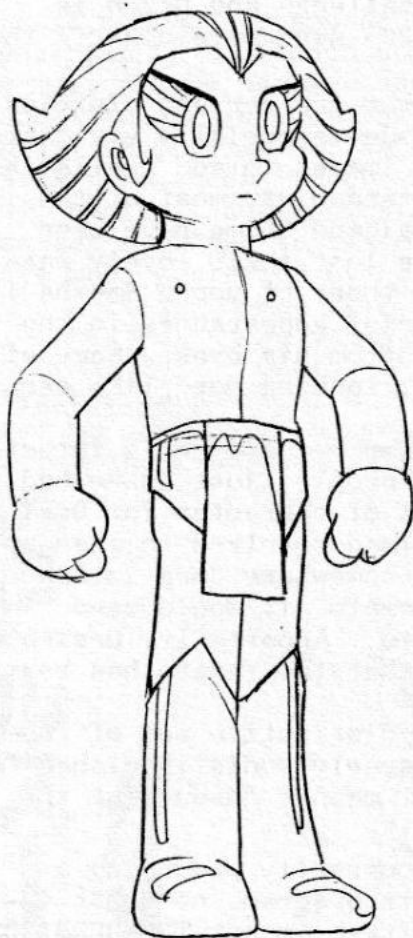


JFFS

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NEW HOPE FOR A NEW GODZILLA FILM--New developments have surfaced regarding the possibility of the return of the King of the Monsters to the big screen. Apparently, Toho's 50th Anniversary is not as far off as was first thought--in fact, it will be in 1982! JFFS member Saki Hijiri confirmed this fact to August Ragone during his recent visit to California. Toho is supposed to have hired five of the leading science fiction writers in Japan to work on prospective treatments for this new film. Production may commence late in 1981. It was indicated that this film would definitely take on a much more serious tone than the last few films in the Godzilla series. Nothing at all is yet known about the theme or the possible appearance of other monsters. However, if the special effects displayed weekly on the ULTRAMAN '80 tv series are an example of what we can expect from Toho in the new film, Godzilla fans may be in for a real treat! Let's all hope that this does not turn out to be another false alarm.....



Atlas

Other upcoming releases during 1981 include a feature length adaptation of the first 13 episodes of the incredibly popular tv series MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM, scheduled for March.....speeding through the cosmos and onto the big screen in July will be the all-new feature film GALAXY EXPRESS 999--PART II.....and the MOON MASK RIDER will ride again in February.

CYBORG 009--LEGEND OF THE SUPER GALAXY opened in January, receiving a generally favorable response from Japanese audiences. In this Ishimori Productions epic, our band of nine cyborg heroes travel beyond our solar system and pass through a star gate into another galaxy in order to rescue a beautiful princess. Reaching the enormous Fortress Star, the cyborg band must fight off a giant one-eyed cyclops and a host of other villains in order to achieve their goal.

The new MIGHTY ATOM series, featuring Osamu Tezuka's animated robot boy-hero, has featured numerous stories adapted straight out of the pages of Tezuka's MIGHTY ATOM comics. The origin episode for this series was remarkably similar to that of the original series, as the professor's son dies in an unfortunate accident. A powerful robot boy is built in the child's likeness, but the plans for MIGHTY ATOM are stolen by an evil scientist who builds an even more powerful robot called Atlas. Mighty Atom even faces the Frankenstein monster in one episode of this delightful series.

YAMATO III UPDATE--The proton missile has entered the sun, and many weird events begin to occur on Earth. Animal life senses the impending disaster and

starts to behave very erratically. Intermittent magnetic disturbances resulting from solar flares cause mechanical devices around the world to malfunction. Solar energy stations fail and some are even destroyed by the sun's unusual behavior. Earth's populace begins to panic as the government is unable to offer any explanation for these strange happenings.

Meanwhile the Garuman and Bollar continue their fierce battles deep in space. Part of the Garuman fleet warps to Alpha Centauri in pursuit of the Bollar. The Garuman discover and attack an Earth outpost in this system, whereupon Earth Defense Headquarters dispatches the Yamato to investigate any possible link between this attack and the proton missile. The Yamato encounters a badly damaged Bollar flagship and decide to help the Bollar to escape the Garuman. Led by General Dagon, the Garuman forces press the attack and destroy the Bollar flagship before the Yamato can rout the Garuman fleet. During this battle, Domon learns the bitter realities of war--his best friend is killed at his side, and Domon himself becomes sick as he is forced to kill a Garuman. Coping with death is one thing which Domon did not learn about at the Academy.

Continuing on to the planet Banado. The Yamato is twice attacked by Garuman forces under the direction of Dagon. The first assault involves the use of a new version of the Gamiras reflector gun, and the second attack is by a super-space armada. Each time, the Yamato is equal to the challenge and Dagon is defeated. But time is running out on the Earth--only 285 days remain until the sun explodes!

With YAMATO III, a new team of artists has taken over the series. Intricately detailed backgrounds are used extensively in each episode--especially vivid are the beautiful outer space backgrounds. Airbrushing of images to add realism has become much more prevalent. From a characterization standpoint, most of the main characters has undergone slight alterations. Kodai and Shima have been given harder-looking facial features. Yuki's eyes have lost their lovely narrowed appearance, now seeming more rounded (similar to those of young Saasha in YAMATO BE FOREVER). Even Desler, who makes a couple brief appearances in the first ten episodes, seems to have lost a bit of menace from his eyes. Some of the new characters are drawn with exaggerated features, looking more like caricatures rather than real people.

Desler is introduced as the leader of the Garuman Empire, and he is intent upon establishing galactic superiority for the Garuman people, just as he had done with Gamiras. This seems to be an abrupt reversal of character for Desler. At the conclusion of YAMATO--THE NEW VOYAGE, Desler seemed resolved to abandon his warlike attitudes and peacefully rebuild his world somewhere deep in space. Having established a great respect for Kodai and the Yamato, it would seem most unlikely that he would again wage war on the Yamato. Apparently, Desler's generals have deliberately withheld from him the fact that the Yamato has been engaged in battle against Garuman forces.

Musically, YAMATO III has not really established a distinctive set of themes. Music from all previous Yamato adventures, plus some largely undistinguished new compositions, have been used in a very inconsistent manner throughout the first ten episodes.

X-BOMBER STRIKES ON JAPANESE TV--Cosmo Productions is currently producing a marionette tv program in Japan entitled X-BOMBER. This program, no doubt inspired by the continuing popularity in Japan of the British import THUNDERBIRDS, takes a slightly different approach to its subject matter than its British counterpart. Puppet movement is far more restrictive, often done without the use of control wires. Miniature effects abound in the series, and even a bit of crude stop-motion photography is used for some of the outer space effects. The X-Bomber itself is a super-spaceship which can combine with other space

vehicles to form a huge super-robot. X-BOMBER is a space adventure series which seems to have drawn heavily on MESSAGE FROM SPACE. The villains closely resemble the Gavanas in costuming and motif. Their leader appears inspired by the villain(ess) of MAZINGER--on the left side of the face there is another smaller face which speaks in a female voice. Spaceship designs are all reminiscent of MESSAGE FROM SPACE. Animated rays (via video mattes) and sound effects are identical to those used in MESSAGE FROM SPACE. X-BOMBER has supposedly been acquired by the BBC for airing in England in the near future.

The highest grossing film of 1980 for Toho was the internationally acclaimed KAGEMUSHA (THE SHADOW WARRIOR), the latest effort from the master director Akira Kurosawa. This sprawling samurai epic, detailing the story of a common thief who is chosen to take the place of a dying war lord whom he closely resembles, is currently making the rounds in America. Ishiro Honda, director of many of Toho's greatest science fiction films, served as Production Coordinator for KAGEMUSHA. Second biggest money-maker for Toho during 1980 was VIRUS, the story of a biological disaster. Greg Jein, reknown for his sfx work in many American films, built the miniature submarine used in this film. Fourth on the box office success list was the March double-bill of MOSURA TAI GOJIRA and the animated Doraemon feature!

If member's response is strong enough, the JFFS would like to hold a "mini convention" in Chicago sometime this summer. This could be an excellent chance to meet fellow members from around the country to share experiences and of course to see some of the films and video programs which are at the JFFS' disposal. Before any arrangements can be made, we would like to offer 3 prospective dates from which members could choose. If you are interested in possibly attending, write in and indicate which date(s) would be most preferable (if more than one set of dates is listed, state your order of preference). We will pick the date most preferred by responding members:

May 22-25

Memorial Day weekend

July 3-6

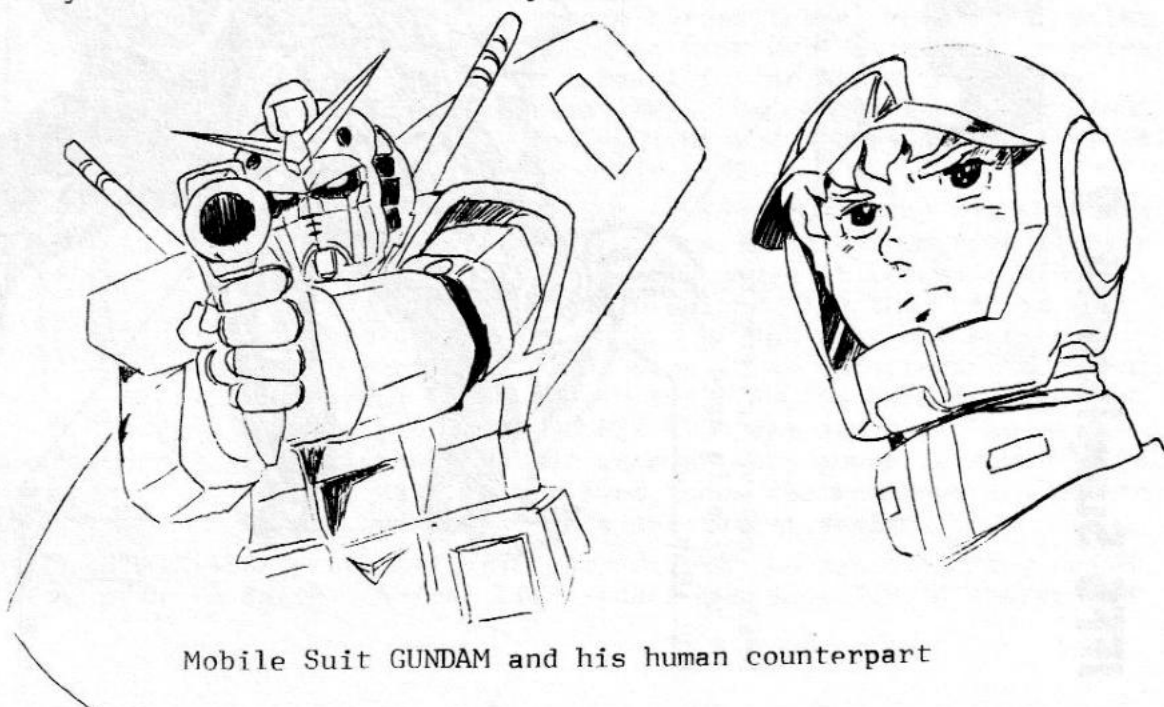
Fourth of July weekend

Sept. 4-7

Labor Day weekend

Remember, expressing interest in one or more dates does not mean a firm commitment on your part--we are just testing for serious interest now. Looking forward to hearing from you! Till next time.....sayonara!

モビル
スーツ
ガンダム



Mobile Suit GUNDAM and his human counterpart

ANGILAS

Can destroy even steel with a thrust of his powerful horns

Brain, relays instructions to ganglia in arms and legs

Gland for producing paralyzing secretions

Paralyzing fluid storage house

Relay tubes to paralyzing spines

Back and tail spines, can completely paralyze any opponent

Arm ganglia

Tail ganglia

Leg ganglia

ANGILAS

Origin: Siberia
Height: 60 meters
Weight: 30,000 tons

