

JFFS

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GALAXY EXPRESS 999 COMES TO AMERICA!

The popular animated space fantasy from Japan, GALAXY EXPRESS 999 (GINGA TETSUDO 999), has recently been released to American theaters by Roger Corman's New World Pictures. This symbolic space fantasy details the exploits of a young orphan named Tetsuro and his beautiful guardian Maeter aboard the Galaxy Express of the Milky Way Railroad. Written and directed by Reiji Matsumoto, GALAXY EXPRESS originally aired as a tv series in 1978, and to date there have been over 50 episodes. Rich in symbolism and surrealistic settings, GALAXY EXPRESS is a vehicle through which Matsumoto has stated that he tries to express the wonders and vastness of space, as well as the hopes and dreams of all mankind. The tv series eventually led to a full-length theatrical feature which was released in Japan on August 4, 1979. A completely new adventure, it is this theatrical film which is currently in release in America, having shown in only a few markets to this date.

A special 2-part film of GALAXY EXPRESS was aired on May 1 and May 8, 1980 on Japanese tv. In this special installment, Tetsuro and Maeter travel aboard the Galaxy Express to meet the Cheyennes of the Water Country. Among the many amazing characters which they encounter in this adventure are the skull-visaged Queen Metamelaina, Sekezan and

Laiza (a Tarzan and Jane type couple), robots, cowboys, Indians, aliens, Valkyries, and there is even a guest appearance by Space Pirate Captain Herlock (who is also a semi-regular in the tv series).

A CHINESE GODZILLA FILM? The May 7, 1980 issue of *Variety*, trade paper of the motion picture industry, carried an ad from the new and upcoming releases from World Distributors and First Film Distributors who deal mainly in Chinese kung-fu flicks. Among the many films which were being announced, there was some crude artwork heralding a Chinese production called STAR GODZILLA. The artwork depicted a poorly drawn Godzilla towering over a city in ruins with Angilas at his feet, and King Kong (De Laurentis style) in the background. At the bottom of the ad,

the following is printed--"Where the old world and the new world meet....STAR GODZILLA. First Distributors (Hong Kong) Ltd. presents a Star Godzilla production. Starring: Joey Fang, Chang Ching, Charles Woo. Screenplay: Chris Lee. Directed by Fuhen Hsu. Produced by Joy Hsu." To this date, this ad contains the only information known about this film. Sources in Japan have expressed surprise when asked about this film, as they were unaware of it. Will Godzilla return to the big screen after all? Of course, as soon as any information surfaces as to the reality of this project, JFFS members will be the first to know. What next... Godzilla vs. the Mighty Peking Man?

ATOM RETURNS! The diminutive mechanical super-hero Tetsuwan Atom (MIGHTY ATOM, a.k.a. ASTRO BOY) returned to Japanese tv on September 6 in a special 2-hour film. Soon to be aired will also be a new tv series for Tezuka's little hero.....Also from Osamu Tezuka is the 2-hour animated novel FU MOON which aired on August 31, featuring the characters Rock, Kenichi, Dichi, Hide Oyaji, Gamata, and the alien Rokoko. FU MOON is an SF film set in the future, when a new race visits Earth, setting off a foolish war.



ULTRAMAN '80



YAMATO BE FOREVER DAZZLES JAPANESE AUDIENCES:

The new theatrical film YAMATO BE FOREVER, released on August 2 in Japan, is quickly becoming the No. 1 box-office smash of the year in Japan, even beating out THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK which was released in Japan at the same time. Yamato fans of all ages were said to have waited all night in line to gain entrance to the film's premiere. In some locations, first day viewers were given animation cels from the film as a bonus for their attendance! (U.S. film companies should be so kind!) The successful team of producer Yoshinobu Nishizaki, director and writer Reiji Matsumoto, and musical director Hiroshi Miyagawa seem to have hit the mark again in one of the biggest Yamato epics yet.

The alien race which was defeated at Iscander in YAMATO THE NEW VOYAGE returns for its revenge in the new film. The aliens launch an invasion of the Earth, causing great destruction to Earth's cities with their three-legged war machines (complete with a cobra-necked ray projector, ala George Pal's Martian war machines in WAR OF THE WORLDS). Yuki (Nova) is wounded and captured by the aliens, who leave an enormous bomb embedded

in the Earth. This powerful weapon will surely destroy the Earth, so the newly refurbished Yamato takes off into space in an effort to seek out some means to diffuse the bomb. Yuki is enslaved by her captors, one of whom falls in love with her. A new member of the Yamato crew is Saasha, the child of Staasha and Mamoru Kodai.

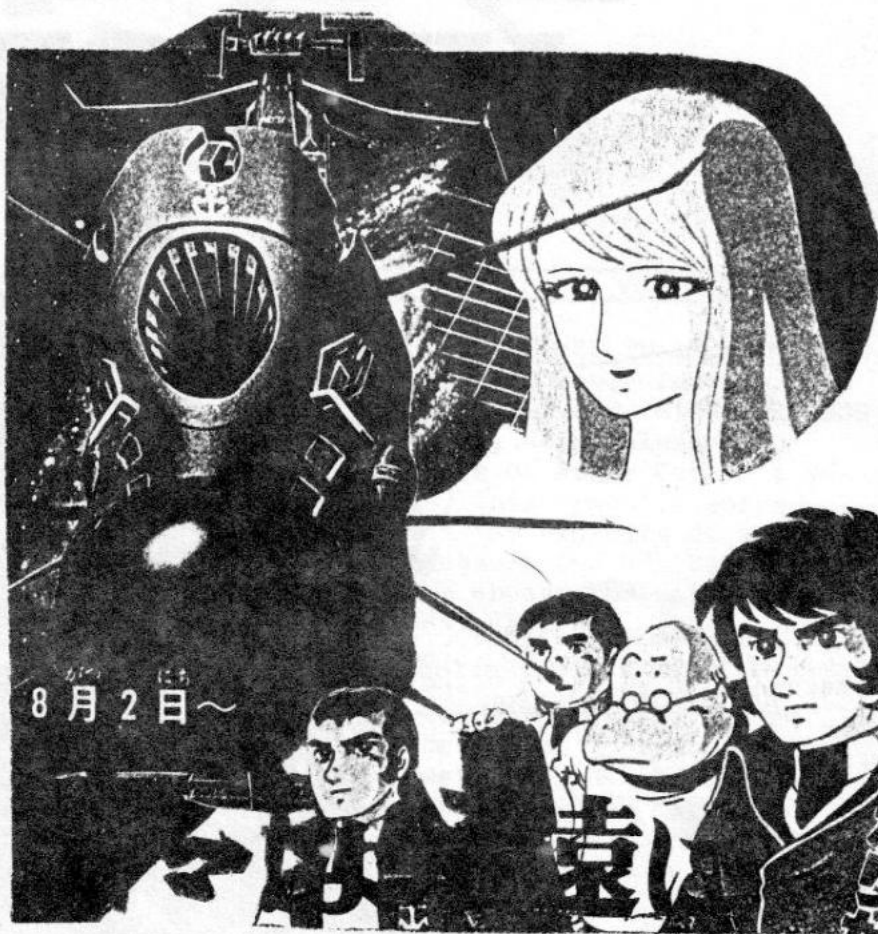
The film is being presented in "Warpdimension": the first part of the film is in the normal aspect ratio, but the second part of the film suddenly has the screen expand into Cinemascope for the tremendous battle scenes. This time, we are told that the film has a happy ending. The film's music, soon to be released on 2 soundtrack albums in Japan, has been highly complemented by one and all. Supposedly, this film is to be incorporated into the new YAMATO 3 tv series set to begin in October.

CHICAGO SCREENING OF "DEMON

POND" SEPT. 27-28: The supernatural drama DEMON POND, from Shochiku, will be shown at the Francis Parker Japanese Cinema at 2247 N. Clark St. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27 and 28, at 7:00 P.M. Co-featured with this film will be HUMAN TARANTULA, a Japanese martial arts film. Members are strongly urged to attend this showing of DEMON POND if at all possible. Both films are shown with English subtitles. DEMON POND, released in Japan in 1979, comes highly recommended by Japanese sources who praised its beauty and atmosphere. Starring the noted Kabuki actor Tamasaro Bando in the dual role of Princess Shiruyaki and of Yuri, the bell keeper, DEMON POND tells the story of a young couple who live near a pond where a bell must be struck every day to prevent the Demon Queen from leaving the pond and causing a terrible flood. The film sports some incredible special effects, executed by the same crew responsible for some of the effects in MESSAGE FROM SPACE.

NEW SF DISASTER FILM FROM TOHO: Toho's newest science fiction film appears to be an attempt to recapture some of the success it achieved with SUBMERSION OF JAPAN. This new film, EARTHQUAKE ISLANDS, with special effects directed by Teruyoshi Nakano and music by Toshiaki Tsushima, is based on the same premise as SUBMERSION OF JAPAN--the Japanese islands suffer terrible destruction due to the geological instability of the land. Special effects photos from the film look extremely impressive. This film has been quite popular with summertime moviegoers in Japan.

The lack of regular monthly JFFS screenings during the summer months has been due to the lack of a facility in which to hold meetings. As Columbia College has been closed for the summer, we have been unable to conduct our monthly screenings. However, Columbia College will soon reopen for the school year, and it is anticipated that the monthly screenings should resume in the near future. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused for local members. Members are encouraged to submit prospective screening dates and/or times, as well as subjects for screenings so that we may better serve our members.....Till next time, sayonara!



HEDORAH

Brain

Eyes, with a refracted lens focusing on a target. They shoot a red laser which change oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon into a deadly poisonous black smoke.

Lungs which extract nitrogen for digestion and disintegration

Intestines which melt helium, Hedorah's energy, from factory wastes

Stomach, which melts factory waste into mercury

Factory waste is stored here to be sent throughout the body.

