

# JFFS

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東宝

伝説の火の鳥を求めてさまよう  
愛と冒険のロマン——  
アニメーション映画史上、  
空前の超大作!!  
原作/構成/総監督=手塚治虫  
設定ブレーン=小松左京

**Xの鳥 2772**  
**愛のコスモゾーン**

製作●市川喜一・明田川達/監督●杉山卓/脚本●手塚治虫・杉山卓/音楽●橋口泰雄/東宝・手塚プロ提供作品  
製作●株式会社手塚プロダクション/サントラ盤●コロムビアレコード/朝日ソノラマ刊

## OSAMU TEZUKA IN AMERICA--

As previously reported in the JFFS Newsletter, the notable Japanese animator Osamu Tezuka toured the U.S. during March to premiere his latest film, PHOENIX 2772.

During his stay in Chicago, JFFS member Alex Wald attended a dinner held for Dr. Tezuka hosted by the Consulate General of Japan. Thanks go to Mr. Ogushi, Miss S. Kobayashi and her husband, and the Japan Institute for their co-operation, and a special thanks to Dr. Theodore Welch.

Accompanying Dr. Tezuka was Professor Soeda of Tsukuba University who was prepared to speak before the film program about the relation of manga (comics) to Japanese society. Originally, both Dr. Tezuka and Prof. Soeda intended to speak for one hour each before the film with translation into English by Mr. Frederick Schodt (himself an authority on manga culture and one of the screenwriters for PHOENIX 2772). As such a lengthy program preceeding the film was a bit unreasonable, a compromise was reached with speeches

being trimmed to 15 minutes each.

Dr. Tezuka charmed audiences with his glowing personality at the March 20 premiere at the Film Center of the Art Institute of Chicago. A clever showman, Dr. Tezuka entertained one and all by drawing some of the film's characters and explaining each's role and motivations. By way of introducing the film itself, Dr. Tezuka remarked:

"Some of you are probably fans of STAR WARS and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS," to which the audience replied with applause.

"And some of you are fans of SUPERMAN or JAWS," followed by more applause.

"And perhaps some of you like monster films and are fans of GODZILLA," to

which the audience responded with wild applause and cheering.

Once the commotion died down, Dr. Tezuka said rather casually, "Well... this film is totally unlike any of these!"

The film was enthusiastically received by the predominantly Japanese audiences in attendance at both shows. The film was shown with English subtitles, and some footage had been deleted from the print for the U.S. showings.

At the Japan Information Service, Dr. Tezuka hosted an informal showing of his early experimental film "Pictures at an Exhibition." Local fans who turned out for the mid-day screening were treated to the experience of hearing Dr. Tezuka speak at length about his experiences in the Japanese animation industry. He went on to describe his current film project, an allegorical history of animation to be called "The Legend of the Forest." Eventually the conversation turned to PHOENIX 2772, and Dr. Tezuka described many of the special techniques used in filming PHOENIX 2772--rotoscoping of spaceship models, slit-scan, etc.

**PHOENIX 2772--SYNOPSIS:** Since his birth as a test tube baby, Godo has been raised to become a space hunter. During his early childhood, he is tended to by various teaching machines. One day, a strange package arrives in his living quarters, and a very un-machinelike young lady unfolds from it. Although programmed to be a nurse robot, Olga possesses human features such as a sense of humor, and she becomes Godo's only companion and friend.

When Godo becomes a young man, he attends the Space Academy to learn the skills which he will need to challenge the unknown as a space hunter. As a student, Godo encounters a brutish officer named Bolgan who delights in tormenting the sensitive young cadet. However, this period in Godo's life is rich in discoveries also. He meets a cute little alien named Pincho who has a unique method of showing respect and affection to others--by dusting one off with his ever-present brush. Godo is also attracted to the beautiful Lena,

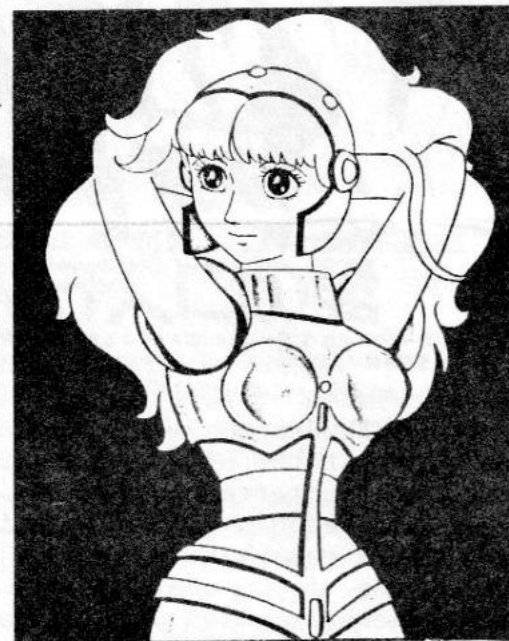


●ゴドー ©手塚プロ・火の鳥プロ・東宝

Godo

daughter of the mayor. However, Lena is engaged to Rock, the head of the Space Academy. Unbeknownst to Godo, Rock is also Godo's brother. Rock is anxious to send Godo away on an assignment in order to eliminate Godo as competition for Lena's affections. Rock informs Godo that he must embark on the perilous hunt for Space Animal #2772, the legendary Bird of Fire whose blood has the power of eternal life. Godo accepts this dangerous mission, but he resolves to see Lena one final time, as he knows he may never return. Their secret rendezvous is discovered by Rock and his Air-Guard; Godo is arrested and exiled to a forced labor camp by his secret brother.

The labor camp is located in the vicinity of



●オルガ ©手塚プロ・火の鳥プロ・東宝

Olga



of a chain of volcanos. The volcanic belts are mined by society in order to supply huge demands for nuclear power throughout the world. Godo's strong will and moral indignation against his cruel lot of fellow prisoners lands him in trouble with the camp's director, Blackjack. Godo is able to befriend the camp's doctor, Saruta, when the two meet after a mining accident. Saruta and Godo plot to escape from the prison camp by stealing the Space Shark, a powerful spaceship located within the encampment. Olga and Pincho discover that Godo has been sent to the prison camp and set off to rescue him. They arrive at the prison just in time to save Godo's life during a volcanic disturbance.

Godo, Saruta, and his newly arrived friends succeed in capturing the Space Shark and make good their escape from the prison camp. Godo pilots the ship deep into space, determined to find the Phoenix. They arrive at the planet of Tears where Saruta's friend, Shinsaku Ban, lives with an incredible menagerie of alien creatures. Among the many wierd beasts, two space creatures, Clack and Pooks, form an uneasy but light-hearted association with Pincho.

Ban is very distrustful of humans, especially hunters, and thus is not anxious to assist the party in their quest for the Phoenix. Eventually he gives in and advises them where the Phoenix may possibly be found.

Before long, the Fire Bird is spotted, and the chase commences. A beautiful and delicate creature of radiant light, the mysterious animal quickly proves itself capable of many terrifying powers. Pursued by the Space Shark, it undergoes various bizarre transformations, finally becoming a monster bird. The Phoenix ravages the Space Shark, and only Olga has the courage and power to combat it. However, her effort is in vain, as Olga is no match for the mighty Fire Bird. She is destroyed, her charred body mourned by Godo, the ship's only survivor of the attack.

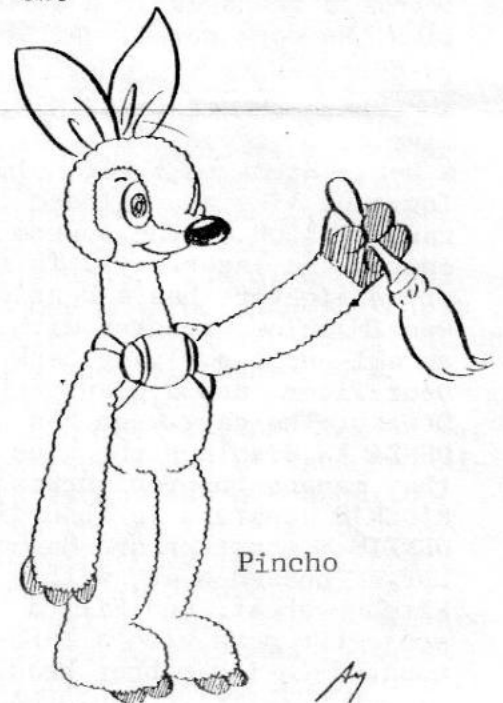
As he gazes upon the body of Olga, Godo realizes that Olga's sacrifice was motivated by her love for Godo, a love which he was not fully aware of until that point.

Suddenly, the Phoenix is driven back by an unseen force as it attempts to destroy the Space Shark. As Godo's grief becomes more pronounced, the vicious monster bird grows weaker and weaker, eventually transforming back into a beautiful, serene creature. But Godo is oblivious to this, as he is overwhelmed with sorrow at the demise of the one who he begins to realize that he loves. The peaceful incarnation of the Phoenix appears to Godo as he voices his desire to have Olga restored to life, even if Godo must sacrifice his life to make this possible. The Phoenix is impressed by Olga's love and Godo's willingness to sacrifice his life. Seeing hope for humanity in their actions, the magical bird intervenes--Godo gives his life, and the Phoenix brings Olga to life as a real woman. Godo is also reborn, and once more as a helpless infant, is cared for by Olga.

A detailed treatment of PHOENIX 2772 will appear in the 1980 JFFS Yearbook.



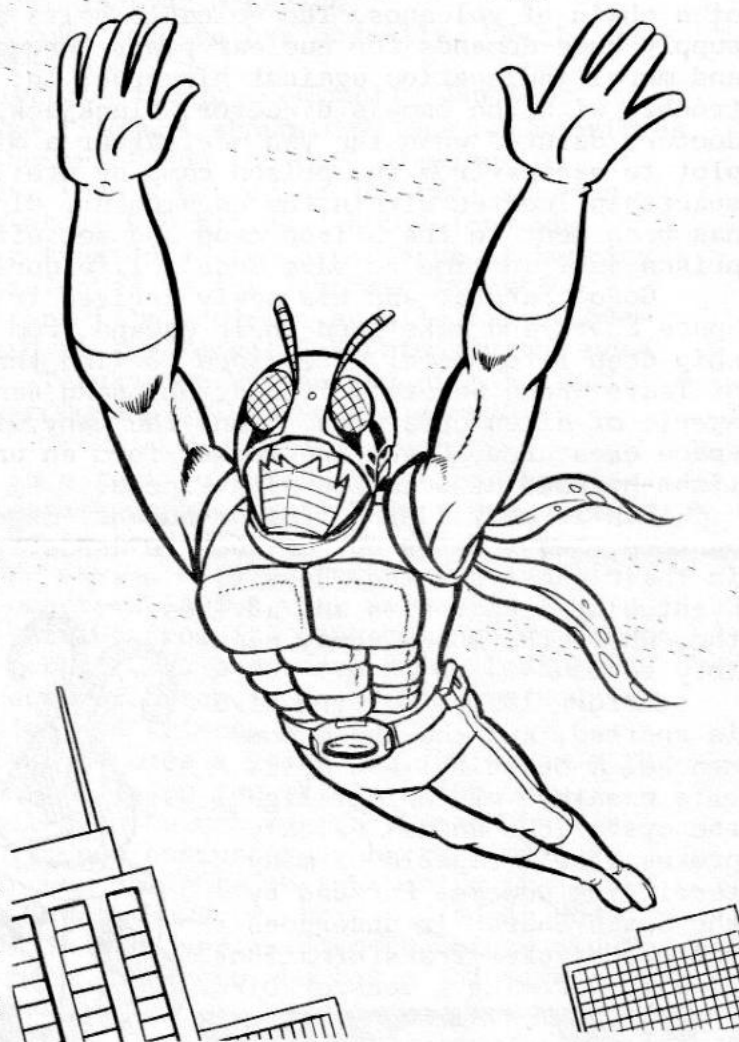
Clack



Pincho

**CHAPTER 4 IN THE YAMATO SAGA!** Office Academy has produced a brand new feature film, YAMATO: BE FOREVER, which will be released to theaters in Japan on August 2, 1980, instead of SPACE CRUISER YAMATO--THE NEW VOYAGE as was erroneously reported in the previous JFFS Newsletter. This new film is a continuation of NEW VOYAGE, and advance materials on the film show a number of attractive new designs. The story is set in the year 2202, only one year after NEW VOYAGE; amazingly, the infant Saasha appears to have become a teenager in a mere year's time. No more details at this time.

**TV SUPERHEROES MARCH ON--**Toei's new superhero show is DENZIMAN, featuring five color-coded fighters, each having a Denzi Stone on their helmets (looking much like an exploded transistor radio) which is the source of their energy and laser rays. This band of crime fighters has a DenziBuggy, a DenziMachine (scooter with side car), an all-purpose flying tank called DenziTiger, and a giant robot Dai Denzin. The gang even has a Denzi Dog. DENZIMAN displays the kind of monsters that manage to even surpass KAMEN RIDER'S monsters in absurdity. Typical DENZIMAN monsters are Hanbara, a hamburger-headed heavy with a mustard and ketchup chest, and Filmra, a movie projector punk with a take-up reel mounted in its rubber head. What next?



Ishimori Production's SKY RIDER

UCHUTAITEI GODSHIGUMA (SPACE EMPORER GOD-SIGMA), Toei's new animation series, features a super robot that can form itself into many different combinations, in the tradition of GETTA ROBO, COMBATTLER V, and others...Other new giant robots on the scene are MUTEKI ROBO TRAI DAR G, and DENSETSU KYOJIN IDEON which features space teenagers and their giant robot companion...OTASUKEMAN is a successor to Yatterman and Sendaman. This show is a gag cartoon about super-kids, villains, and robot machines produced by Yoshihiko Takemura.

SPACE PIRATE-CAPTAIN HERLOCK recently completed airing in French-speaking parts of Canada under the name CAPTAIN ALBATOR, SPACE CORSAIR. This animated series developed by Reiji Matsumoto (YAMATO) is a melancholy space drama that traces the adventures of the title character in his space pirate ship.

Hopefully the next issue of the JFFS Newsletter will be accompanied by a membership directory which details members enrolled through July. With this tool, those members interested in opening lines of communication with their fellow fans should be able to do so. This time, the JFFS also offers a number of excellent stills for sale (quantities are NOT limited). If response to this offering is sufficiently strong, the JFFS intends to make additional still offerings in the future. Till next time...sayonara!