

Xenorama

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the Journal of Heroes and Monsters

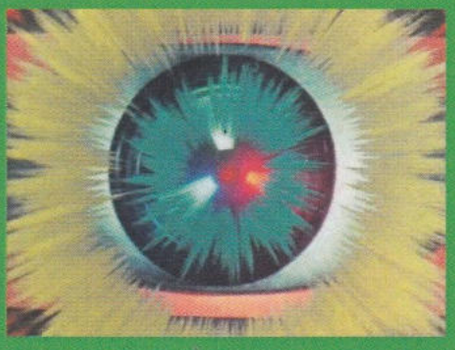


The Original Kamen Rider!

The Series!

The Movies!





Xenorama presents Kamen Rider 52nd Year Anniversary!

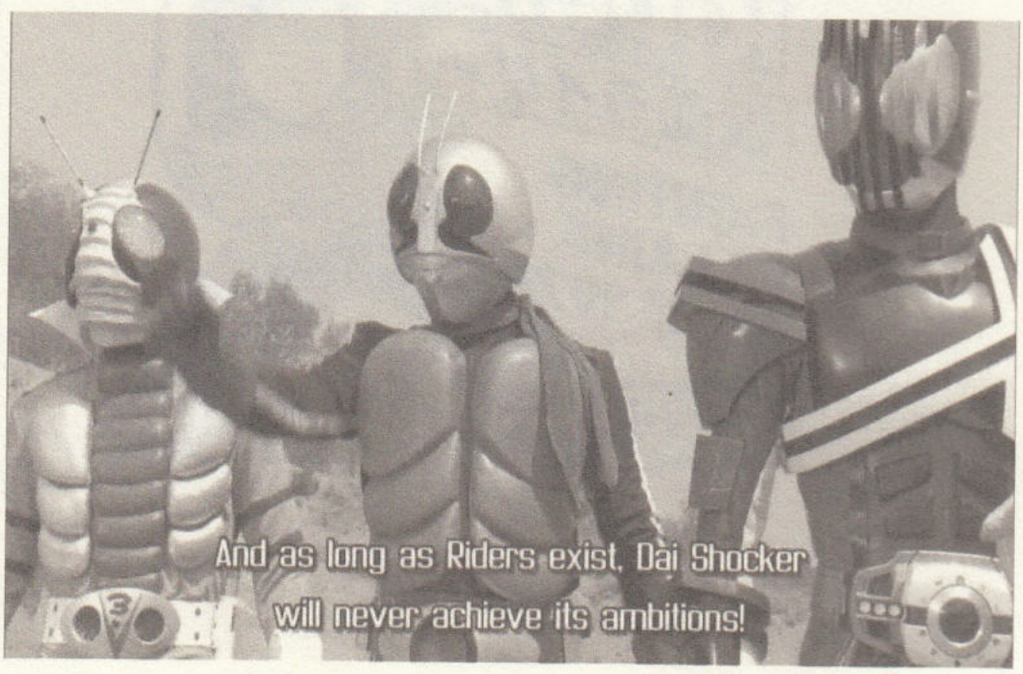


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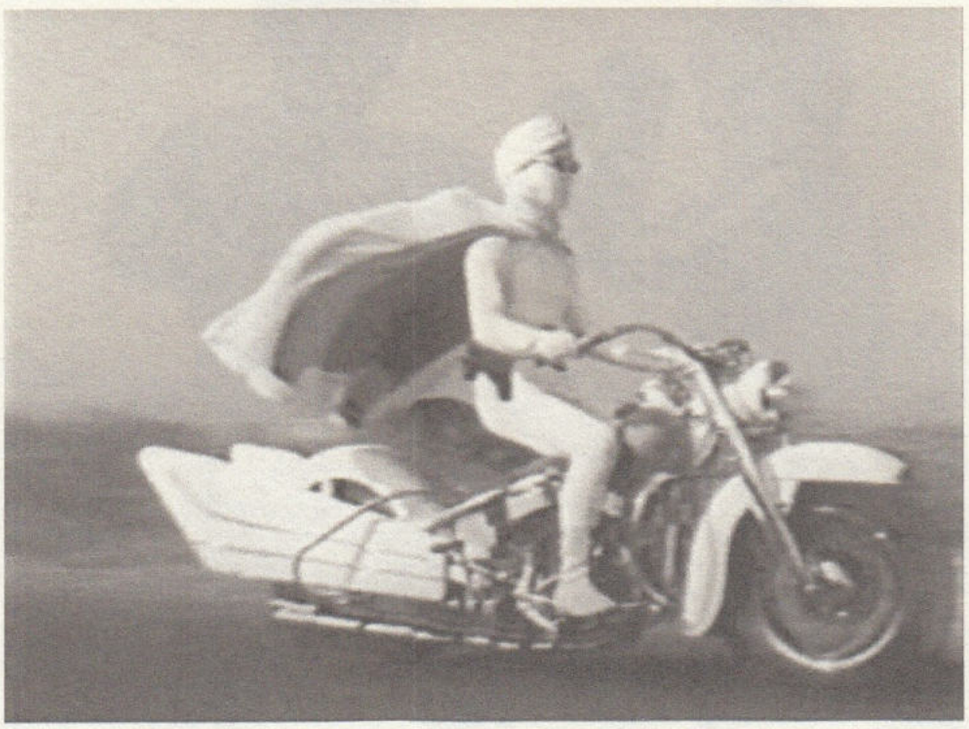
"I'm just a passing-through Kamen Rider. Remember that!"
Tsukasa Kadoya



Still dedicated to Igadevil and Mr. Owari

InTakes:

Here is another handy dandy guide for a Japanese superhero show. Since I have done one for Ultraman, this one will be all about the first Kamen Rider Series. It is one of the longest superhero shows ever made, with a whopping 98 episodes to its credit.



There are many influences for Kamen Riders, but one of the main ones was Gekko Kamen, the man in the moonlight mask. He debuted on television in 1958 with a whopping 131 episodes. It was only canceled after a child died while imitating his hero's actions.

Now that many of these shows are showing up on Pluto TV, this is a handy guide to this original run. Who would ever have thought it would be needed? Pluto TV has the TokuSHOUTsu channel, which is sponsored by

SHOUT! Factory. They do not number the episodes of their shows, though, at least in the guides they show on Pluto TV. They do provide the names of the episodes, at least.



Kamen Rider

April 3rd, 1971, to February 10th, 1973
Toei
created by Shotaro Ishinomori
starring: Hiroshi Fujioka, Takeshi Sasaki, Akiji Kobayashi, Jiro Chiba, Goro Naya, Hideyo Amamoto, Shinji Nakae
music by Shunsuke Kikuchi
98 episodes, 2 movies

A great evil organization called Shocker rises up to conquer the world. Shocker will use cybernetic creatures to spread terror. To do this they capture and brainwash people from all over the world. Then they are turned into monsters.



Unfortunately, this fails with two of their subjects, and the Kamen Riders are born.

This is the show that started the "Henshin" Hero boom of the 70s. Shotaro Ishinomori already had created cyborg superheroes before this, notably *Cyborg 009*, but this was his first huge success. The show relied on action far more than special effects and also had one central villain instead of a different menace per week. Toei did make use of some special effects here and there, but they were not quite the same as what Tsuburaya was doing. The effects are often in camera and make this show look like an old US serial at times (and there's nothing wrong with that!).

The first 13 or so episodes are really interesting to watch since Toei hadn't gotten the formula down. The henchmen don't wear masks, they have makeup on their faces; the monsters don't explode; the deaths are rather grisly. The masks for the kaijin expose the suit actors' eyes



Takeshi Hongo is the cyborg, Kamen Rider.

as well. The fights are incredibly energetic but would get better choreographed as the series progressed. The suits also changed as well, getting more complex. The half-face masks showed up in episode 6, and then the full masks showed up in episode 14. The monsters didn't explode at first, they would melt or fade away or something else. Even the henchmen would fade out when they got killed.

These episodes are also rather dark in tone and look. There is a horror movie vibe about them and the Shocker Kaijin terrify people when they attack. Then there is the immense, almost palpable, sense of relief from both the members of the audience and the people in the show when Kamen Rider shows up to foil their plans.

Hiroshi Fujioka had a good, somber presence, and took the role seriously. He would reprise it in many later shows as well. He was a good actor and knew when to lighten up and when to have the dark look. He gave Hongo gravitas early on when he lamented about losing his humanity as a cyborg. He must have had some kind of martial arts training, as his kicks were high and sharp.

Fujioka originally did most of his own stunts, which resulted in a severe leg break while on his motorcycle. This was around the middle of the first arc, and Takeshi did not appear in human form for a few episodes. After this, Toei wisely decided not to let their stars do motorcycle stunts in or out of costume. Story-wise, Takeshi went to Europe to battle Shocker there. Fujioka only makes stock appearances in episodes 11, 12, and 13, and his voice is dubbed in by someone else.

It is explained he is training hard for racing and studying for school.

This brought on Hayato Ichimonji, Rider 2, or Nigo, as he tends to be known now. This is where the traditions of the show actually began- the "henshin" phrase and the gestures. He was also the product a Shocker experiment which failed as Takeshi rescued him before it was completed. He took over fighting Shocker in Japan while Takeshi was in Europe. Hayato is not as somber as Hongo and is more playful with the Rider Girls.

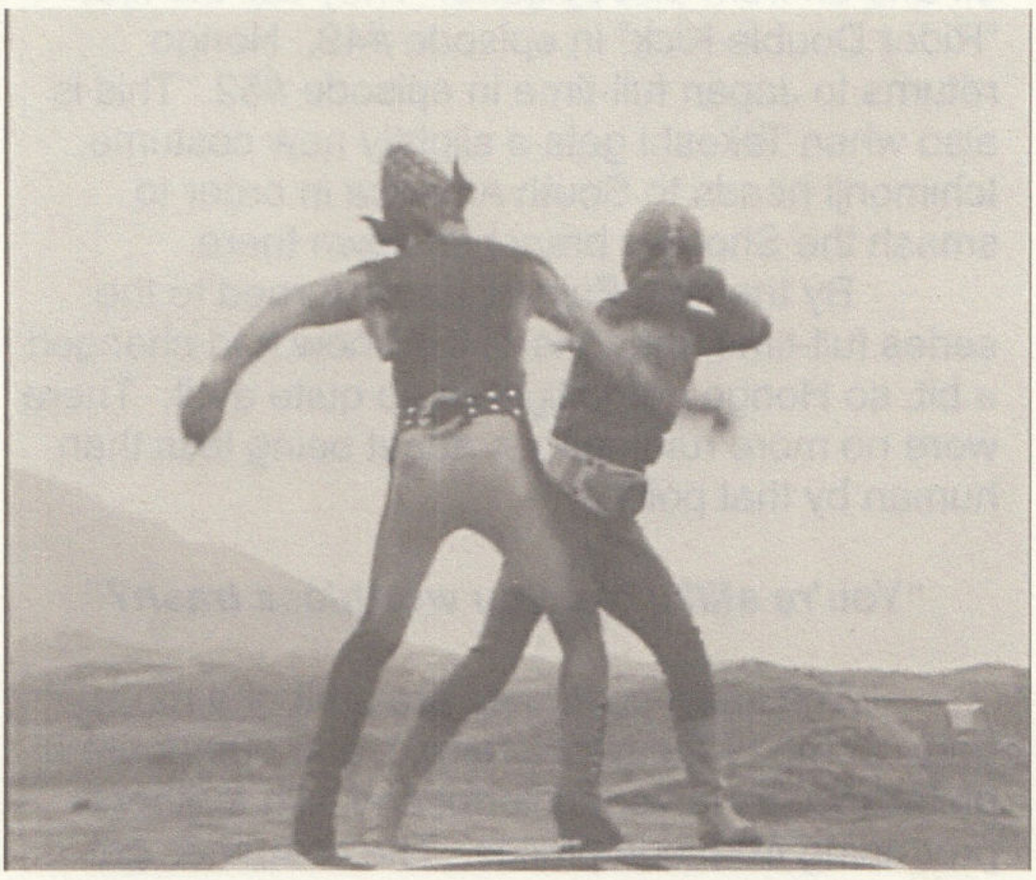


This started in episode 14, and it's even advertised as being a new beginning. The introduction has changed to reflect this as well. The Shocker henchmen now wear full face masks, which makes it easier for the same stunt actors to be used in every episode. This episode

also featured the first actual "henshin" sequence, complete with the word and a pose.

Akiji Kobayashi plays Tobei Tachibana for the first time in this series and would later play the same role as mentor to the heroes in the next six Rider series. He is also well known as Captain Mura (Muramatsu) from the original Ultraman series.

Also making his presence felt is Jiro Chiba, who would later be in many other superhero shows from Toei. He plays FBI agent Taki, who Is the most skilled martial artist in the show, and that's saying something. He never played the actual hero in these shows, but always their human allies. He's every bit as charismatic as the other leads. I wonder why he never



wanted to be a costumed hero in one of these series.

Taki is the glue that holds the show together, even more than Tobei. He's the partner who rescues the Riders on occasion and always takes on the grunts. Without him in the show, I doubt having Hongo take over from Ichimonji would have gone as smoothly.

Takeshi does show up again, in episode 40. The Double Riders then are nearly identical to each other, save for Nigo's solid white stripes on his arms and legs. Eventually, the costumes were altered enough to make them less similar. The boots and scarves would be different colored and Ichigo would get double piping on his arms and legs. The duo performs many fights together off and on from that episode. They call the first "Rider Double Kick" in episode #49. Hongo returns to Japan full-time in episode #52. This is also when Takeshi gets a slightly new costume. Ichimonji heads to South America in order to smash the Shocker branches down there.

By the time Fujioka had returned to the series full-time, the tone of the show had changed a bit, so Hongo got to lighten up quite a bit. There were no more ruminations about being less than human by that point.

"You're still alive, you worthless trash?"

The kaijin costumes are a bit of a mixed bag. Some of them look terrific, and others are a bit bizarre, as in very colorful and with feathers protruding from odd places. The costumes get better as the program progresses since the suit

makers would learn how to make them more agile and still look good.

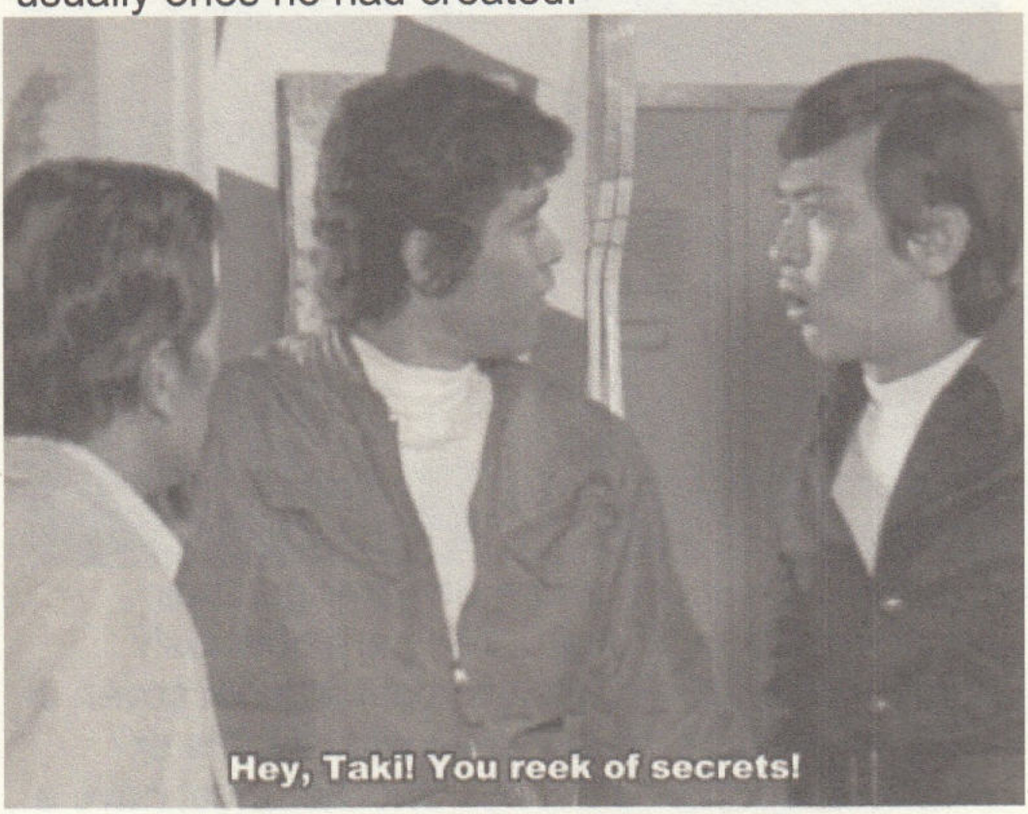


I do wonder where Shocker got their henchmen from, though. They are obviously human, and both Riders wipe out at least seven of them an episode, many times with swords or whatever weapon is handy. Shocker must have a great recruiting drive and possibly offer great pay and benefits. They do specialize with Shocker scientists and some sub-commanders, plus the throw-around grunts that every kaijin needs to carry out the plans.

In episode 80, Shocker is reorganized into Gel-Shocker, from Geldam, another organization that was training in Africa. They are still being led by the Great Leader. This was a smart decision since the costumes for the grunts were different for this group. Ichimonji would return to aid

Takeshi and Taki in finishing the villains off for good. This is when the end of the series really takes off and becomes even greater than it was before.

Kamen Rider creator Shotaro Ishinomori directs his first episode of Kamen Rider, with #84. He would later appear in various other shows, usually ones he had created.

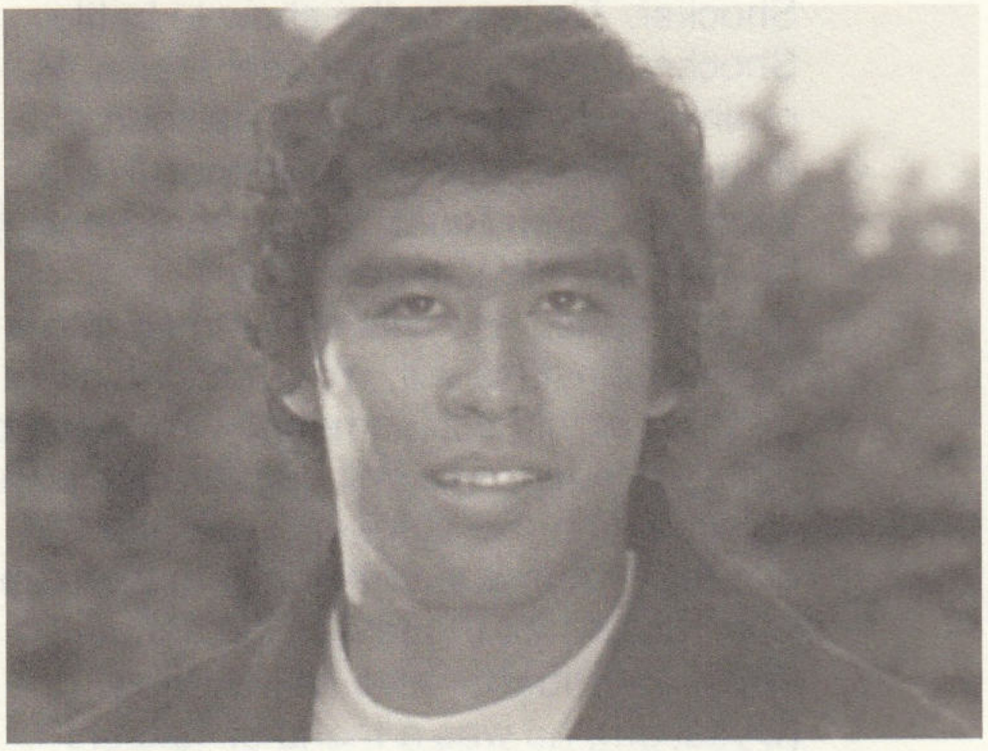


Beginning in episode #92 the Shocker Riders shows up to cause our heroes even more trouble. It's a great way to wrap up the show, especially since the Gel-Shocker idea seemed to just be prolonging it a bit past its prime. The Shocker Riders were an inspired creation though. Like the Imit-Ultraman, the evil Riders would show up in nearly every series to plague the titular Rider.

The Heroes:

- **Kamen Rider 1/Takeshi Hongo** is a biochemistry genius with a 600-point IQ and a top motorcycle rider. He was changed involuntarily to Kamen Rider by Shocker. He leaves the show to battle Shocker in other international areas. He returns to Japan full-time in episode #52.
- **Kamen Rider 2/Hayato Ichimonji**- the second Kamen Rider, saved from Shocker by Takeshi. He is a freelance photographer. He was also turned into a Rider against his will. You would think Shocker would use someone who wanted that to happen. His first appearance is in episode #14. He stars until episode #51 and then returns intermittently to team up with Takeshi for the rest of the series.
- **Tobei Tachibana**- also called Pops (Oyassan), he was a friend of Takeshi while he was in school. His dream is to win the International Grand Prix of Motocross. He is the mentor to all the Riders up to Kamen Rider Stronger. Tobei is the heart and soul of these original Rider shows.
- **Ruriko Midorikawa**- she thinks Hongo murdered her father at first. She learns she is wrong, eventually. She leaves with Hongo in episode 13 but does not return with him later on in the series.
- **Hiromi Nohara**- Ruriko's fellow student who works at Snack Amigo.

- **Taki Kazuya** - an FBI agent who is skilled at martial arts and aids both Riders often. He can take out several of the grunts but not the *kaijin*. He also gets to allow Hayato to be more mysterious since Taki is around all the time.



- **Rider Girls**- these are female members of the Tachibana Racing Club that assist both Riders. All of them have various martial skills, be it karate or fencing. They all seem to be very fond of Hayato.
- **Boy Kamen Rider Corps**- a nationwide organization of both girls and boys. This started in episode 74. They use pigeons for messages back to HQ.

The Villains:

- **The Great Leader**- a disembodied voice who gives orders for Shocker. He will throw anyone under the bus, no matter how loyal they are to him. Spoilers, this entity was behind every Rider villain right up to Black RX. He, or possibly it, as it looks like now the Great Leader comes from space, has returned several times in various recent movies and series. You just can't keep a good baddie down.
- **Colonel Zol**- The one with the most true power in Shocker shows up in episode 26. He is a master of disguise. He meets his end in episode 39. His final form was Wolf Man.



- **Dr. Death**- He is called to Japan from Switzerland and arrives in episode 40. He is dressed like Dracula and is in a wheelchair. His true form is the popular Ika Devil. He lasts until episode 68.
- **Ambassador Hell**- He shows up in episode 53 and is from Southeast Asia. He has shown up in one form or another in many Kamen Rider shows and movies. His final form is Rattler and he is disposed of in episode 79.
- **General Black**- He shows up in episode 80 to lead Gel-Shocker, a merger of Geldam and Shocker. He is from Africa. His monster form is Leechacamelon.
- **Shocker/Gelshocker Combatants**- the lowly throw around guys. They use a variety of weapons, including swords. They have a hierarchy with the lead grunt wearing a red outfit. Scientists always wear lab coats. They also wear the large Shocker belt buckle, which looks like a championship wrestling belt. The Gelshocker grunts got an upgrade and were tougher than their predecessors.



The Episodes:

1. **The Bizarre Spider Man**- Takeshi Hongo is captured by Shocker and remodeled into a cyborg. He is freed by a renegade scientist before he can be brainwashed and begins his battle against Shocker.
2. **The Terrifying Bat Man**- The Bat Man is sent out to spread terrible viruses in Japan.
3. **The Scorpion Man Monster**- Shocker puts plan M-1 into action, which is to have Scorpion Man kill Hongo.
4. **The Man Eating Sarracenian**- Shocker is kidnapping people to turn them into cyborg monsters.
5. **The Praying Mantis Man Monster**- Kamen Rider investigates a series of mysterious earthquakes.
6. **The Death Chameleon**- Sunada and a mysterious Nazi box are the targets for Chameleon.



7. **Death Duel with the Grim Reaper** Chameleon- the mystery of Sunada and the box is revealed.
8. **Strange! Bee Woman!** People mysteriously disappear after receiving eyeglasses from a certain doctor.
9. **The Dreadful Cobra Man**- Cobra Man attacks the Ministry of Finance.



10. **The Revived Cobra Man**- Cobra Man is revived and sent after the gold bars again.
11. **The Bloodsucking Monster Geba Condor**- Shocker's new kaijin drains blood from people.
12. **The Murderous Yamogeras**- Shocker steals the Danger Light to endanger all humanity.
13. **Tokageron and the Great Monster Army**- Shocker revives all the previous monsters to destroy Tokyo.

14. **The Attack of the Demonic Saboteguron**- Shocker sends Saboteguron to Japan to blow up their dams.
15. **Saboteguron's Counterattack**- the kaijin is going to use the cactus bomb called the Mexican Blossom on Japan.



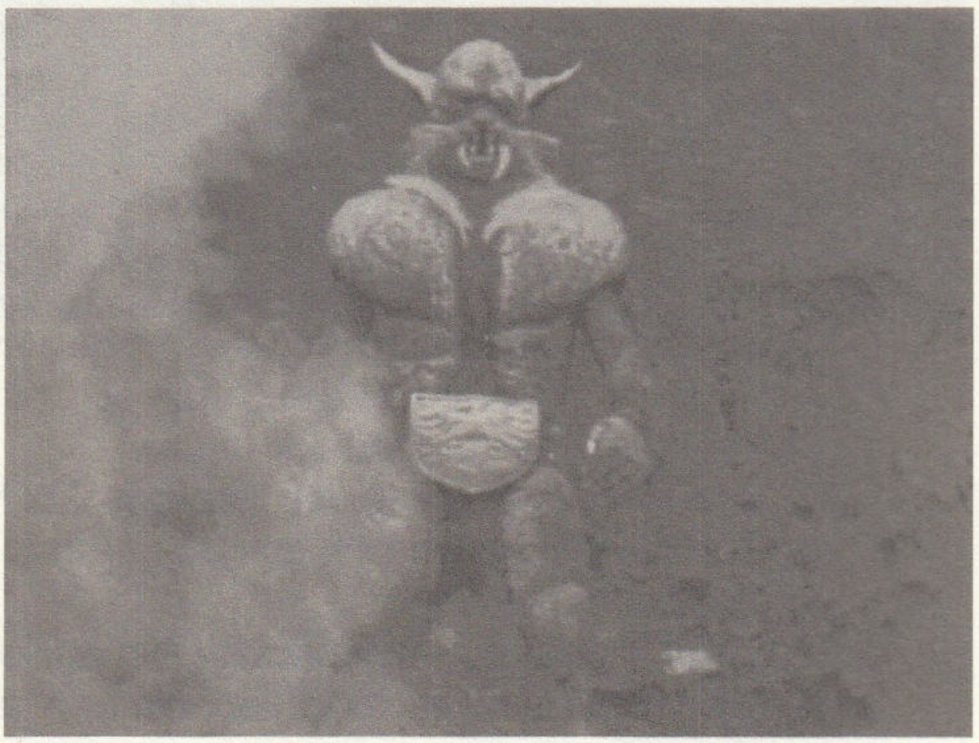
16. **The Devil's Wrestler, Pirasaurus**- A professional wrestler is changed into a monster by Maya, the female Shocker commander and trained by Hurricane Joe.
17. **Death Match in the Ring- Defeat Pirasarus!** Kamen Rider has to stop the Death Fog from being used on the populace.
18. **The Fossil man, Starvenger**- Shocker's new mutant can withstand the Rider Kick.
19. **The Monster Crab Bubbler Appears in Hokkaido**- Shocker uses tsunamis to drown Hokkaido.

20. **The Caterpillar Monster Dokuganda-** The Rider Girls are led into a trap by Dokuganda.
21. **Showdown at Oaska Castle**- Dokuganda turns into a moth monster to fight Kamen Rider again.
22. **The Strange Fishman Amazonia-** Shocker is looking for underwater uranium.
23. **The Flying Monster Musasabidol-** Shocker plans to blow up Sapporo with a to kiloton device.
24. **Mushroom Morgue's Deadly Sortie!** Morge brings humans to Shocker to make more *kaizo ningen*.
25. **Defeat Mushroom Morgue!** Hayato has to escape from Shocker's clutches.
26. **The Terrifying Antlion Pit**- Colonel Zol impersonates Taki and frames him.
27. **Mukaderas Monster Classroom-** Mukaderas hypnotizes children to work for Shocker.
28. **The Underground Monster Mogurang-** Mogurang is planning to turn Toyo Bay into a sea of flames.
29. **The Electric Monster Kuragedarl-** Kuragedarl kidnaps people and changes them into electric humans.
30. **The Blood Sucking Trilobite**- Zanbronzo is sent out to make slaves of people. *Trilobites were armored arthropods originating in the Cambrian Period, about 542 million years ago.*



31. **Death Match! Demonic Man Arigabari**- Arigabari plots to use the Curse of Amazon virus to conquer Japan.
32. **The Man-Eating Flower Dahlian**- Zol has Dahlian kidnap women to make more dissolving posion.
33. **Steel Monster Armadillong**- Armadillong is going to blow up all of Japan's fuel tanks at once.
34. **Invasion of Gamagira**- Shocker plans to split Japan in half.
35. **The Murderous Queen Ant Arikimedes**- Hayato and Taki infiltrate a Shocker base to find a Death Ray.
36. **The Revived Mummy Monster Egyptas**- Shocker is after jewels and gems with a 4000-year-old kaijin,

37. **Operation G**- Poison Gas Monster Aconitum sends out plants to kill people with toxic emissions.
38. **Operation: Global Darkness**- Ray King is searching for Professor Seki to return him to Shocker.
39. **Wolf Man's Great Murder Party**- Colonel Zol shows his true form in order to destroy Kamen Rider.



40. **Snowman vs Two Riders**- Takeshi returns and teams up with Hayato to stop the Snowman.
41. **Great Battle at Sakurajima**- Ghoster plans to make a volcano at Kyushu erupt.
42. **Emissary of the Devil**- Dr. Death has Fly Man drug people so they will try to kill Hayato.
43. **Planodon's Attack**- Planodon uses surgical receivers to control Hayato's friends.



44. **The Graveyard Monster Kabibinga-** Shocker uses two girls to spread a deadly mold over Japan.
45. **Slugzilla's Gas Implosion Plan-** Slugzilla is sent to steal an artificial brain from Professor Yajima.
46. **Showdown! Snowy Mountain Monster Bearkonger-** Shocker plans to use the Energy Bomb in the mountains.
47. **The Demonic Ice Man who calls out to Death-** Todogira uses his ice powers to freeze people.
48. **The Bloodsucking Marsh of Leech Guerrilla-** Shocker leeches enslave the people they prey on.
49. **The Man-Eating Monster, Sea Anemone-** Anemone causes tornadoes and eats people whole.

50. **Turtle Stone's Killer Aurora Plan**- Dr Death uses deadly auroras to blind, then rot people from the inside.
51. **Unicornos vs the Double Rider Kick**- Unicornos wants the secrets of the Super Energy Light Beam.



52. **My Name is Gilglass**- Dr. Death's Dead Man Gas Experiment turns humans violent.
53. **Motorcycle Battle of Life and Death**- Jaguar Man starts Operation Animal Panic.
54. **The Haunted Village's Sea Snake Man**- Shocker takes over a village to use as a training camp.
55. **The Dreadful Bacterial Air-Balloon**- Cockroach Man uses a powder that causes humans to age rapidly.

56. **The Poisonous Butterfly Giriira-** Operation Poisoned Waters is put into effect.
57. **The Atypus Karshi Man-** Poisonmond is sent out to steal a liquid gunpowder formula.
58. **Duel at Fear Valley-** Ambassador Hell wants Heloderm to steal the X-Alpha Liquid.
59. **The Bottomless Swamp's Monster, Earthworm Man-** Operation Radioactivity is put into play.
60. **The Bizarre Owl Man's Killer X-Rays-** Owl Man uses his killer X-Rays to destroy clock towers.
61. **Electrical Hell-** Dr. Death returns to Japan with Catfishgiller. Goro gets charged with 50,00 volts of electricity.

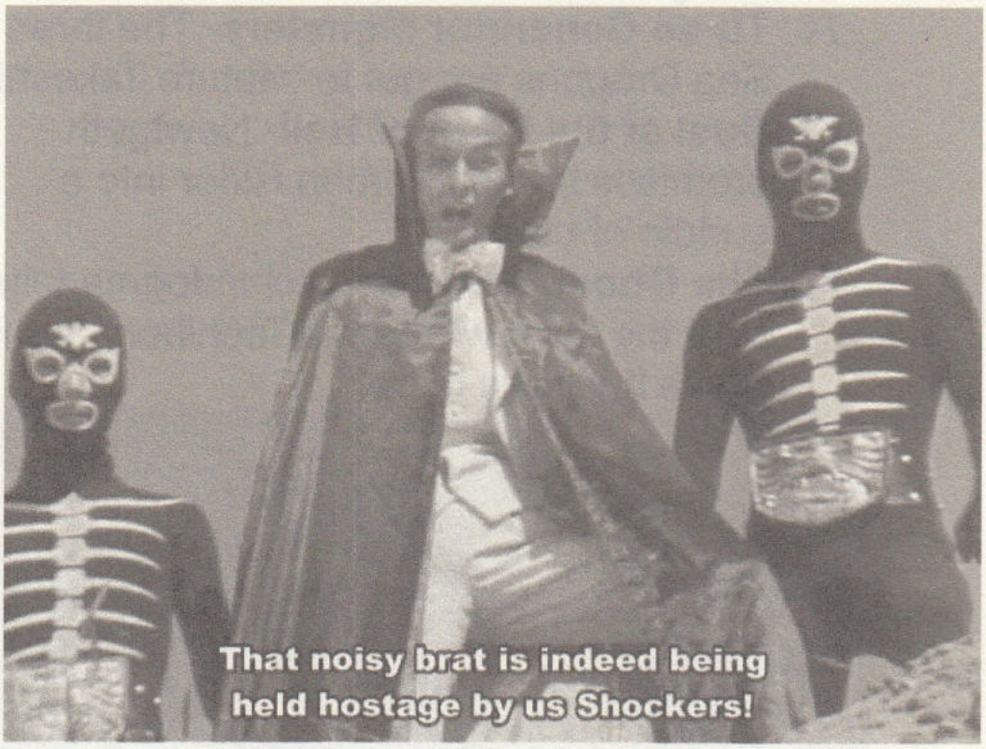


62. **Operation Killer Skull**- The spines of Hedgehoras melt the flesh off people.



63. **Auto Race of Death**- Rhinogangster challenges Takeshi to a motorcycle race.
64. **Song of Massacre**- Cicadaminga unleashes deadly sonic waves upon a small town.
65. **Professor Bug Monster and the Shocker School**- Kids are recruited to become Shocker students
66. **Shocker Graveyard, the Revived Monsters**- Longhorn Kid resurrects monsters with human sacrifices.
67. **The Shocker Leader Appears!** Girizames is protecting the Shocker Leader Meeting.

68. **Doctor Death's Terrifying True Form!** Shocker kidnaps Tobei to be their *kaijin* trainer.



69. **Impending Claws of Death**- Gillercricket causes an epidemic of poison.
70. **The Monster's Fireball Attacks!** Electric Firefly is going to steal all of Tokyo's electricity.
71. **Great Pursuit on Mt Rokko**- Kamen Rider chases the Mexican monster Horseflygomes into the mountains.
72. **Mosquilas vs Two Riders**- Nigo shows up to help Ichigo with the South American *kaijin*.
73. **Double Riders Defeat! Shiomaneking**- Shocker is after an offshore oilfield.
74. **The Bloodsucking Demon of Death**- Shiraculas is draining all the plasma out of blood banks.

75. **Secret of the House of Terror**- Roserang traps Taki and his loud jacket to get to Hongo.
76. **Three Generator Monsters**- The three Sea Dragons are out to capture Takeshi.
77. **Duel at the Farm of Hell**- Newtgeth promises to melt Kamen Rider into a puddle of blood.
78. **The Ghost Monster**- Urchindogma takes over the town where the Tachibana family grave happens to be.



79. **Ambassador Hell! What is his Terrifying Form?** The Great Leader is going to execute Ambassador Hell for treason. Hongo is chosen to observe it. The Great Leader destroys Shocker HQ.
80. **Gel-Shocker Appears!** Ganikomo and General Black make Gel-Shocker known to Kamen Rider.

81. **Kamen Rider only Lives Twice**- General Black wants Kamen Rider to undergo Shocker training, or he will kill ten million people.
82. **Rush Hour of Terror**- Jellyfish Wolf will strike Shinjuku Station with lightning bolts.
83. **Defeat the Rider with Insanity Gas**- Inokubaton uses a spray that drives people insane.
84. **Sea Anejaguar's Hell Trap**- Gel-Shocker sends out this kaijin to trap and kill Kamen Rider.



85. **Killer Smog of Terror**- Morayturtleres is going to wipe out Tokyo with its killer sludge.
86. **Eaglemantis Human Hunt**- Shocker sends out this *kaijin* to collect humans to be turned into more *kaijin*.

87. **The Gel-Shocker Mailman of Death!** Shocker mails a death notice, and Spiderlion kills the recipient.
88. **The Bizarre Black Cat Painting**- Cat Gecko has the ability to enter and exit paintings.
89. **Send the Rider to Hell**- Canary Cobra uses sonics and poison to kill people.
90. **Rider SOS**- Rat Condor will spread deadly bacteria all over Tokyo.
91. **Enrolling in Gel-Shocker's School of Terror**- Centipede Tiger poisons the minds of all of the Rider's allies.
92. **Nefarious!**
93. **The Impostor Rider**- Shocker Rider is sent out to destroy the Anti-Shocker Alliance.
94. **8 Kamen Riders**- Five more Rider clones are unleashed upon Japan.
95. **The Gel-Shocker Leader's True Identity**- The Riders have to defeat the cloned Riders.
96. **Garaox's Flying Car**- Fearing Takeshi is dead, Taki and Tobei plan an explosive trap for Garaox.
97. **Hongo becomes a Cactus Monster?** Cactus Bat tries to turn Takeshi into a cactus monster.
98. **Transformation Impossible!** Leech Chameleon freezes Kamen Rider mid-change.
99. **The Complete Destruction of Gel-Shocker! The End of the Leader!** Riders One and Two combine to destroy the evil organization at last.

The Movies:

With *Kamen Rider* being such a big hit on TV, it's not surprising that there were two original movies released. They were only about 30 minutes long and shot in widescreen. It became a trope in later Kamen Rider movies that the reconstituted *kaijin* were a lot easier to beat than they were the first time. The *kaijin* would also announce their names when they appeared to challenge the Rider(s). After these movies, the original Riders appeared in all the sequel movies as well, in their costumed forms if not their human appearances.

The two movies were also adapted in Taiwan by using Chinese actors instead of the original Japanese actors. It was called *Super Rider with the Devil*. This movie was released as *Krieg Der Infras* in Germany and marketed as a sequel to *Inframan*. The Riders were called Super Inframan in German. If that sounds like the way *The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* is made, it is.

Since the first series ended, Riders One and Two would show up in nearly all of the following movies. At least of the shows that got original films.



- **Kamen Rider vs Shocker**- Dr. Death steals the GX Equation, which is for a device that can change the axis of the Earth. Riders One and Two face an army of kaijin to stop them. This movie takes place between episodes 51 and 52. This is the first time we have seen Hongo perform a "Henshin" of his own. It also establishes the previous kaijin returning to get destroyed by the Riders trope.



- **Kamen Rider vs Ambassador Hell-** Shocker tries to kill Hongo and Taki during a motorcycle race. This allows our heroes to infiltrate their base. Ambassador Hell has a Super Destructive Light Beam to use on Japan. This movie takes place between episodes 68 and 69. It was set against the backdrop of Mount Fuji, so the scenery is gorgeous. It's also the first Kamen Rider movie that only featured one Rider. Along with the standard bike chase, we get to see Ichigo on a horse as well.



- **War of the Super Inframen**- (*Krieg der Infras, Shan Dian Qi Shi, Super Riders Against the Devil* 1975)- Feng Su Tong and. Paio Hung Chan are changed into Super Inframen by the Brotherhood of Satan. They are rescued by Professor Chin. After the quick intro, the movie pretty much follows *Kamen Rider vs Shocker* to

the end of that movie and then starts with *vs. Ambassador Hell*. The last twelve minutes is the wrap-up with both Inframen fighting the new Sphinx monster and stopping the Brotherhood's plan to drop nuclear bombs on Taiwan. Now that I am



familiar with the first movie, I can see how they only used the monster footage. Everything was reshot with Chinese actors. There is new footage of a female *kaijin* leading the Brotherhood, and even a Chinese Doctor Death. The movie was made in Taiwan, and made use of the original Rider costumes, which were not being used anymore. The monster suits are a little worse for the wear, except for the new one made for the movie. A sharp-eyed fan can tell where the Japanese footage is, but it is integrated well. The actors are all good, but the direction is flat here and there. The music is a mixed bag, as they use the instrumental theme song in some places, and then the groovy drum-

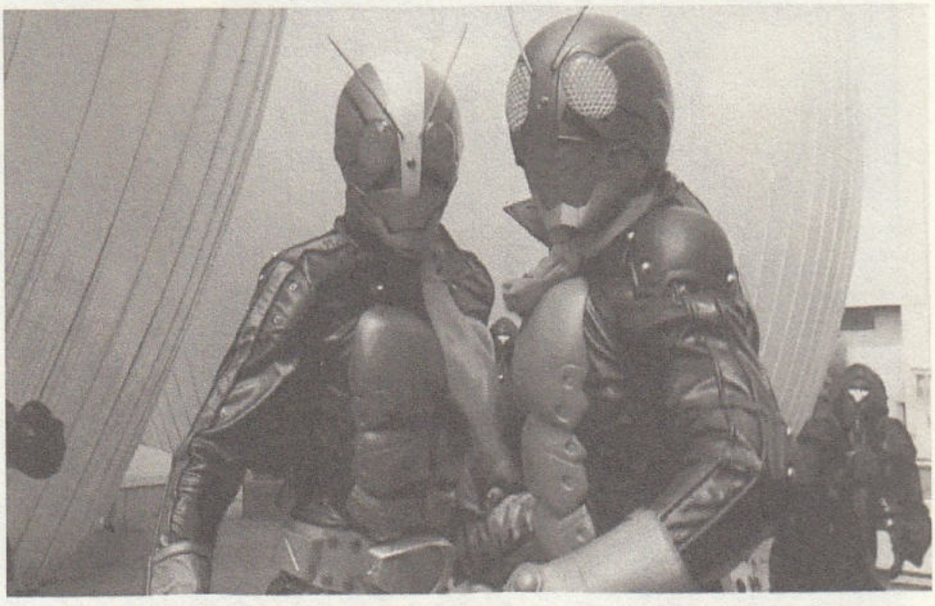
powered German opening elsewhere, and what I am thinking is some of the Chinese music in other parts. Interestingly enough, the new Sphinx monster's human form is a blond woman. It turns out "she" is really Dr. Death. The movie is fun to watch, and it is available subtitled in English. The Chinese actors are integrated well, and they even have a mentor as well as some "Infra Girls" in the movie. Taki is also



present, as Wan. This is needed since Rider One is solo in the second half of the movie until the end. The two lead actors must have some martial arts training since they are far more skilled than their Japanese counterparts. When the Super Inframen defeat the two final bosses, the movie ends.


魂
MASKED RIDER
仮面ライダー
THE FIRST

- **Kamen Rider The First** (2005)- This is a new adaptation of the first series. It has decent actors, cool costumes, and some great fight scenes. It also has a ridiculous subplot involving two of the two dying people being in love with each other,



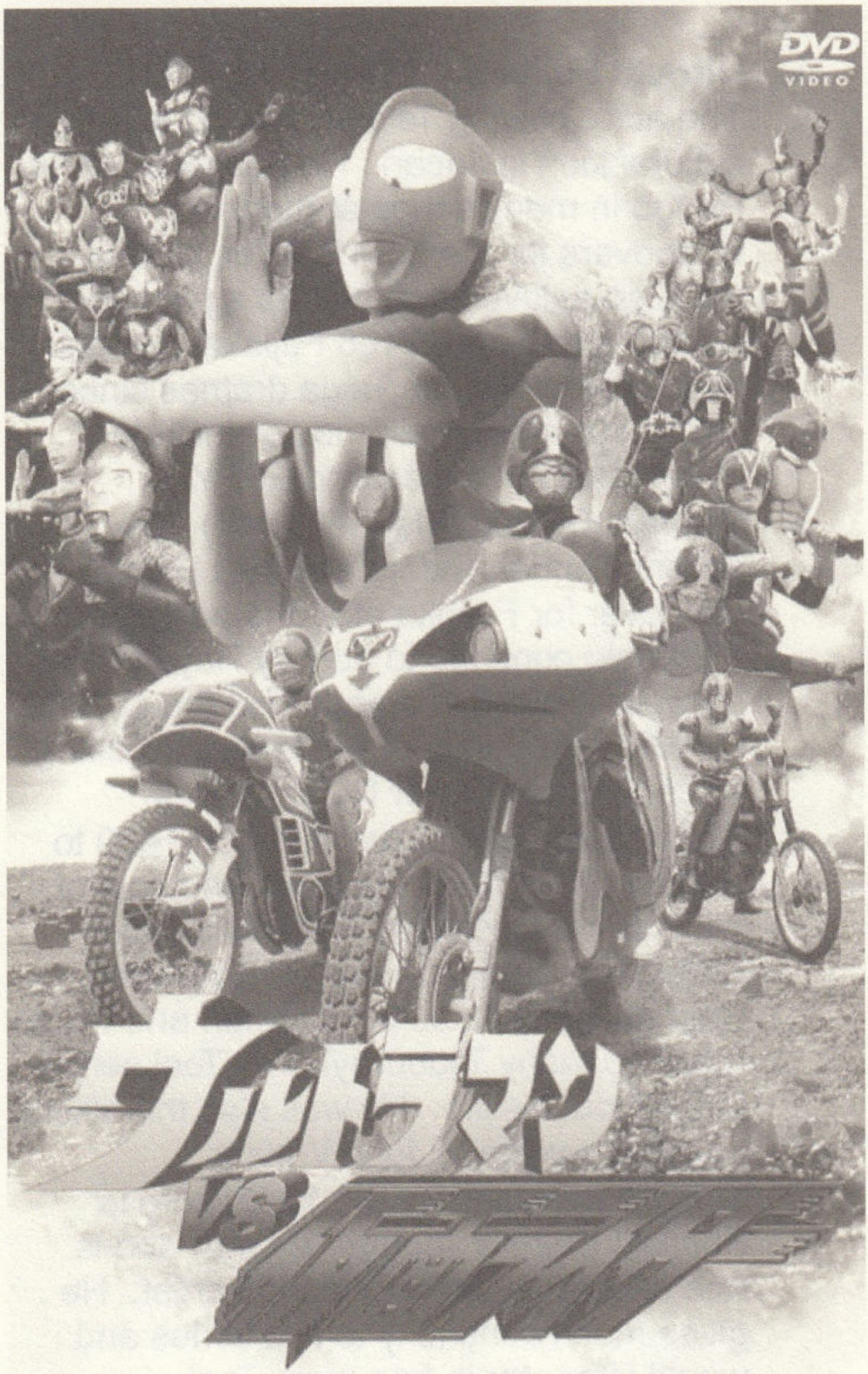
which really wasn't needed. They get turned into Shocker *kaijin,* so it sort of fits, but one more fight scene would have been better. It's dark and somber and has precious little humor in it. I liked it, but it could have been much better. There was not enough Kamen Rider in the movie. The movie did get a US DVD release with several extras on it, including an hour-long "making of" featurette. Starring: Masaya Kikawada, Hassei Takano, Komine Rena, Hiroshi Miyauchi, Eiji Wentz 90 minutes

- **Ultraman vs Kamen Rider** (1993) – This fun documentary also brings these two great heroes together for the first time in a battle against the Poison Scorpion Man and Gadoras. The two monsters combine into Sasori Gadoras and Kamen Rider grows to Ultraman's size to defeat the monster. This all happens in the final ten minutes of the documentary and is the perfect length for the short. "Always leave 'em wanting more!" The other 80 minutes of the documentary feature interviews with various creators and actors from both series. There are also fun segments such as "Henshin vs. Henshin", "Kaiju vs. Kaijin" and the best one called "!?" which looks at the most unusual scenes and sounds from both series. This stars featured in the interviews were Hiroshi Miyauchi and Koji Moritsugu. The original VHS tape ran 90 minutes.



The main Actors:

- **Hiroshi Fujioka** (February 19th, 1946) - The actor playing Takeshi Hongo is now a cultural icon in Japan. He has also played Hongo in many series and done voiceovers for the newer Rider movies. He is so beloved that he has a planetoid named after him, 12408 Fujioka. He also has acted in various Taiga dramas since 1974. His other main movies include Submersion of Japan and ESPY.
- **Takeshi Sasaki** (May 7th, 1947)- the second Kamen Rider, Ichimonji Hayato, took over for Fujioka after the accident. He would continue to portray Hayato until he was involved in a near fatal fire in 1982. He went through a lot but is back to doing voiceovers for newer Rider movies.
- **Akiji Kobayashi** (September 6th,1930 to August 27th, 1996)- the heart and soul of the first run of Kamen Rider was Tobei Tachibana. Akiji had previously played Captain Muramatsu in *Ultraman* and would return to many Tsuburaya and Toei series throughout his life. He was also the official Japanese voice of John Wayne.
- **Jiro Chiba** (January 6th, 1949)- Jiro is Shinichi Chiba's younger brother and is one talented actor and martial artist. He gives much continuity to this series and would later star in four more Toei superhero shows. He officially retired in 1982.


DVD
VIDEO
ウルトラマン
VS

The Music:

Shunsuke Kikuchi (November 1st, 1931, to April 24th, 2021) did the music for the series. His scores graced many shows and movies. There are far too many to list here. This is a small smattering of the titles he worked on:

- *Gamera vs. Guiron* (1969)
- Getter Robo
- Jumborg Ace
- *Terror Beneath the Sea* (1966)
- *Goke, Body Snatcher from Hell* (1968)
- Kamen Rider- ZX (1971-1984)
- *Sister Streetfighter* (1974)





He wrote the songs and the background music, with the lyrics being written by Shotaro Ishinomori himself. The first version of the song was sung by Fujioka, then by the legendary Masoto Shimon. This first series would have at least thirteen different songs, and two of those would be about Shocker. Many of the other series would follow that same format. All of the series until the *Kamen Rider* ZX special would feature songs from Kikuchi.

There are several collections of songs from all of the original shows, and many feature karaoke versions of them as well.

OutTakes:



"Rider punch!"

Kamen Rider was a colossal hit when it was released, and the effect it had on superheroic television shows is still felt to this day. Toei was smart not to try to compete with Tsuburaya on effects, and instead made their shows action packed with fights and great stunts. The series has continued on to this day, and many of the original Riders have returned in movies.

Next issue is our fantastic fiftieth issue! It will feature my favorite Godzilla movie, *Destroy All Monsters.* There will be all kinds of goodness there! Don't miss it!

Until then, stay tuned!
-X7


The MONSTERS are in REVOLT
...and The World is on the brink of
DESTRUCTION!
AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTS
"DESTROY ALL
MONSTERS"
...The Battle-Cry that could Save the World!
G Suggested for GENERAL audiences
COLOR
by BERKEY PATHE
STARRING
MOTHRA · GODZILLA · RODAN · MANDA



The first issue of 2023 is here! Next issue will be our fantastic 50th issue, and will feature the ninth Godzilla movie, *Destroy All Monsters*. This year is going to be great!

Rider Punch!
In 1971 a brand new show debuted on Japanese television. It featured an insectiod superhero who battled an evil empire of former nazis. He was called Kamen Rider, or Masked Rider. He would be joined by a partner in costume, as well as several allies during his battles with various monster-men. This show spawned several sequels and movies, as well as a brand new trend of superhero shows that lasted most of the 70s. Kamen Rider still makes appearances in newer movies. Enjoy this issue dedicated to this amazing hero and show!
Rider Kick!

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