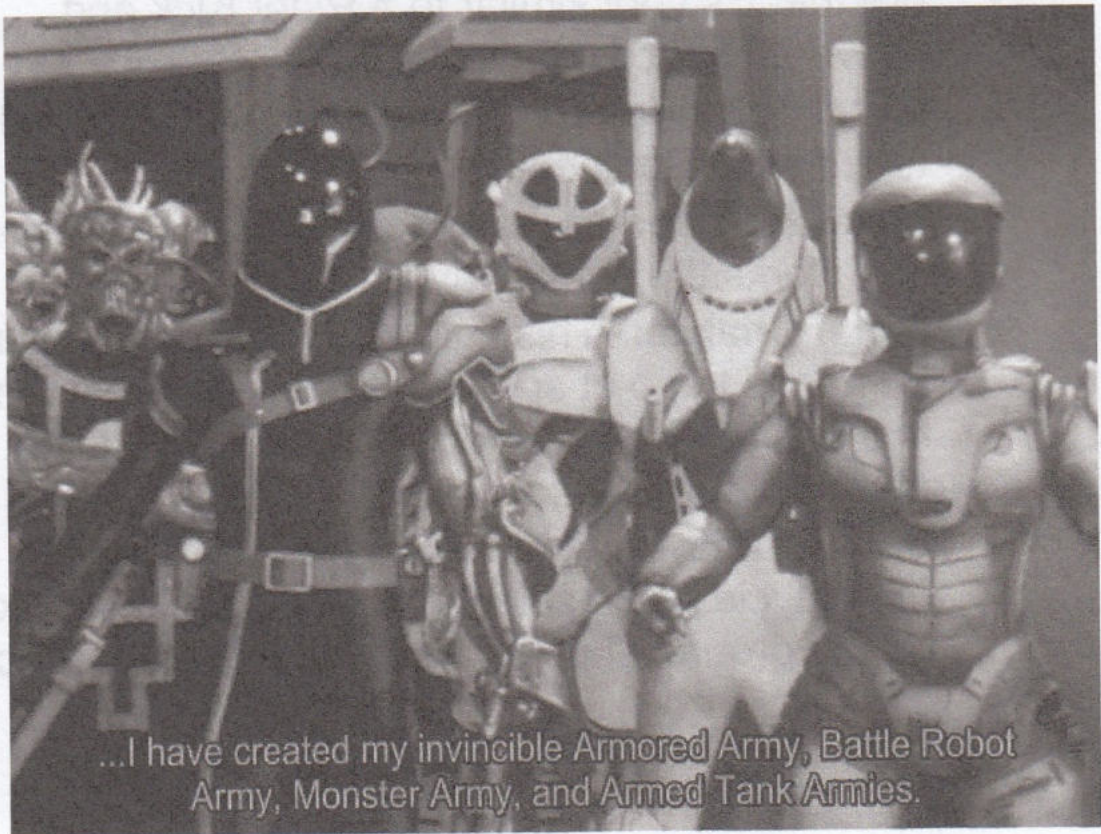


- **G Kick-** it's very similar to a Rider Kick and delivered exactly the same way.
- **Metal Tornado-** This is a spinning kick that adds to the power of the strike.
- **Metal Bomber-** looks exactly like the 01 Driver and works the same way.
- **Metal Charger-** This car can take Ryusei where he needs to go at speeds of 700 km/h and can fly in the air with a top speed of Mach 2.5. It is a normal-looking car.
- **Side Phantom-** This very familiar-looking motorcycle has a sidecar. It can travel at 900km/h on the ground and can fly at speeds up to Mach 3.

The Villains-

- **God Neros/Gozo Kiriwara**- he runs the Kiriwara Concern as a human and rules the robot world. He plays the violin to relax, much like his Roman namesake.
- **Beautiful Secretaries S and K**- These women are Gozo's spies on Earth.
- **Saint Koolgin**- Commander of the Armored Army. He is a master swordsman.
- **Saint Geldring**- Commander of the Monster Army. He is physically powerful and his army is genetically altered mutants.
- **Saint Balsky**- Commander of the Battle Robot Army. He leads robots and androids.
- **Saint Dranger**- Commander of the Armored Tank Army. He has many implanted weapons in his body, and so does his corps of armed robots.

Often times the various armies have battles amongst members to see who will fight Metalder next.



The Episodes:

1. **Hurry to the Hundred Demon World-** Professor Koga returns to Japan. God Neros sends his armies out to kill him.
2. **Neros Rises-** Metalder explores his home and new powers and defeats Barbary and Golchak.
3. **The Hammer Man Ben K-** Mai is showing Ryusei around Tokyo when Ben K attacks him.
4. **Torpedo Agmis-** Agmis, Chuubo, Gamadorn and Topgunder are sent out to destroy Metalder.



5. **Endure it! Never Miss Gunplay-** Topgunder is sent out to assassinate Metalder.
6. **KO the Heavyweight Champion Galdos-** Neros sends out his hordes to kill Topgunder.
7. **The Fiery Duel with the Tag Brothers-** Metalder has to contend with a team of armored brothers.
8. **The Secret of the Iron Mask-** Barlock is sent out to kill Metalder.

9. **The Dreaming Monster!** Hedogross wants to get married to a slave girl named Wisdom.
10. **The Musician Robot's Violin Attack-** Rhapsody is modified and sent out to destroy Metalder.
11. **The Legend Soars into the Sky!** Kidbull wants Bigwayne to make him a stronger fighter.
12. **The Beloved Monster, the Circling Ninja!** Metalder protects a vengeful Wisdom, but it might be a trap...



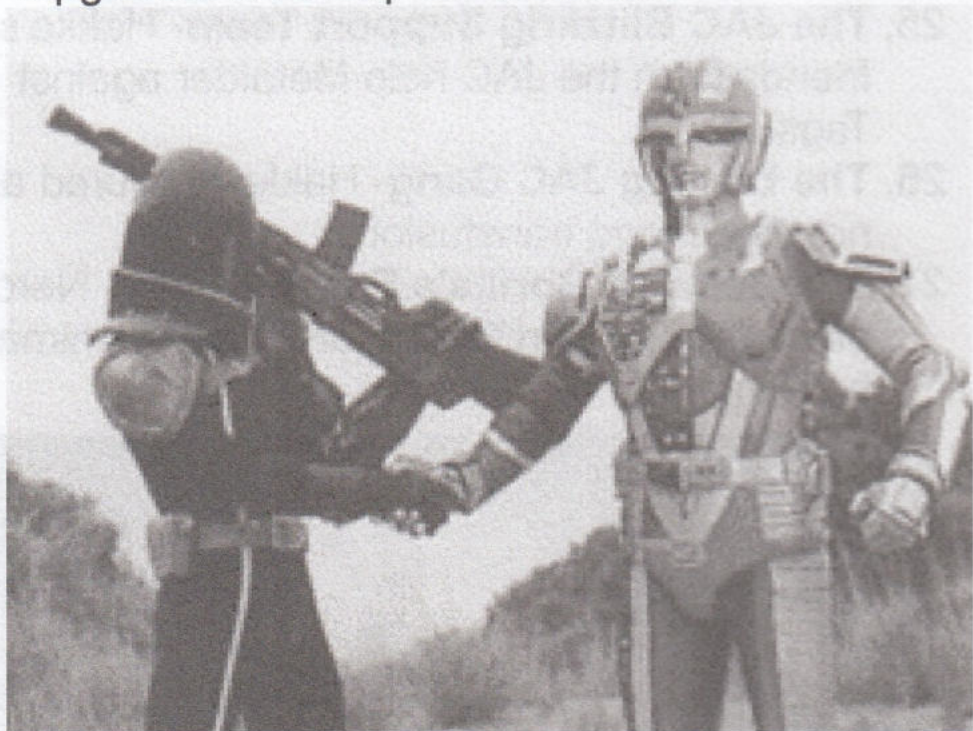
13. **The Critical Moment!** Koolgin sends Hidoman to rob a bank vault full of gold.
14. **The Sad Soldier Madonna-** Yuriko sells her body to Neros to pay for her sister's operation.
15. **Son, Hear your Mother's Plea!** Wisdom is afraid for her son's life as Junior tries to avenge Hedogross.
16. **The Rival for Love is a Revving Biker-** Crosslander is sent out to kill Topgunder.
17. **Run, One-Eyed Dragon Topgunder-** the revived Crosslander is sent out again to kill Topgunder.
18. **Mai's Secret Information-** Zargen uses archives from WWII Japan to draw Metalder into a trap.

19. **Summer Vacation is an Adventure Tour to the Ghostbank-** Metalder finds a way into the Ghostbank.
20. **The Fire Breathing Armed Tank-** Destar X1 uses puppies to lure Metalder into a trap.
21. **The Girl Who Summons Fireflies-** Jamune uses Keiko to kidnap children.
22. **The Flying Roller Skaters! The Red Dolphins Attack-** Jahs has set his sights on Metalder.
23. **The Army Wide Athletic Contest-** Robinken is given a secret mission during the contest.
24. **The Magic Battle between Princess Tenko and Garador-** Garador uses magic to battle Metalder.
25. **The JAC Blitzkrieg Support Team-** Hakko's friends from the JAC help Metalder against Tagslon.
26. **The Blazing JAC Gang-** Hakko is injured and needs a blood transfusion.
27. **The Beloved Gorilla's Escape Diary-** Neros plans the Gorigon Operation to make animals kill humans.



Almost instantly, he changes into Super Android Metalder.

- 28. **The Beautiful Thief-** Red Panther's diamond stealing ways bring her to the attention of Neros.
- 29. **The Tale of a Sad Stray Dog-** Neros turn a German Shepard into a monster.
- 30. **Protect the Secret Base!** A boy has to keep Ryusei's lair a secret from Neros.
- 31. **Target the Transformation-** Neros uses a girl bomb ploy to destroy Metalder.
- 32. **The Legend of the Century Beauty-** St Gelding looks for a legendary flower to give him the strength to defeat Metalder.
- 33. **Escape into Warm Friendship-** Neros uses Topgunder as a trap for Metalder.



- 34. **The Thousand Faces of Emperor Neros-** Mai's father, Shingo, arrives with information about Neros.
- 35. **Who is Emperor Neros?** Shingo is led into a trap by Neros.
- 36. **The Battle Robot Army-** Neros sends out a hypnotized Shingo in Tagsky's armor to battle Metalder.
- 37. **The Great Collapse of the Neros Empire-** Metalder and Topgunder invade the Ghostbank.

38. **The Wasteland of Love and Hatred-** Koolgin sends Balsky out to battle Metalder.
 39. **Great Final Battle! Metalder Forever-** Metalder makes the ultimate sacrifice to save the world.
- **Metalder: The Movie-** God Neros decides that the one to defeat Metalder will be the one who inherits his power if he were to perish from an illness or otherwise. This causes his commanders to attack Metalder *en masse*, with rather predictable results. This 20-minute movie takes place between episodes 17 and 18. Ryusei and Mai are the only humans appearing in this rather action-packed movie. There's an homage to the great Bruce Lee in here as well.

The series held my attention for most of the episodes, and the ending surprised me, as I figured they would go for one very similar to *Jinzo Ningen Kikaida*. I enjoyed the series more than I thought I would since it was made when the action was being toned down in favor of the special effects.



38. The Wasteland of Love and Hatred - Koolha
sends Basky out to battle Metalder.
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• Metalder: The Movie - God Heros decides that
the one to defeat Metalder will be the one who



Mechanical Violator Hakaiden

1995

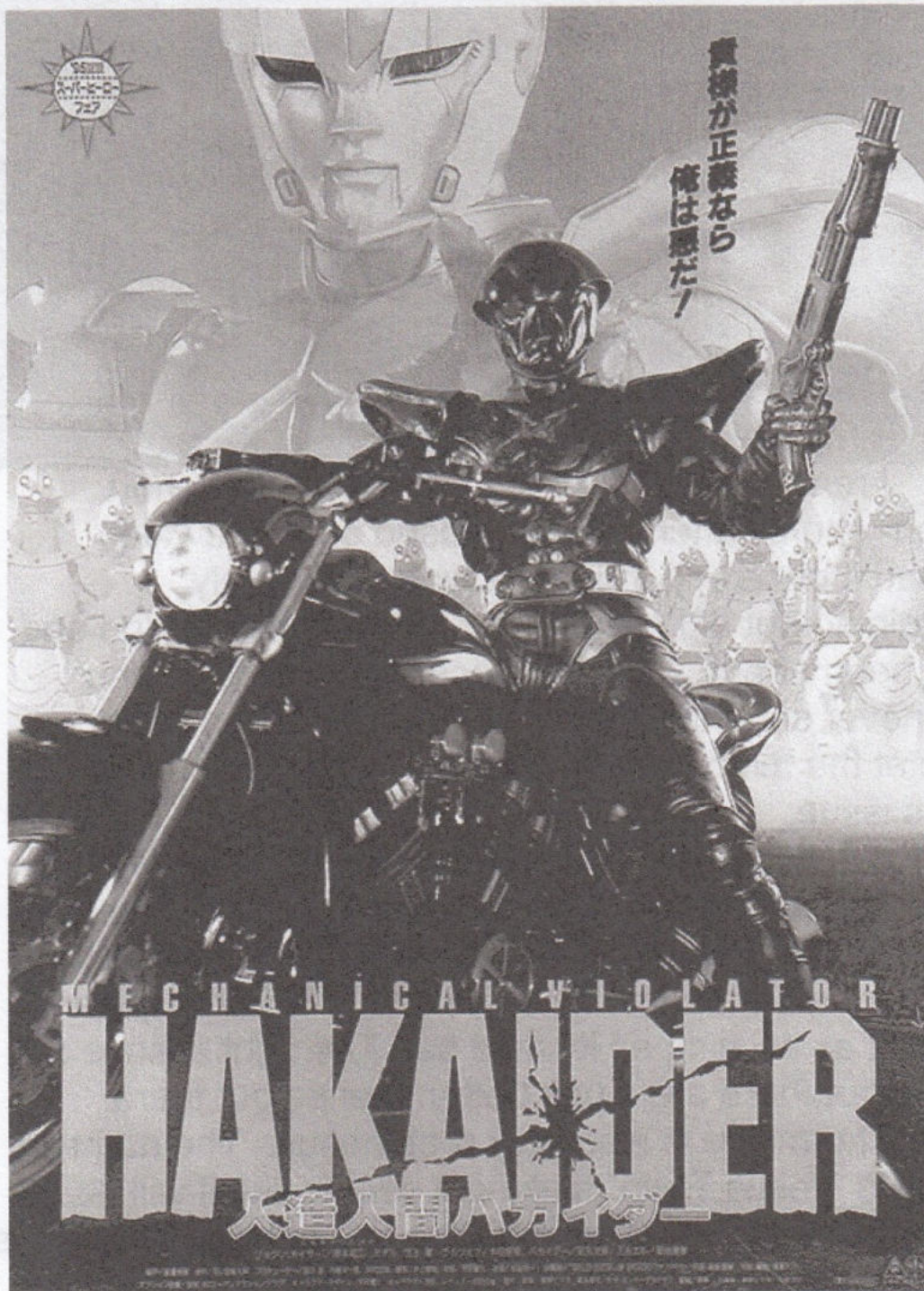
Starring: Yuki Kishimoto, Mai Hosho, Yasuaki Honda, Dai Matsumoto, Kazuhiko Inoue

Directed by Keita Amemiya

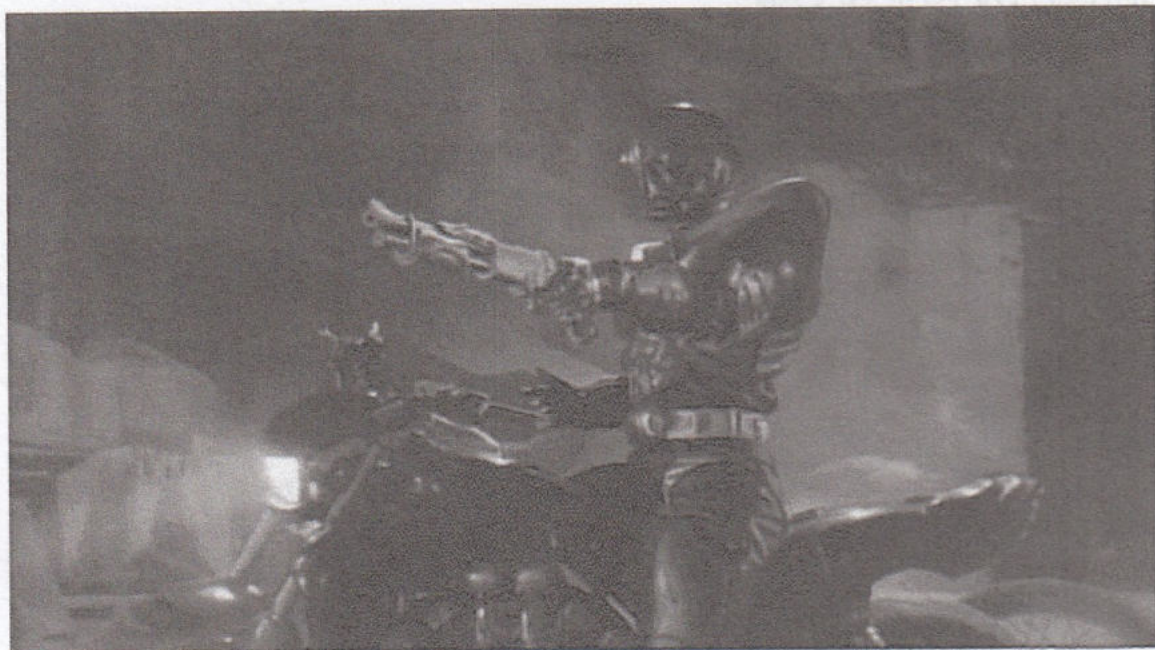
Music by Koichi Ota

51 minutes/77 minutes

AKA 人造人間ハカイダー, Jinzo Ningen Hakaida



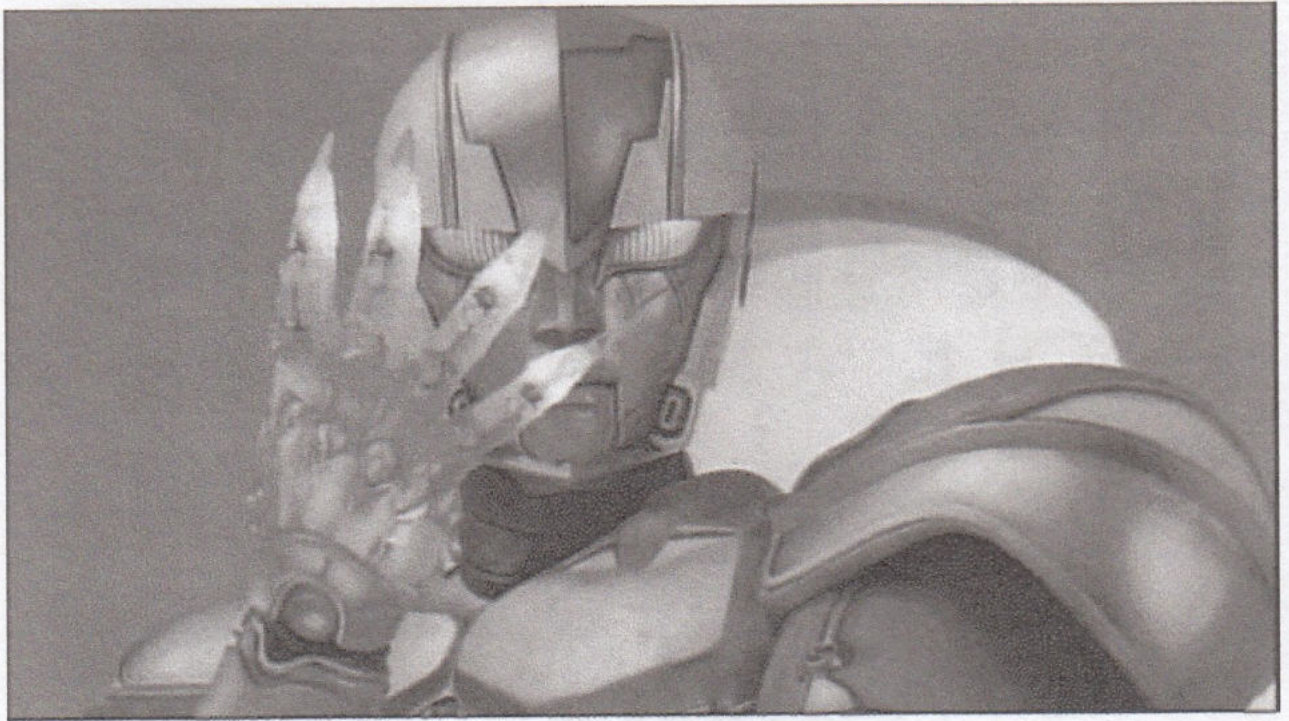
Several members of a gang break into a tomb and accidentally revive what they believe to be a man. It is not, it is an android with no memory of his past. He ends up going to Paradise and causing a lot of destruction. Eventually, he brings down the robot behind the power of the city.



I remember when I got this movie- the short version- shortly after it was released on home video. I watched it once and thought it was adequately entertaining but did not care for the “surprise” at the end. It has been nearly 20 years since I have seen it, and I have never seen the director’s cut. It is on Amazon Prime at the moment, so I figured I would watch it again for this issue.

It is very pretty to look at, at least the parts that aren’t shot in the dark. One can easily see the Amemiya touch. Everything looks far more organic now, despite Hakaider being an android. The action is very stylized, so it isn’t as exciting as it could be. The fight scenes are decent, but there are much better scenes out there.

The movie is also very pretentious. The name of the city is “Jesus Town” making it seems like it will be the perfect place to live. That isn’t too heavy-handed at all, is it? Since everything is reversed as part of the plot twists,

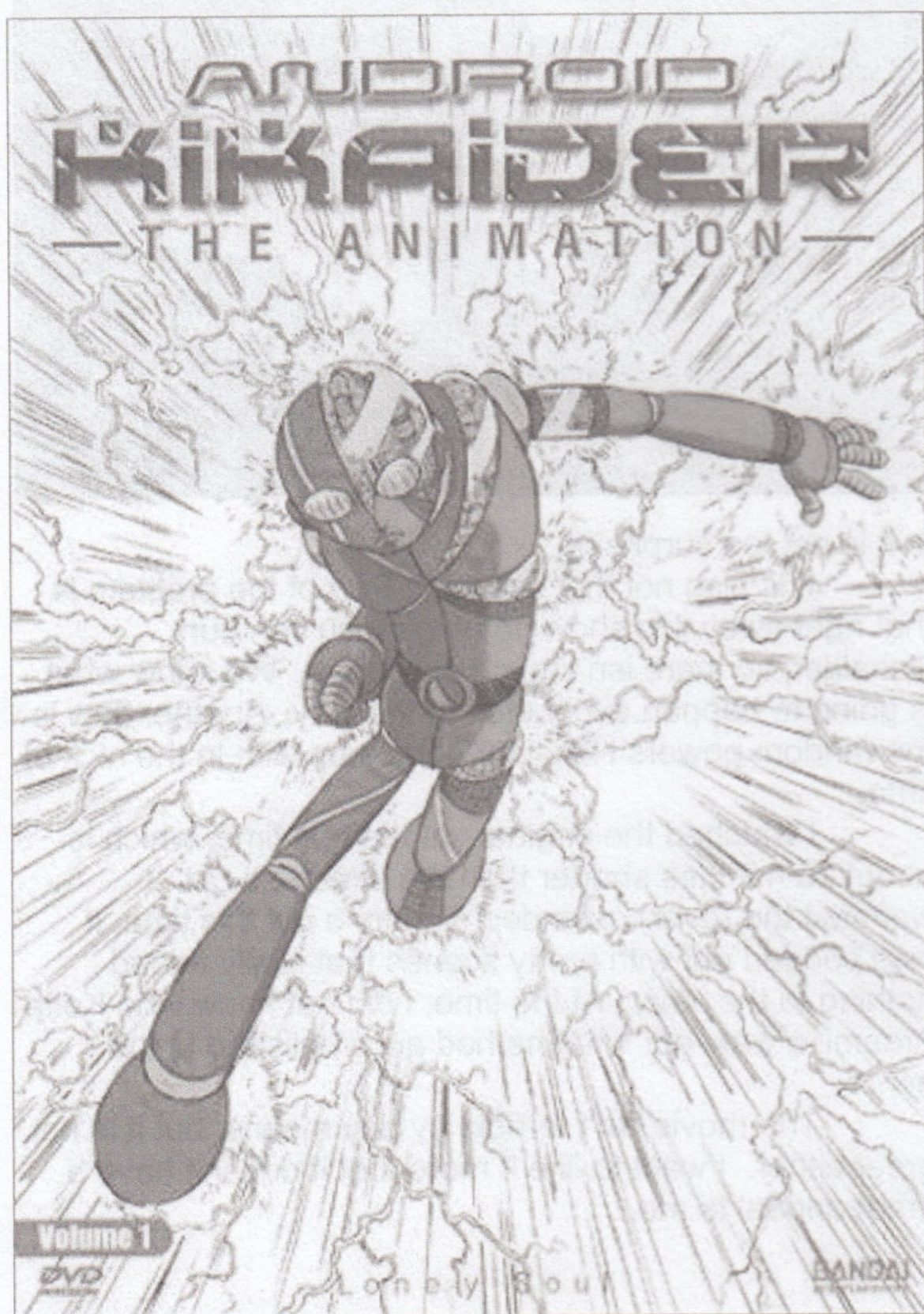


this is not too surprising.

It is also not that exciting. Part of the problem is that right away it is show nothing much can hurt Hakaider, so there isn't much suspense. We know what is going to happen every step of the way. Another flaw is the random powers Hakaider comes up with in the nick of time.

I watched the original cut the first time, which is about 25 minutes shorter than the director's cut. I watched the (over) extended director's cut this time, it was padded out with pretty scenes that really added nothing to the story. At the time, I did not know who Keita Amemiya was, nor what he had accomplished in the genre.

The movie isn't terrible by any means, but it is not great either. I want to like it more, but it doesn't have a great appeal to me.



Android Kikaider: The Animation

October 16, 2000, to January 8, 2001

Directed by Keitaro Motonaga

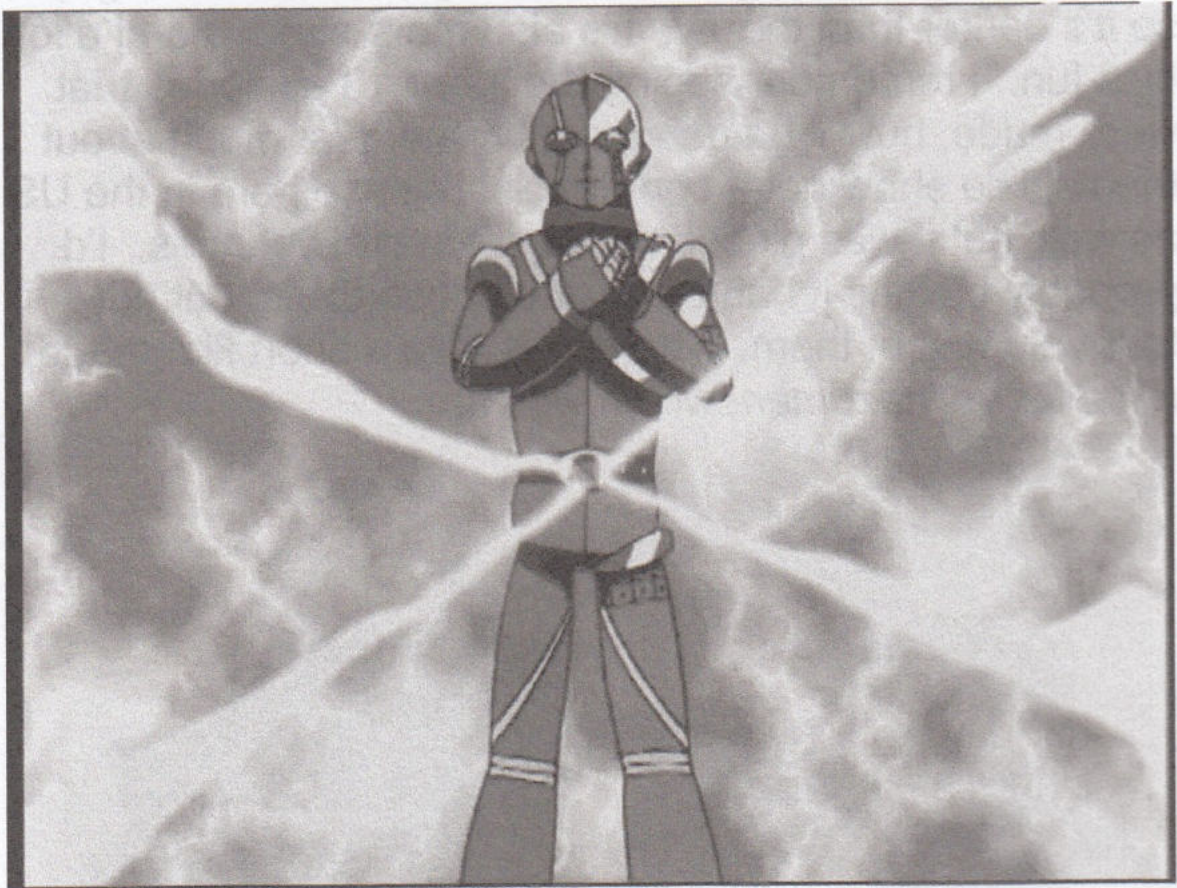
starring: Tomokazu Seki, Yui Horie, Yumiko Kobayahshi,
Shozo Iizuka, Shinji Ogawa,
music by Akira Mitake

This is a straightforward adaption of the manga, so it's darker than the TV. It's also more serious and a lot less fun. I remember seeing the 12 or 13 episodes that were made, but I'll be damned if I remember much about them. The show got a commercial release here in the US as well, but it was pieced out over several volumes. I'd probably buy it if it had been one or two discs, but not four volumes of them. There was also a short film made, *Kikaider vs Inazuman*, which was fun.



The designs are pure Ishinomori this time, rather than updated and more realistic styles that were popular and overly prevalent in Japanese animation at the time. It certainly is a good-looking cartoon. I like the designs a lot, much more than how many Japanese cartoons look these days.

The sequel is a continuation of this series, only adding more androids to the mix. I will review that show separately, though.



The problem with this series is it is too slow and far too pretentious for its own good.

The Episodes:

1. Lonely Puppet
2. Mad Machine
3. Stray Sheep
4. Mirror
5. City of Rain
6. Negative Fragments
7. Afterglow of Regret
8. Blue Moon, Red Dreams
9. Friends
10. Frozen Bonds
11. The Destroyer
12. The Machine That Dreams
13. The End of the Dream



Kikaider 01: The Animation

November 21, 2001, to March 20, 2002

Starring: Tomokazu Seki, Sotaro Morikubo, Kazuhiko Inoue, Mitsuko Horie, Ichiro Nagai, Shinji Ogawa, Takeshi Watabe

Directed by Keitaro Motonaga

Music by Kaoru Wada

In late 2001 Kikaider 01: the Animation was



released as a sequel to the Kikaider 12-episode series. It ran four episodes and was much darker. It's not bad, but it's closer to the original manga than the live-action series and had a very sad ending. There was a whole league of androids fighting against Big Shadow and Hakaida, with 00 being added to the mix. It all got a bit

confusing, but the animation was well done, and it looked like Ishinomori had designed it himself. It was released on DVD here in the States in March of 2004 which is when I bought it. I think I've only ever watched it once. It's truer to the manga than the live-action series, and has a triumphant ending, though not a happy one. It's very much in keeping with the original comic book ending.

It's far more a continuation of the above cartoon, rather than a true series. It isn't nearly as self-important as the first series, and it is a lot more action-packed.

Jiro gets two new brothers, 01 (written Zero-One in the subtitles) and OO (called exactly that). These androids have no conscience circuit and are dedicated to their mission before being kind to humans. OO has a lot in common with Robot K, as he has a finishing move that unleashes a lot of firepower in the same way K does. I would have preferred the much cooler lasers than guns, though.

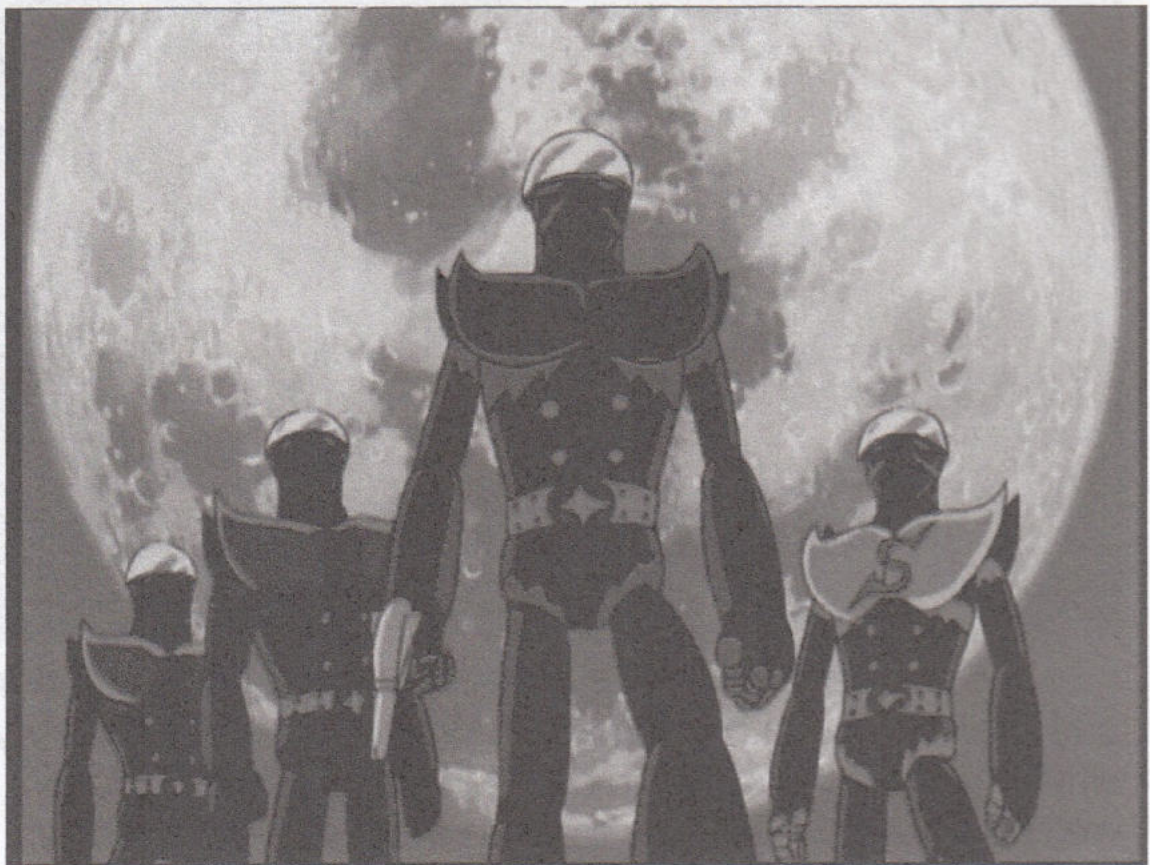
Ichiro does develop some personality by the end of the series. He is still very impetuous, though. In the long run, it doesn't matter, since by the end of the series all of the other androids lose all personality.



There are two more androids added here, Bijinder and Rieko. These are female androids, and they act very similarly to their life-action counterparts. They all work well as a team when they take on the giant Armageddon Lord in the last episode. I was surprised to find out that the great vocalist Mitsuko Horie was the voice of Bijinder.

The Episodes:

1. **Jiro Meets Ichiro-** Jiro, Rieko and Akira are being chased by Shadow robots. He meets his older brother, Ichiro, who helps them escape from Shadow.
2. **Beautiful Enemy-** Kikaider and 01 meet Bijinder, who is helping Shadow.
3. **Gill Rises Again-** Hakaider kills Rieko and kidnaps Akira. Bijinder changes sides and joins 01.
4. **The Fate of Pinocchio-** Hakaider takes over all the androids, but Jiro manages to defeat them all. He becomes human but still doesn't know his place in the world.



The Boy with the Guitar: Kikaider vs Inazuman

2002

Starring: Tomokazu Seki, Kappei Yamaguchi, Keaton Yamada, Mika Kanai, Sayuri Yoshida

Directed by Naoyuki Konno

Music by Akira Mitate, Kaoru Onishi

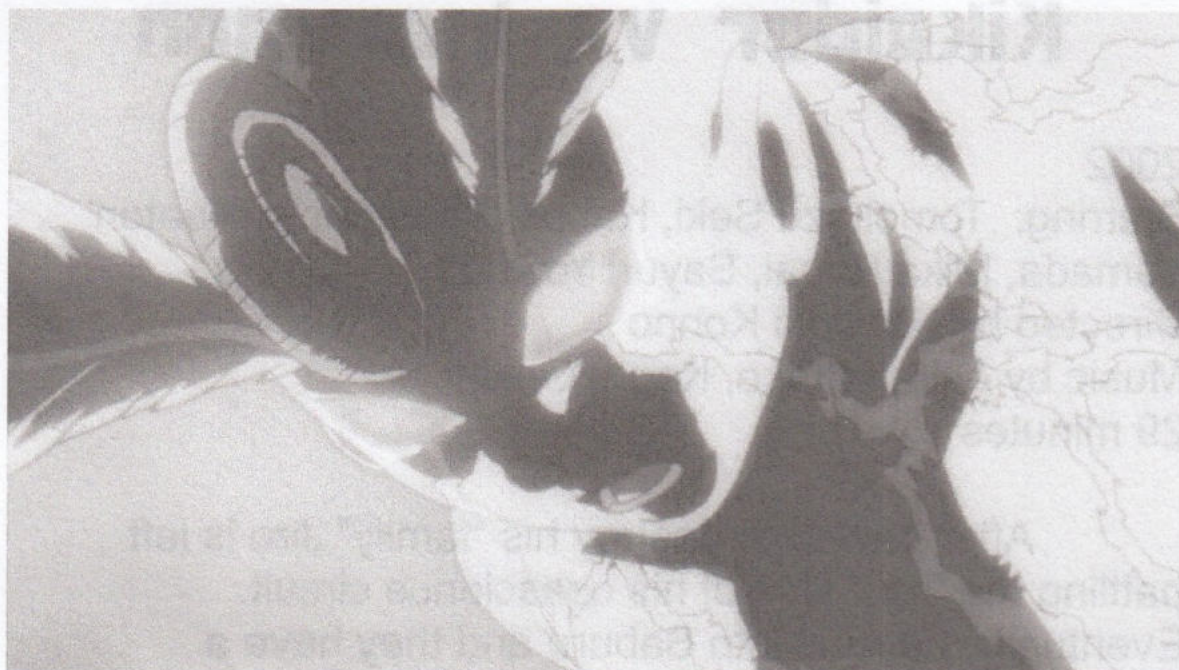
29 minutes

After having to destroy his “family” Jiro is left battling the “red” side of his conscience circuit. Eventually, he runs into Saburo and they have a philosophical discussion, of sorts. See, Jiro is guilt-ridden about what happened and is having an existential crisis. Turns out Kikaider is being manipulated by a brotherhood of evil mutants. It is a good thing Inazuman is there to help him figure things out.



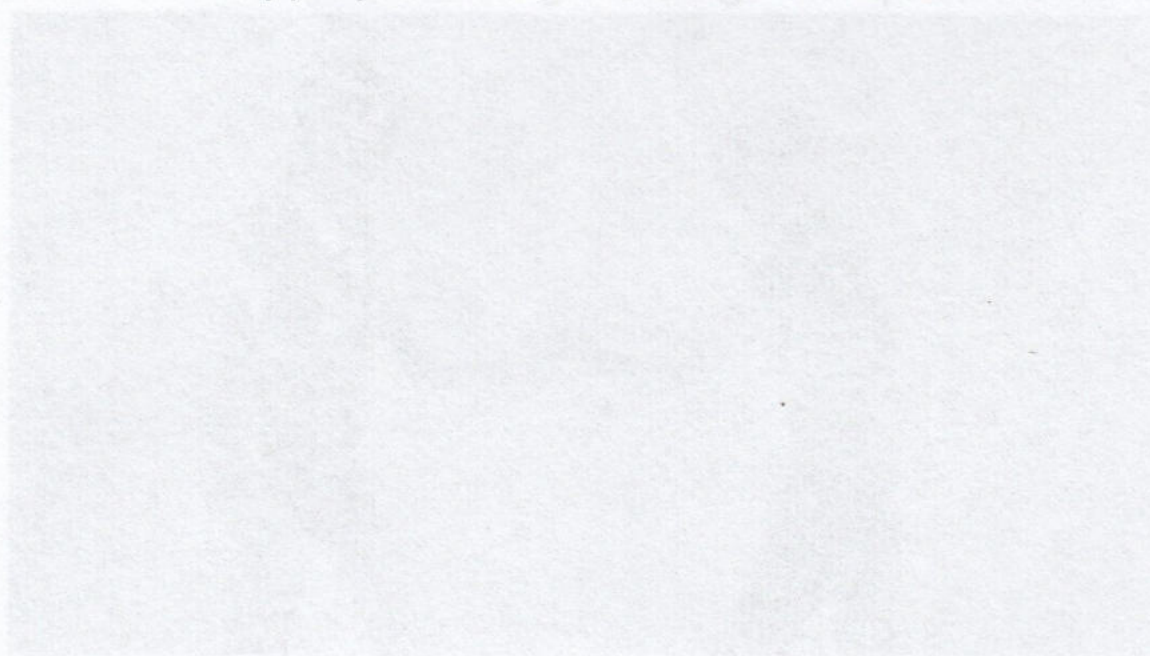
We are not given much information about Saburo and his friends, aside from the fact that Saburo is a “true” mutant and his friends have some kind of powers as well. Perhaps Inazuman was being considered for a cartoon revival as well. This unofficial 14th episode of *Kikaider*

wraps up Jiro's story, giving him a reason to continue his existence. Or something like that. It really tries hard to



be a philosophical journey into the mind of an android.

It sure is a pretty cartoon, just like the previous ones. There isn't a lot of action in it though, which sort of makes it an appropriate finale to the Kikaider cartoon.



We are not given much information about Saburo and his friends, aside from the fact that Saburo is a "true" mutant and his friends have some kind of powers as well. Perhaps this was being considered for a cartoon revival as well. This unofficial 14th episode of Kikaider

Kikaider Reboot

May 24th, 2014

Directed by Ten Shimoyama

starring: Jingi Irie, Aimi Satsukawa, Yuto Ikeda, Daisuke

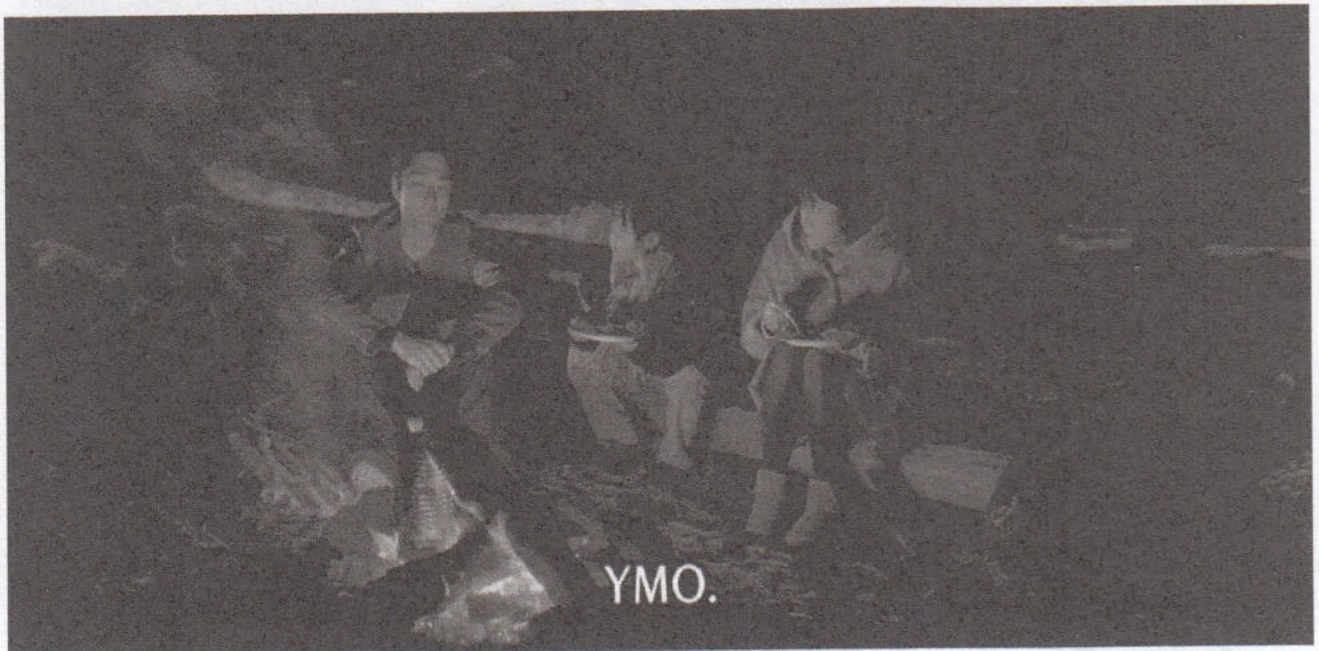
Ban, Shingo Tsurume, Maryjun Takahashi

music by Kiyoshi Yoshikawa

110 minutes

Drs. Komyoji and Gilbert are working on the ARK Project together. After Komyoji is killed, Professor Gil turns it into the DARK Project. Jiro protects Mitsuko and Masaru, the Komyoji children from various robots, even though they don't trust him. Then he turns himself into Hakaider, the Destroyer. Kikaider must find a way to stop this dark doppelganger and save humanity.

"He's not! He's a Drifters fan."



Well, it's more fun than the cartoon adaption and *Mechanical Violator Hakaider* (1995), that's for sure. I miss all the songs, though we do hear the gentle guitar theme from time to time. It's got the same premise as the series. It has been updated, as everything is a product of the time it was created.

Times have changed, though. Jiro no longer wears flared trousers, and his acoustic guitar is now a Fender Stratocaster. Much like the original generic acoustic guitar, it also holds his diagnostic equipment. A Strat, as us people that play guitar call them, is a pretty cool version of a utility belt.

I quite enjoy the young actor playing Masaru. Jiro



says he likes music, such as YMO (which draws blank looks from Masaru and Mitsuko) which is funny, since the Yellow Magic Orchestra didn't have a guitar player. They all have good chemistry with each other, much like the original cast did.

Mari is also present but does not change into Bijinder. She didn't need to change into a robot form, since she was more powerful than Jiro in her human form. She tears off his arm in their battle.

The movie could be lit a little better. It's saturated in blue hues for the most part, and all the other colors are so muted the scenes are hard to make out on a smaller screen. The action scenes are well done, though there is of course a little too much of the "bullet time" speed



up/slow down nonsense going on. The lighting does the fights no favors, either.

The final battle goes on too long without any cutaways to the human characters to give the viewer a break from the action. This will wear down anyone watching it. And of course, Kikaider doesn't yell out his finishing moves, since that would be silly to modern viewers these days.

Hakaider comes across well, at least and is back to his malevolent self. He does have Professor Gilbert's brain in him, rather than Komyoji, but that makes more sense in the long run. There is no Saburo in this movie.



The cast is quite good. Ban Daisuke shows up to help repair Jiro and return him to fighting form. It was a nice tribute to the original Jiro.

The movie is set up for a sequel, but that never happened. Kikader had shown up in *Kamen Rider Gaim* episode #30 to whet the audience's appetite for this movie.

I would watch a sequel, if it wasn't a downer.

Home Video Releases:

In an odd twist of fate, nearly everything in this issue has been released on home DVD. Only *Metaldar* and *Kikaider vs Inazuman* have not been released in the United States. And if you know where to look, you can find those in subtitled form.

Kikaida and Kikaida 01 got the best releases, full of extras and even two subtitle tracks (one without swears, go figure). August Ragone worked with Generation



Kikada to help make the sets. The first series was released in the US in nine volumes from 2003 to 2004, and *Kikaida 01* was released in 2008. This was a six-volume set. These are a bit pricey but are still available from Amazon or the website.

Both of the cartoon series were released in 2000-2002. They also had DVD releases as well. They appear to be well out of publication now and cost an exorbitant amount of money.



OutTakes-

Dai Sharin Nage! It was so satisfying to watch the entire run of *Jinzo Ningen Kikaida* and realize it was a really good series. I had wanted to watch it since I saw the article in FM #114, but never thought I ever would. Thank goodness for VHS tape traders back in the day. The episodes were rarely in order, but it was always fun to get a taste of the various series available at the time.



It is too bad that we can't get these shows on one of those new channels. It has been ages since Kikaida was aired in Hawaii. When I visited Hawaii in 2000, I looked all over the place for anything Kikaida related but to no avail. I was two years early. It is hard to believe that it has been twenty years since then now.

There still may be a few more issues for the thirtieth anniversary year coming up! Denji End!

Stay tuned!

X7



The 30th anniversary year of *Xenorama* continues, and we are marching to the awesome 50th issue with great speed! We can hardly believe that, but that's the facts, Jack. This has been a hanner year for us and we thank all of you for being there! Stay tuned for more fun and excitement from one of the world's longest running fanzines!

Kikaida battles the evil Professor Gil and his army of DARK Destructiods. He is an android with an incomplete conscience circuit, which, like most humans, is his weak point. Kikaida has never been as popular as his Kamen Rider cousins. At least in Japan. In Hawaii, it was a completely different story. In the mid-70s the series was aired (along with the sequel, *Kikaida 01*) in Hawaii, and took the state by storm. It is a great series, so here is a nice guide to both of them and more, including remakes, reboots and homages. SWITCH ON for fun with the Kikaida Brothers!



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