

# JAPANESE

## MOVIE

1979  
ISSUE # 3

# SECRET

BY DAMON FOSTER

INSIDE:

BATTLE OF THE PLANETS  
SPECTREMAN  
MAJIN MONSTER OF TERROR  
RETURN OF GIANT MAJIN  
WHIRL WIND









D.R.



# JMSF 3



D.R.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Kevin Grays, Brian Ridgway, Brian Tuomey, Barry Kaufman, Donald Rhodes, Hajime Ishida, & Nick Cross.

## DEDICATION

This issue is dedicated to the people in the ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS section (above).

## BACK ISSUES

### JMSF#1

This is the first issue of "JAPANESE MOVIE SCI-FI". It's certainly below average. WAY below. About the only reason to buy this issue is to see just how JMSF started out. JMSF has definitely improved since 1977, when this issue was made. It costs 1.00\$ & 30¢. Write to Damon Foster.

### JMSF#2

An improvement over the first sickening issue but this issue (1978) is still very sloppy. This issue is also below average. Readers mentioned that both issues had rare info & photos. For both issues, write to..... 26986 Grandview Ave, Hayward, Ca. 94542.

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

welcome to yet the 3rd issue of "JAPANESE MOVIE SCIENCE FICTION". I didn't think JMSF would make it all the way to a third issue. If you don't like this issue, keep in mind that I'm just 15 years old. I was 13 when I made #1, and I was 14 when I made #2. This issue has articles on..... MAJIN MONSTER OF TERROR, RETURN OF GIANT MAJIN, GODZILLA VS MEGALON, PINK LADY, BATTLE OF THE PLANETS, and an article on SPECTREMAN. In the SPECTREMAN (pronounced as SPECT-ERMAN) article, I forgot to say another weak point for the show. A lot of the little kids in the show have this one dubbed voice that I hate. It's much worse than even the kid in "GODZILLA VS MEGALON." It sounds kind of like the voice for Dawey, from the stupid religious "DAVEY & GOLIATH" series. Most of my readers gave no response to JMSF#2. I hope that this time, everyone will send me a L.O.C. on this issue. I'll think of a real lot to say later but I don't know what to say now.

All for now,  
Damon Foster.



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DAMON FOSTER / JMSF#3  
26986 GRANDVIEW  
HAYWARD CALIFORNIA  
94542



And a **SPECIAL** thanks to Gladys & Allen Dudley!!!!!!!!!!!! If it weren't for them, this issue probably **never** would have come out!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



# MAJIN

THE MONSTER OF TERROR!

Dai-1, 1968  
 PRODUCED BY MASAICHI NAGATA  
 DIRECTED BY KIMIYOSHI YASUDA  
 SCREENPLAY BY TETSUO YOSHIDA  
 SPECIAL EFFECTS BY KIMIYOSHI JURODA  
 MUSIC BY AKIRA IFUKUBE

CAST  
 KOSENTA.....JUN FUJIMAKI  
 TADAFUMI.....YOSHIHIKO AOYAMA  
 KOZASA.....MIWA TAKADA  
 SAMANOSKI.....RYUTARO GOMI  
 KUNJURO.....TATSUO ENDO

BY DAMON FOSTER

## SYNOPSIS

As the story opens, the people of a village hear a strange sound. A man, his wife, and a small baby are in their house, when they hear the sound. The wife says: "Listen! The husband says: 'Majin is there! Those are his footsteps!'" The wife replies: "Oh no, no!" The man: "He's trying to break loose from the mountain." Wife: "Then it's true about the evil spirit the priestess says is being imprisoned in Wolf's Canyon. Then he'll get out! Tockay, (the name of her baby) Tockay!" A man outside says: "Come with us, we're going to pray that Majin doesn't come out!" "We're coming!" replied the husband. Later, the High Priestess Shinabu holds a big ceremony to pray that Majin doesn't come out.

Hanibuza (the High Lord of the village) and his son Tadafumi are in their big castle talking. Tadafumi said: "Father, is Majin of the mountain really going to come out now?" Emperor Hanibuza said: "You are a samurai son! Be brave. If we pray to our God, he will keep him locked up." Tadafumi said: "Is the good god a samurai?" Hanibuza replied: "Of course, every good god is a samurai. Shino is the good god in the mountain. He and Majin have been fighting for a long time."

The ceremony continued. A man said: "Is there really a Majin like they say?" A man named Kogenta said: "Of course! You've been to the shrine haven't you? You've seen his footprints there, if you are not blind."

Hanibuza and two of his "friends" (Samanoski & Kunjuro) are talking. Samanoski said: "They've begun their ceremony already my lord." Hanibuza said: "I think you should go. Try and talk to them. Calm them down. They're terrified of Majin. If you go as my messenger I think it would help." Samanoski replied: "As you wish, my Lord. Kunjuro, come." Kunjuro said: "Ready."

Kunjuro & Samanoski actually plan on conquering the village because Samanoski wants to be the Lord and he plans on killing Hanibuza and his family!

Kunjuro said: "Is everything ready?" A different man said: "Yes sir, everything!" Kunjuro: "That castle is just waiting for you to take it my lord. And Majin chose tonight to become active!" Samanoski replied: "I have to remember to thank him!"

As the festival continued, Samanoski and Kunjuro got on their horses and attacked Hanibuza's castle! Samanoski met up with Hanibuza and then Samanoski said: "Lord Hanibuza listen, as of now, your palace and all of your goods belong to me! The castle is mine!" Samanoski and his men had a small swordfight against Hanibuza and his men! During the battle, Kogenta went and got them (Hanibuza's children) and took them to safety. During the fight, Hanibuza was killed. However, Prince Tadafumi and Princess Kozasa were safe thanks to Kogenta. The three of them went to hide in Shinabu's house to hide from the soldiers.

Shinabu saw them and said: "Kogenta, how did you manage it?" Kogenta replied: "They just never found us." Shinabu said: "Thanks to Shino. I heard all that went on. I was so frightened that you wouldn't be here." Kogenta: "We must leave this place before dawn." Shinabu knew of a place where the three of them could be safe. It was the Majin/Shino statue. She lead the three of them there. When they arrived there, Shinabu said: "I pray to Shino, may he take you in his embrace and protect you forever. Come." They walked into a cave which was near the statue.

Samanoski now controls the village and he's forcing the villagers to work real hard and he's torturing most of them.

Kogenta, Tadafumi, & Kozasa lived in Shino's cave for many years and Shinabu brought them food each day. Tadafumi is 20 years old now. Tadafumi is talking with Shinabu. Tadafumi: "The villagers are being forced to work?" Shinabu: "Yes, since he murdered your father, everything has gone well for Samanoski. He has luck. It seems will never end. He is either subdued or joined with all the most powerful barrens. He's going to Kyoto soon. To form an alliance with Lord Ishu. The new fort he's having built is to have greater protection from the enemies around, and for this he needs





all the men in town. And he's taken everyone's crops for taxes so there is not enough to eat in most places." Kozasa said: "I didn't know it was that bad." Tadafumi: "Kogenta, we've got to go there now." Kogenta answered: "But my lord." Tadafumi: "We can't just wait here, and hope that something will happen. We can't let Samanoski go on living. Not another day."

Kogenta decided to go into town to find out if there were any other men who hated Samanoski. His plan was to get an army together and attack Samanoski. As Kogenta walked into town, Kunjuro captures him! Kunjuro says: "It's been a long time Kogenta! If you are alive then so are the children. Where's the prince? Where is he hiding?" Back at Shino's cave, Kozasa and Tadafumi are talking. Kozasa: "What could have happened to Kogenta?" Tadafumi: "I don't know." Kozasa: "Do you think anything went wrong?"

At Samanoski's palace, Kogenta is being tortured with hot pieces of iron touched to his skin. Up at Shinabu's house, a small boy appears. He is Tockay. Tockay says: "I just came here to ask a favor from the god of the mountain." Shinabu: "Then pray here, you know you're not allowed to go to far into the mountain, you could be punished." Tockay: "No, I want to ask the god myself." Shinabu: "No you mustn't." Tockay: "I've got to or Samanoski will kill my father. My father got caught for helping a man get out. A strange man too. I think his name was Kogenta."

Tockay ignored Shinabu's warnings and wandered toward the statue. When he arrived he walked in the cave and saw Kozasa. He said: "Goddess, please save my father." Kozasa replied: "There is no reason to pray to me." Tockay said: "Are you a real person?" Kozasa: "Yes." Tockay: "If you're a real person, why are you hear?" Kozasa: "I'm afraid I can't tell you that." Tockay: "I understand, I came because I wanted to pray to the god of the mountain and you did too." Kozasa: "That's right." That night, Tadafumi goes to rescue Kogenta from Samanoski. Kogenta has been hung by his heels near the gate. As he goes to save Kogenta, Tadafumi himself is also captured by Kunjuro!

Back at Shinabu's house, Shinabu see's Princess Kozasa and says: "Where's your brother?" Kozasa: "Kogenta was away so long, he got very worried, I'm sure he went down to the town." Shinabu: "The enemies are waiting for him in town." Kozasa: "Then what of my brother?" Shinabu: "He could be caught by now. I'll go see Samanoski tonight."





Later that night, Shinabu goes to Samanoski's castle to talk to him. After Samanoski finished target practicing with his gun, Samanoski said: "What is it you must tell me?" Shinabu: "Have you heard about the Gods Majin and Shino?" Samanoski: "Yes I have, what about them?" Shinabu: "You have tortured your people, and you have profited by them. If you don't stop, vengeance will be taken upon you by the god of the mountain." Samanoski: "Who, Shino? Do you think I believe in your god?" Shinabu: "You must release the people now, at once. Put an end to their torment and their pains. Or else you will encounter the terrible wrath of the Gods." Samanoski: "I'm not a superstitious man, I wonder if your god will come to your rescue. I think I'll try to kill you." Samanoski was going to use his gun but he forgot to load it. He pulled out his sword and with 3 fake looking stabs, he killed Shinabu. Then Samanoski sent Kunjuro and some other soldiers to destroy the Shino statue. As they traveled, they got lost in the forest. Then they saw Kozasa and Toki hiding in the bushes. Kunjuro: "Princess Kozasa! Well!" Kozasa said: "I'm not a princess, I don't know who you are talking about." Kunjuro: "Has that old fool Shinabu been hiding you here all these years?" Kozasa: "Who is Shinabu?" Kunjuro: "Kogenta and Tadafumi will be executed tomorrow morning."

Kunjuro made Kozasa lead him to the statue. When they arrived there, they hammered a big spike into Shino's forehead. Lightning struck, and killed all the soldiers. Kozasa walked up to the Shino statue and said: "Tomorrow morning my brother, Shino listen to me. Please help us, I ask you to save Kogenta and my brother. Shino try to hear my this once. You see I'm not like Shinabu was. I'm not a priestess. I don't know how to pray. To make you understand what I tell you, but I ask for your divine mercy. I ask you for safety for Kogenta and my brother. They're going to be executed by the evil Lord's men!" After a real lot of persuading, Shino finally got up and transformed his entire body into that of MAJIN! For the next 10 minutes Majin went on a destructive rampage through the village. He grabbed Samanoski, pulled the spike out of his head, and stabbed Samanoski. Kozasa said: "Won't you appease your anger by crushing please! Please then you can return to your mountain!" Majin didn't step on her, he just went home to the mountain.



END



# RETURN OF GIANT MAJIN!

DAIEI, 1969

PRODUCED BY MASAICHI NAGATA

DIRECTED BY KENJI MISUMI

SCREENPLAY BY TETSUO YOSHIDA

SPECIAL EFFECTS BY YOSHITSUKI KURODA

MUSIC BY AKIRA IFUKUBE

CAST

LORD JUMBO.....KOJIRO HONGO

LADY SAYURI.....SHIHO FUJIMURA

TODONKEI NAGOSHI.....TARO MARUI

SAITO MIKOSHIBA.....TAKASHI KANDA

BY DAMON FOSTER

## REVIEW:

"RETURN OF GIANT MAJIN" is a Japanese film made in 1969. The film is a sequel to "MAJIN, THE MONSTER OF TERROR" (a film also reviewed in this issue). The article on "MAJIN, MONSTER OF TERROR" is a synopsis and rather than synopsize this film too, I decided that I would just review this film. In a future issue, I might synopsize this film and review "MAJIN MONSTER OF TERROR." Anyway, "RETURN OF GIANT MAJIN" is a monster movie that takes place in ancient Japan. The film has to do with 3 villages. They are Chigusa, Mikoshiba, and Nagoshi. Chigusa and Nagoshi are both by a lake. Both these villages live off the lake. Mikoshiba is surrounded by mountains. The Mikoshibans are jealous of the other two villages so they attack & conquer both of them. The evil war-lord treats all the villages very cruelly. The statue known as "Majin" (but through the film, they never call Majin by his name) comes to life and kills the evil war-lord and it's peaceful again. The plot really isn't quite that simple, but that's the film's basic plot. The actual film involves battles between samurai armies, swordfights and things like that. Majin himself doesn't come to life (he stays in the form of a statue and comes to life when needed) until around the last 15 minutes of the film (all Majin's films are this way). Maney people don't seem to like the idea of Majin only being in the last few minutes of the movie. I really don't mind this at all, especially since they occasionally have sword-fighting, and since I'm a samurai fan, I think that the swordfighting is fantastic! I really feel sorry for all of you who aren't interested in samurai sword-fighting. You're really missing something.

"RETURN OF GIANT MAJIN" was a very good film. To me, it's probably Daiei's best. The only other Daiei films I know of are the Gamera films. Out of these films, the only one I liked very much was "WAR OF THE MONSTERS." Kojiro Hongo is in this film, (incidentally, he's also in "RETURN OF MAJIN") and that's one of this film's good points. But I don't think "WAR OF THE MONSTERS" is as good as the Majin films. Oh yes, I know of a few other Daiei films. They are: "WARNING FROM SPACE" (the ultimate bore) "ALONG WITH GHOSTS," "CURSE OF THE GHOSTS," "THE OGER," "KENDO," & "THE HUNDRED MONSTERS." The only one of those films I've seen is "WARNING FROM SPACE."



END



# NEXT ISSUE?

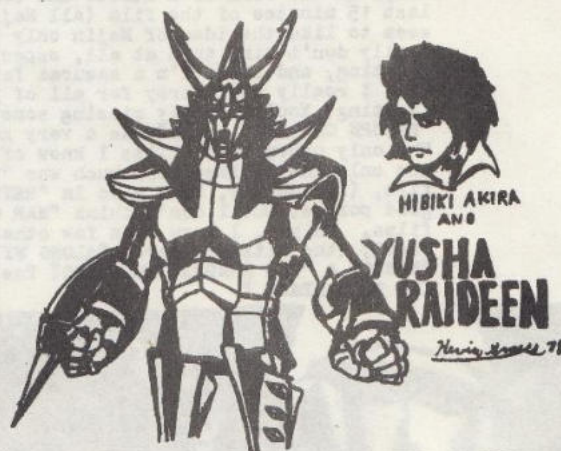
The next issue of JMSF will be devoted mostly to Japanese cartoons. It'll be the special "Japanese cartoon issue." It'll probably have reviews on YUSHA RAIDEEN, UFO DAI APOLON, GATTAIGA, IKKYUSAN, SPACE CRUISER YAMATO, GALAXY EXPRESS 999, GETTA ROBO, GETTA ROBO G, MAZINGA Z, GREAT MAZINGA, BATTLE OF THE PLANETS, SPEED RAGER, MARINE BOY, ASTRO BOY, PRINCE PLANET, THE 8TH MAN, GIGANTOR THE SPACE-AGE ROBOT, KIMBA, FORCE 5, CYBORG 009, DAI-TAN 3, and much, much more. I'll try to review as many Japanese cartoons as I possibly can. Anything from the great RAIDEEN, to the terrible IKKYUSAN, to the fairly good GATTIGER.

If any of you possibly can, send in any articles, photos, (especially photos) or art on Japanese cartoons. I will have no problem on getting art + photos from RAIDEEN, BATTLE OF THE PLANETS, and GATTIGER but I really need material on the following..... SPEED RAGER, MARINE BOY, 8TH MAN, GIGANTOR, PRINCE PLANET, ASTRO BOY, SOCCER BOY, and KIMBA. If you have any photos or art from those shows, I need your help VERY much!!!!!! If you do send in something, and if I use it, you'll receive a free issue of JMSF#4! It makes no difference how big or small the item is. All material will be returned to you when you receive your issue. Also, please enclose a 15¢ stamp, or a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with your letter or it'll take a little longer for me to reply. For you Godzilla fans, JMSF#4 will also feature a very indepth informative synopsis article on "GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND." It'll be one of those articles where they get just about every word in the film. Although it's suppose to be a Japanese cartoon issue, "GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND" will be reviewed because it's impossible to make a Japanese SF sine without a little of GODZILLA in each issue.

The next issue will certainly be an improvement over this one. I also hope that this issue is an improvement over JMSF#2.

If you are one of those people who do not like Japanese cartoons, then JMSF#4 won't be for you. If you do like them, JMSF#4 will be for you. If you enjoyed the film "GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND," you will also like JMSF#4.

So, the next issue of JMSF will be the special 1980 issue. The 1st issue of the 1980s will be especially dedicated to Japanese cartoons.





# REHASH!!!

BY DAMON FOSTER



This article is a review of what has been going on recently in Japanese movies and TV shows. As everyone knows, "REVENGE OF MECHA GODZILLA" is the most recent Godzilla film to be released to the U.S.A and it was released as "THE TERROR OF GODZILLA." It was only shown for about two weeks and then was immediately sold to some TV stations. It was released to TV as "THE TERROR OF MECHA GODZILLA." In the film's credits, it said something like: "RELEASED BY THE MECHAGODZILLA PEOPLE!" Thanks to Kevin Grays for the information. No stills were made for the film, unfortunately. Because of this, many of you probably haven't seen very many photos from it. I've put a few photos of the film on this page (if I remembered). The two next Godzilla films to be made will be "RE-SECTION OF GODZILLA" (a remake of the first Godzilla film) & "GODZILLA VS THE DEVILS." I'm sure everyone already knew that so I shouldn't have rehashed it all.

And now for ULTRA BROTHER news. About a year ago, the newest ULTRA MAN show came out. It was called "ZA ULTRA MAN" and it's a cartoon. I have A LOT of photographs of him and it shows some of his magic powers too. A few of them are ULTRA VACUUM, ULTRA PUNCH, ULTRA RAZOR SHOT, ULTRA NET, ULTRA CHOP, ULTRA KICK, and a few other silly things.

And that takes care of ULTRAMAN & GODZILLA news. The most recent Japanese TV show (not including all those cartoons) to be released to America is SPECTREMAN. The show is pretty good but in the dubbing, it's very childish. They say things like: darn! Shoot! Far out! The acting is also really awful. The monsters look silly too. However, the first few episodes, and the last few episodes (the ones in the middle are dull) have a lot of action. The show has lousy special effects too. For more detail on the show, check the SPECTREMAN article in this issue.

In the Fall of 1980, NBC will show a TV show called "SHOGUN." It takes place in ancient Japan and comes from James Clavell's book (entitled SHOGUN) and each episode will be an hour long and there will be about 18 episodes. The good thing about the show is that Toshiro Mifune will be in it. For those of you who don't know who Toshiro Mifune is, he's a Japanese actor who has starred in films like: "SAMURAI 1 LEG- END OF MUSASHI," "SAMURAI PART 2 DUEL AT ICHIJOU TEMPLE," "SAMURAI PART 3 DUEL ON GANYU ISLAND," "LOVE & FAITH," "WHIRL WIND!" (I've seen those last five) "ALBUSH," "RISE AGAINST THE SWORD," "CHUSHING- URA," and many other samurai film. He has also been in American films and a few of them are: "RED SUN," "MIDWAY" & "HELL IN THE PACIFIC." He has also been on a Japanese samurai show called "HAWK OF JUSTICE." The show is one of the best TV shows I've ever seen. Maybe I'll re- view this show in a future issue.

I have a lot more information to say but by the time this issue comes out, all that information will be old so there is really no point of typing it up here.



END



# LETTERS



This is a short "letters page" because I did not want to make it long. The reason I made this short is because short is because the last issue had a VERY sloppy "letters page".

Dear Damon, well JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI #2 was much better than #1. More in depth articles, better info, and more stills are in #2 than #1 had. Typing all the articles helped a lot. Your writing isn't very good. Also you should try to type out all the art with the same typewriter. Your artwork also isn't very good. But Bill Gudmunson and Kevin Grays artwork helped the issue a lot. Most all of the stills you presented were excellent! Especially the Japanese stills of ULTRA MAN, ESPY, & THE SPACE GIANTS!! JMSF #2 is not a bad fansine. It still needs a little work and it could be much neater. I'm not sending you the report-card back because I keep all my letters and you wrote on the back of the JMSF report card. Anyway, I've put down what I think of each article below. Just like the report-card.

COVER-3  
ULTRAMAN STILL-7  
ESPY STILL-7  
EDITORIAL-2  
MONSTER CHART-3  
LETTERS-3  
BEHIND THE SCENES-5

CAMERA VS JIGER-3  
GATTIGER-4  
EVIL BRAIN FROM SPACE-4  
MONSTER ZERO-4  
EDITORIAL-2  
SPACE GIANTS STILL-7

It was very dumb to put down JMSF #1 and O-C #3 in your "Fanzines for sale" section! The issues were bad, but to advertise and then put down your own fanzines is very dumb! Well that is about it for now.

Randy Whalen  
Lockport, Illinois

Dear Damon, in JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI your monster chart gives the names GAMAHERA and ASPIGA. There are no such creatures! Aspiaga is a mispronunciation of SPIGA, the giant spider from SON OF GODZILLA and GODZILLA'S REVENGE. Damon here, Aspiaga's real name is Kamonga and GamaHERA is actually Kamakuras. You say you will have no criticism in your zine, however I noticed some very degrading remarks made toward some shows, especially BATTLE OF THE PLANETS. Let's have NO show discrimination, after all, every show has its fans who could get upset about these things and Japanese Monster Fans should stick together. By no means cut out Japanese cartoon articles! They are as much a part of the culture as the films! Damon here, you are right but I was just comparing BATTLE OF THE PLANETS to other Japanese cartoons. BATTLE OF THE PLANETS is a very good show but not as good as most of the other Japanese cartoons I've seen.

JMSF #2 was a definite improvement over #1.

Kevin Grays  
East Cleveland, Ohio



Damon, the photos were excellent and the stories featured were very informative. I agree with what you said about the Gamera movies. Trash. There was a few things you forgot to mention all the flaws in shows like ULTRAMAN + JOHNNY (sick) SOKKO. These are things like visible wires, cheap costumes, and even the matte background skies that are sometimes drooping and wrinkled. When these flaws are spotted, the entire episode is ruined. Damon here, I guess so, but after watching a few episodes of SPECTREMAN, I got used to those flaws pretty fast!

Congratulations on your mag. A job well done.

Brian Ridgway  
Bancroft, Michigan



Dear Damon, "JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI #2" was okay. Definately an improvement over the first sloppy issue. The cover of JMSF #2 looked very professional. The photo of Gigan is commonly seen though. I liked the Gattiger article very much. It's something new to me.

The "behind the scenes" article was a real waste of space. The chart was very good though. The "CAMERA VS MONSTER X" article stinks! The photos used in the article were great though. You also did a lousy job at the "MONSTER ZERO" article.

Sincerely,  
Allen Retsof.





# WHIRL WIND

WHIRLWIND is a Japanese movie that was made by Tehe movie company. The film was starring the following people: Toshiro Mifune, Kumi Mizuno and Akira Kubo. The film takes place in 1615 in Osaka.

Since I only saw the film once, I don't remember the plot too well. The film is one of the best samurai movies I have ever seen. I just wish that Toshiro Mifune had a bigger part. In this movie, he wasn't the main hero in the film. Instead, the movie was about some other guy who I never heard of. There were a number of heroes in the film. Both men and women get the chance to do karate & sword-fighting. This film had a real lot of action in it. In the movie, Toshiro Mifune seldom ever uses a sword. Most of the time, he uses a strange stick that resembles a club. He also wears a wierd basket over his head some of the time.

Akira Kubo is also in the film. Unfortunately, he only has a small part. All together, he only has about 4 or 5 minutes in the entire film and he plays the part of one of the badguys. Kumi Mizuno is in the movie too. She plays the part of Akira Kubo's sister. Unfortunately, I can't remember the names of the characters in the story. I also can't remember what the plot for the film is. It's too confusing to follow. I'm not sure, but I think that Akira Takarada is in the film. If not, it must of been a guy who looks just like him. His name wasn't even mentioned in the credits. Akira Takarada played the part of a good guy. He didn't do any sword fighting that I can remember. However, just about everyone else in the film does.

I saw the film on April 14, 1979 on a Saturday afternoon with 2 of my friends (Brian Tuomey & Nick Cross) at a Japanese theatre called the Kokusai Theatre. When I went there, I picked up a film schedual that showed the movies that they were showing. It had a small piece on WHIRL WIND which said: "After the fall of the great Osaka Castle in 1615 chaos prevailed. Many among the defeated chose to continue fighting as guerrillas, others chose to collaborate with the victors. Still others believed hari-kiri, to preserve their honor, was the only solution." And that's the best that I can explain its complicating plot.

When me, Nick & Brian first went into the theatre, it costed me about 3 dollars & 50 cents to get in but it only costed one dollar & fifty cents for Nick & Brian because they aren't as old as I am. When we walked in, we sat down about 4 or 5 seats from the movie screen. For a while we waited for the movie to start but nothing happened. I was getting bored. Then I remembered that up by the door of the theatre they were selling movie posters from samurai movies. I walked up to buy a poster. When I got there, I asked her (the lady selling the posters) if I could buy a poster. She pointed to 3 different posters. One was just an ancient Japanese poster of a painting. It costed about 5 dollars and I wouldn't of wanted it even if

BY DAMON FOSTER

it was for free. The other two posters were movie release posters from two different Japanese movies. The movies were SANJURO #1 & SANJURO #2. They costed three dollars each. I bought SANJURO #1 because it was a better poster. The poster shows a collage of parts from the film, including a close-up of Toshiro Mifune's face. Nick bought one too. When the films finally started (actually, the films were shown a lot quicker than most other theatres do) we were dissappointed at the first film (we saw a double feature). The first one we saw (which also starred Toshiro Mifune) was called "SAMURAI PART 2- DUEL AT ICHIJOUJI TEMPLE" and it was very dull the action was practically non-existent and it was awful. We never saw "SAMURAI PART 1- THE LEGEND OF MUSASHI" so we couldn't tell what was going on. WHIRLWINDS was much better. It was filled with action.

WHIRL WINDS was directed by Hiroshi Inagaki and the outstanding miniatures were done by Ei-ji Teiburaya. The way ancient temples and bridges broke was done very well. At the begining of the film, the villains use their cannons and fire at a lot of buildings and the destruction is very realistic. At the ending of the film, a whirlwind (tornado) comes and kills all the bad guys (the good guys stay alive) and destroys a lot of temples & buildings.

Both films were in Japanese with English subtitles for translation. The music for WHIRL WIND is great but I just wish I could remember the name of the guy who did the music for the film.

When me Brian & Nick went to see the films, we were just about the only people in the theatre who were not Japanese. We were probably the only ones there who had to read the sub-titles to understand the movies. The sub-titles weren't too accurate. The stars in the film would say jokes in Japanese. The sub-titles never say the jokes. Everyone in the theatre laughed but me, Nick & Brian. The sub-titles did translated a few of the jokes but they were not at all funny.

One more thing, earlier in this article, I wrote that the name of the other movie (when I bought the posters) was "SANJURO #2. Well, that was a mistake. It's actually called "THRONE OF BLOOD!"



## Samurai Festival

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+END+



# SPECTRE MAN!

BY DAMON FOSTER

SPECTRE MAN is a Japanese super-hero show that was released to America by Richard Rosenfield. The original Japanese version was made by Fuji Telecasting Co. The American version was directed by Mell Welles. The assistant directors for the American version are John Thompson and Charles Howerton. The screen adaptations were by Mell Welles, Ruth Carter, and Charles Howerton and the assistant editors are Elaine Kolb, Susan Marcinkus, and Karen Wilson. SPECTREMAN merchandising by Selwin Rausch. Title design by Howard Anderson. Music supervision by Gold-ems Emi Music. Title song written by Jerry Winn, Bob Todd, and Gregory Sill. Sound service by Quality Sound Inc. Post Production services by Stanley Sheff. Edited by Allen Geik. Assistant producer Morley Rosenfield. Photography by I. Kakida. Lighting by M. Kendo. Special effects by Tomio Sagisu.

Now that I'm done with the credits, I'll try to get into the show's plot.

Off in another part of the universe, there is a planet called the "Planet E". On this planet, there is an intelligent but friendly group of "ape-men". One of them was an ape named "Dr. Gori". Unlike the other apes of the planet, Dr. Gori was very evil. He wished to conquer other planets, rather than just live on one. The other apes of the planet knew that Dr. Gori had to be punished for being so cruel. They planned on using their machines and changing Dr. Gori's brain to make him nicer. However, before they could carry out the operation, an ape named Karis helped Dr. Gori to escape from the planet on a flying saucer. They flew through space for many years but then one day a cosmic storm sent them far across the universe to the planet Earth. Dr. Gori knew that this would be a good planet to conquer. Then a group of friendly creatures from a different planet (these creatures are called "OVER LORDS") came to Earth to save the Earth from Dr. Gori. The Over Lords sent their robot known as "SPECTRE MAN" to Earth. SPECTREMAN's duty is to destroy Dr. Gori and his monsters. SPECTREMAN disguises himself as a human and goes to work in a group of people known as the Anti Pollution Patrol. As a human, SPECTREMAN's name is George. Dr. Gori begins creating a lot of monsters by using man's own pollution. Each time Dr. Gori makes a monster, SPECTREMAN arrives and kills the monster.

That's the plot for the show. It ended in an episode where SPECTREMAN killed Dr. Gori's last monster, (he was called "MIGHTY MONSTER" but in the Japanese version, he was called "DESAIDOMAN") and then SPECTREMAN had a duel with Karis and after SPECTREMAN killed Karis, Dr. Gori committed suicide. That's the show's plot from beginning to end. In each episode, Dr. Gori sends out another monster to cause trouble and destruction.



Out of all the monsters on the show SPECTREMAN, the one who fights SPECTREMAN the most is KARIS. He's a strong but stupid gorilla-warrior (similar to the gorillas on the "PLANET OF THE APES" films). Karis has fought SPECTREMAN on a number of episodes. SPECTREMAN always beats up Karis and Karis runs off yelling something like: "You haven't heard the last off me you tinmen!"

Dr. Gori's monsters look awful. Their costumes are cheap, fake, and just terrible. I have to admit, a few of them looked fair, but the rest are terrible. This show consists of 63 episodes, which is more than the other three shows have (the other three shows are: SPACE GIANTS, ULTRAMAN, & JOHNNY SOKKO & HIS FLYING ROBOT). ULTRAMAN only has 39 episodes, SPACE GIANTS has 52, & JOHNNY SOKKO & HIS ROBOT has 29 episodes.

SPECTREMAN himself is brown & gold. His arms, legs, and head are gold, the rest is brown. The worst thing about the show is the cheap way they do laser beams. Nothing but a photo of a gun with a painted beam coming out.



The above photo of SPECTREMAN (which I got from Brian Tuomey) happened during the show's 3rd episode, where SPECTREMAN fought "Midoron", the animated dragon.





S P E C T R A L

M A N !

Also, the growls for the monsters are usually very ridiculous. One monster sounded just like the barking of an ordinary dog. Another one made the sound of a car when it skids on a road.

Most of the time, SPECTRE MAN is very low-budget. On one episode, George (SPECTRE MAN in his human form) sees a giant monster egg. It's about 3 feet high and he walks up to it. If you look closely at the "monster egg" you can see that it's just a big rock. It even has people's names spray-painted on it! On a different episode, two monsters were having a fight in a city. The painted background has a rip in it!

George works for a group called the Pollution Patrol. As usual, the pollution patrol has helmets & rayguns. It seems that to many groups have helmets, guns, space ships etc. A few of these groups are the Science Patrol, (from Ultra Man) Unicorn organization, (from Johnny Sekko) Anti Pollution Patrol, (from Spectre-Man) and the Monster Attack Force (from the Home Coming Ultra Man). Now back to the Anti Pollution Patrol. It consists of the following people: George, Commander Karata, John, Arthur, Rita, Margaret, Sally, Kim and Otto. Otto is the comedian of the group. Every Japanese super hero-team has a goofy guy. The Science Patrol had Ito, the Gogangers had the yellow ranger, G-Force has Keyop, etc. etc.

My least favorite thing about SPECTRE MAN is that the American dubbed version is very religious. They always say ridiculous things like "Let's pray to God that the giant monster does not destroy Tokyo." I personally do not believe in God.

SPECTRE MAN himself has a number of powers. A few of them are: spectre flash, spectre ray, and spectre gun. He can also grow giant or stay in the size of a human.

In the Japanese version of SPECTRE MAN, his name is actually "SPECTRAL MAN" and that's why his head has the form of a diamond.

Of the 4 live-action shows from Japan (ULTRAMAN, SPACE GIANTS, SPECTREMAN, & JOHNNY SEKKO) I think that SPECTREMAN is the best. I like it very much because it has so much action. It's filled with karate, judo, etc. The shows get a number of different styles of fighting. One of them is the style with person against person. With no monsters involved. Another kind is the Kikaider style, where one human-sized hero fights a number of monsters at once. SPECTRE MAN also has the ULTRA MAN style of fighting. Where one giant fast moving hero fights a giant slow moving monster.

In the show, the Pollution Research and Control Squad (each member appears to be a martial artist) have fights against anything from a gorilla warrior to people with frog heads, to "tumble weed men". The plots for each episode are strange. On one episode, some kids turn a school teacher into a giant monster. Another time, a retarded boy turns his pet dog into an enormous monster dog. On a different episode, Dr. Gori kidnaps some people and turns them into ape-men and then they go out and chase SPECTRE MAN into an old shack.

One interesting thing about the show is that on one of the first episodes, SPECTRE MAN encounters a giant dragon. The dragon, unlike so many other Japanese monsters, this one was an animated meddle. The animation is similar to Ray Harryhausen's animation but not quite as good.

In the Japanese version, Karis' name is either Ra or Ray. Anyway it's spelled in Japanese like: "ラ". Almost every episode of SPECTRE MAN is a 2 parter. I'm not sure, but I think the show was made in 1971. The music for the show is also very good. I really like the music used when SPECTRE MAN fights the monsters. However, the American theme song used at the beginning and ending of each episode is terrible. It is the same kind of rock & roll that you might expect to hear on a radio. The words for the song go something like this: "SPECTREMAN! SPECTREMAN! IN A FLASH, LIKE A FLAME, FASTER THAN A FLAME! A MYSTERY, WITH THE NAME SPECTREMAN! WE WILL NEVER KNOW SOURCE OF HIS POWER AND HIS FORCE! HAS HE GOT THIS PLANET'S SOURCE? SPECTREMAN!" That's what the song is something like.

I know that the American releasers did a lousy job at releasing SPECTREMAN to America but I still hope that more Japanese super hero shows will be released to America. Regardless of how bad the voice-dubbing is!





In this article, I forgot to mention that SPECTRE MAN came from NEBULA 71. A strange thing about SPECTRE MAN (the show) is that the Pollution Patrol keeps switching female members. In the first few episodes, the female member was Rita (who had died red hair but then later in the show her hair turned black) but after a few episodes went by she was replaced by a different female member and a few episodes later, she was replaced and it goes on and on and on. The things that Karl says are usually very funny (unlike those ridiculous jokes said by 7 Zark 7).

In my area, it seems that no one likes the show SPECTRE MAN. They don't like it just because it has lousy special effects. I personally think that the show has great special effects. But it's the action that makes the show worthwhile. If you are one of those people who don't like the STAR MAN films, you probably will not like SPECTRE MAN. Both heroes have below-average special effects.

I was one of the first people in America to be able to see SPECTRE MAN. The very first TV station to pick up SPECTRE MAN was channel 2 KTVU, Oakland, California. Ch. 2 has also shown the following TV shows: JOHNNY SOKKO & HIS FLYING ROBOT, ULTRA MAN, & the SPACE GIANTS.

Many people will not like this show (because they are stupid) but I think it's great but I must admit, it has a lot of weakpoints.

END



5-



MAUNTODORAGON



スペクトルマン





"GOJIRA TAI MEGARO" 1973  
 PRODUCED BY TOHO MOTION PICTURE CO.  
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TOMOYUKI TANAKA  
 DIRECTED BY JUN FUKUDA  
 SCREENPLAY BY SINICHI SEKIZAWA  
 MUSIC BY RICHIE MINABE  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY YUZURU AIZAWA

#### CAST

GORO.....KATSUHIKO SASAKI  
 ROXA.....HIROYUKI KAWASE  
 JAYCAVIN...YUKATA HAYASHI  
 HIGH PRIEST..ROBERT DUNHAM  
 SPY.....KOTARO TONITA

BY DAMON FOSTER

#### SYNOPSIS

Narrator: "In the 1st part of 1971, on a small island near the illutions, the 2nd underground nuclear test took place. This is what happened." A group of explosions occur. Narrator: "The effects of the explosions were wide-spread, even on far-away Monster Island, in the South Pacific."

While at a lake, a boy named Roxa is playing on his toy dolphin mechanical boat. His older brother Goro and a guy named Jaycavin were watching Roxa who was near the middle of the lake. Roxa said: "Hi there!" Jaycavin said: "It looks like fun." Goro: "Want to try?" Jaycavin: "Yeah, why not!"

After a little while, the ground shook and a whirlpool appeared in the lake. Goro fired a small rocket-harpoon at Roxa which was connected to a rope. Roxa caught it, and tied it to the controls of the dolphin boat. Jaycavin & Goro pulled the rope and Roxa was pulled to safety. All the water in the lake was sucked into a big hole in the center of the lake. After the picnic, the three of them are driving home. The announcer on the radio said: "And now the latest news flash, earthquakes are still being induced in many parts of the city. It's said that many lives have been lost. According to the National Science Institute, the disturbances were undoubtedly caused by the nuclear test. They also warn that more tremors are expected." Jaycavin said: "Incredible, isn't it! What the hell are they trying to do, wipe us all out or something?" Goro said: "Yeah, you are right, they'll kill our whole world off when they submerge the land and drown us all. We'll vannah like MU & LAMORIA." Roxa: "What's that, where are those places, I've never heard of them before." Goro: "I'll tell you. They were contenants that existed a long time ago. One in the Pacific, one in the Indean Ocean. And one day there was a big Earthquake. Then they both vannah. I must say, the majority of the storiests believe they only existed in legends."

When they arrived at Goro's house, Roxa got out of the car and saw that the front door on the house was left open.



Jaycavin said: "Hey listen, it would be funny if the Earthquake destroyed your robot." Goro: "Hilarious!" Roxa: "Hey look, look at the door. It's open." Goro & Roxa walked in the room and two men appeared. Jaycavin walked in and after a short fight, Goro, Roxa, & Jaycavin were knocked unconscious. The two men ran out of the room. Jaycavin had a red button in his hand that he pulled off one of their jackets.





Then Jaycavin got up and woke up Goro & Roxa. Jaycavin ran out of the room and searched for the two men. He heard them escape in a car so he said: "Damn!" and then he got in his car and began to chase them. He chased them in his car for a long time but then they threw out a bomb which made him stop, and they got away. He said "damn" again.

Back at the laboratory, (Goro has a lab) Roxa & Goro are talking. Roxa: "Goro, those guys really made a mess of my room too. But why?" Goro: "Yeah! everything seems to be messed up but nothing seems to be stolen." Roxa: "That right?" Goro: "Still, we better make a thorough check." Roxa: "Okay! Hey look. I found some funny powder. What do you think it could be?" Goro: "Looks like sand."

That night, Jaycavin is over at Goro & Roxa's house. They are eating dinner. Goro says: "I just don't get it at all." Jaycavin: "Well they wouldn't go through all this trouble for nothing. They must have been after something of yours." Jaycavin tosses the button (the red button that he got from the jacket of one of the men) in the air and Roxa says: "Wow what's this?" Jaycavin: "One of them must have dropped a button." Roxa: "Yeah, hey look, it

is the same color is bit of sand I found." Goro said: "So it is!" Jaycavin: "You found some sand?" Goro get's the sand and says: "This is it." Jaycavin: "It's a sort of red." Goro: "Probably off their shoes. We found it over near the robot."

The next day, in front of Goro's house, Roxa is working on his new toy. It's a miniature motor-cycle. Jaycavin arrives in his car. Roxa sees him and says: "Hi there." Jaycavin: "Hi. Oh, what's all this?" Roxa: "Baby rider." Jaycavin says: "How does it work?" Roxa: "You should know, you are a racing driver." Jaycavin said: "Oh yeah but I'm only an amateur." Roxa: "Ha, ha, I've had enough of the water, I'm sticking to dry land now." Jaycavin: "You really think it'll go?" Roxa: "You bet your life." Jaycavin: "I don't know." Roxa: "I do. Bye bye!" Roxa drove away on his cicle and Jaycavin went into Goro's house. He went in and saw the robot that Goro was making. Jaycavin said: "Oh, nearly finished aye!" Goro: "He's almost ready." Jaycavin: "We've been checking over that sand we found here. It's from 30 miles below the sea bed." Goro: "You sure?" Jaycavin: "Yeah the only other place you'll find it is on Easter Island." Goro: "Easter Island? Where's that?"

Jaycavin: "It's an uninhabited island, 2 thousand miles east of tahiti. It's mainly famous because of a very peculiar discovery that was made there. Some huge statues over-looking the sea. They're said to be over 3 million years old." Later, the two men turn the robot. It begins to move. "I think I'll call him Jet Jaguar." said Goro. Jaycavin says: "Jet-Jaguar aye, not bad, you are right, it suites him."

Later, the 2 men (the ones who raided the laboratory) saw Roxa on his cicle so they kidnapped him. Next, they raided Goro's laboratory again but this time they succeeded in getting what they were after. It is the robot. Goro & Jaycavin had been knocked unconscious. One of the two men pulled out a strange audio communicator & he said: "Calling Seatopia." Back at Seatopia, (the place where the 2 spies came from) the Seatopian High Priest answered the call and said: "This is Seatopia, receiving you well." The spy said: "Everything's gone well. We managed to occupy the laboratory and we have the inventor too." The Seatopian Priest said: "That's good, you've done well, get the robot to guide Megalon to the target. Our people, today, Seatopia goes to war. After three million years of peace we finally have to fight. We don't want to, but the people of Earth leave us no choice. With their nuclear tests, they've already destroyed a 3rd of our country. No more! We'll fight back! For today the Earth will now have to take their own medicine! That's right, for I will unleash Megalon, to protect our land. Our underwater world. Megalon! Megalon! Wake up Megalon! Come on rise up now! To the Earth's surface! Destroy the Earth! Destroy our enemies!" Megalon gets up, and flies toward Japan. Goro and Roxa were put in a box and the Seatopian spies paid two men to send the box in





a dumptruck and drop the box in the crack (the crack where the dry lake is) and send it down to Seatopia. Roxa & Gore woke up and untied each other.

Back at Gore's lab, Jaycavin is unconscious & tied up to a chair. The other Seatopian is in the room too. The Seatopian begins to control Jet Jaguar and Jet Jaguar walked outside and flew in the air.

Back in the dumptruck, (2 men and a Seatopian are in it) one of the men gets suspicious and begins asking questions like: "Why would you want to drop a box in a crack anyway?" The Seatopian didn't reply. The other man in the truck says: "The way I see it, it's none of our business anyway, I mean we're getting a hundred thousand yen!"

Back at Gore's house, Jaycavin wakes up and he says: "Well where are the others now?" Then Jet Jaguar quits flying and lands on the ground. The Seatopian spy at Gore's house begins to call Seatopia again. He says: "Seatopia, the robot is at the lake. All is ready. The inventor will be there soon. He's on his way now with a brother." The Seatopian says: "Excellent, our elevators are moving upward and will emerge from a crack in the lakebed!" Jaycavinsays: "Where are you taking my friends?" The Seatopian replies: "To the kingdom of Seatopia. It's a country below the surface. It was engulfed in an earthquake millions of years ago. And most of it's people survived. They managed to create their own oxygen supply. And later were able to construct their own sun." Jaycavin: "So the legend is true!" Seatopian spy: "We're a very advanced people, our scientists are much superior to yours." Jaycavin: "Well if you're so damn clever, why steal our robot?" Seatopian: "We have few people. We need to have robots in order to build up an army, and we don't have the time to invent them." Jaycavin: "Oh yeah, you mean you are to dumb!" The Seatopian got mad so he punched Jaycavin and Jaycavin kicked the Seatopian! During the fight, Jaycavin got untied and ran out the door to rescue Gore & Roxa. The Seatopian was unconscious.

In the truck, the 2 men began asking questions again so this time the Seatopian pulled out a gun!

The Seatopian at Gore's house wakes up and says: "Unit one, unit one, unit one. My prisoner has just escaped. He'll try to rescue the inventor of the robot. He's also aware of the whole story of our mission here. You must get him!" As Jaycavin drives in his car, a motorcicleman & a guy in a car begin following Jaycavin. After a car chase, Jaycavin manages to eliminate the two pursuers.

At Gore's house, the Seatopian contacts Seatopia again and he says: "Megalon has arrived on the Earth's surface. I'll guide it to Tokyo." At Tokyo, everyone is evacuating the city. Then, the army sends tanks, guns, missiles, and bombs to destroy Megalon. However, none of the weaponry effects Megalon. The men in the truck manage to get the gun from the Seatopian while he wasn't looking. Then they threw him out of the truck. After a while, the truck stopped by the

crack where the lake was. Roxa said: "Know what, we stopped moving!" Suddenly Megalon appears. Jaycavin arrives too. The box with Roxa & Gore falls out of the truck and Megalon hits it. It goes flying in the air and lands in a field. Jaycavin runs over to get Gore & Roxa. The 3 of them look up and see Megalon being guided by Jet Jaguar. Gore says: "Isn't that Jet Jaguar there?" Roxa said: "Oh yes it is! It's him alright!" Gore: "Damn! they're controlling him!" Roxa: "It's a pity we can't send him to go and get Godzilla!" Gore: "Well, we'll try!" Jaycavin: "But how?" Gore: "With this, I built a miniature control transmitter incase the main computer failed." Gore tried to use his miniature transmitter to control Jet Jaguar but Jet Jaguar flew behind a hill. Gore said: "No good!" Jaycavin: "Why not?" Gore: "This thing can only operate when its got line of sight."

Later, Gore begins talking to an army comander. The army comander says: "Well, it's worth a try, if you really think he can get Godzilla." Gore: "I'm sure!" The army comander replied: "Well, lets give it a try." Gore got into an army helicopter and flew to where Jet Jaguar was. He came to Jet Jaguar and said: "Jet Jaguar stop!" The Seatopian said: "What the hell has happened? He stopped!" Gore: "Go get Godzilla! You'll find him on Monster Island!" Back at the laboratory, the Seatopian contacted Seatopia. He said: "It's an emergency, the robot! It's returned to the controller, the earth people!" The Seatopian High Priest said: "What is it doing now?" The Seatopian spy said: "It's been sent to Monster Island to get Godzilla." Seatopian Priest said: "I see. Well stay where you are. Who knows, you might get a chance to take it under control again." Seatopian spy: "I'll try." The Seatopian turned to a different Seatopian and said: "Contact Star Hunter Universe M, say we need Gigan's help immediately. Additionally, notify our people on Easter Island."

Jaycavin & Roxa decided to go back to the laboratory but they knew that a Seatopian was inside. They went to a model airplane store and got one. When they got to the laboratory, Roxa threw it at the Seatopian and Jaycavin beat the Seatopian up. Then Jet Jaguar had returned. Apparently, he succeeded in getting Godzilla.





Then, Jet Jaguar took control of himself. He was no longer under Goro's or the Seatopians control. He had a mind of his own now. He flew to where Megalon was. He made himself grow giant! He now is as big as Megalon! He punched Megalon and Megalon fell to the ground. Goro, Jaycavin & Roxa saw the monsters fighting and after a while, the monster Gigan appeared. It was now uneven. The battle is now 2 against 1! Gigan and Megalon were beating up Jet Jaguar. After awhile, Godzilla arrived. He began fighting both Megalon & Gigan. Jet Jaguar got up and shook hands with Godzilla. Then Godzilla went to fight Gigan and Jet Jaguar went to fight Megalon. The battle is now more even. Two against two. Godzilla & Jet Jaguar versus Megalon & Gigan. Godzilla and Jet Jaguar switched "partners" and Godzilla fought Megalon.

During the battle, Godzilla & Jet Jaguar finally defeat Megalon and Gigan. Gigan flies away but Godzilla isn't through with Megalon. Jet Jaguar holds Megalon in the air and Godzilla gives Megalon a couple of kicks. Then Godzilla grabs Megalon's tail and lifts Megalon in the air a few times. The high priest of Seatopia says: "Be prepared to close all exit points." Megalon realizes that Godzilla is too good a fighter and he goes back to Seatopia but he knows he'll return another day. Godzilla shakes hands with Jet Jaguar then walks back home. Jet Jaguar goes back to the size of a human. Jaycavin, Goro & Roxa run to Jet Jaguar. Roxa says: "Jet Jaguar, it's time we went home again, isn't it?" Jet Jaguar didn't do anything. Goro pulled out his miniature control device and said: "Jet Jaguar, let's go home now." Jet Jaguar turned around and headed toward home. Jaycavin said: "What's happened to him?" Goro answered: "I don't know, I guess he figured his job was done but still, I think he would do it again if the need ever occurred." Jaycavin: "Let's hope that it doesn't. We'll warn the scientists to be more careful in the future and let Seatopia rest in peace!"

**END**

#### COMMENTARY

I think that "GODZILLA VS MEGALON" is a very good film. Many people criticize the film. They say things like "GODZILLA VS MEGALON" is the worst of the Godzilla films." They rarely even admit that it's just their own opinion. Well, if they can go around saying those things, I'll say this.... Godzilla vs Megalon is the best of the Godzilla films.





# BATTLE OF THE PLANETS

BY KEVIN GRAYS



THE PHOENIX

Kevin Grays 79

Sandy Frank Productions Syndication Company & Tatsunoko Productions (a Japanese company dealing with animation who obviously brought us Speed Racer) now brings to the television a fine cartoon known in Japan as "GATCHAMAN" and commonly titled in the U.S. as "BATTLE OF THE PLANETS".

The show centers around the attempts of Planet Spectra, which is located far beyond our galaxy in Grab Nebula to conquer the Earth and rob us of our natural resources to replace those of their own dying world.



PRINCESS

Leader of the desperate Spectra is the villainous Zoltar. He leads in constant plots against the earth and serves the commands of a great luminous spirit of ultimate mystery. Protecting the earth is G-Force, a team of five young people with cerabonic implants which allow them to possess extraordinary abilities. Their headquarters resides within Center Neptune, a base located far beneath the sea.

G-Force has a great ship referred to as the Phoenix, capable of traveling below the sea or in deep outerspace and with the odd ability to transform into the appearance of a flaming bird monster of pure fire known as the "fiery phoenix". The Phoenix also has a supply of missiles and rays. The team members are Mark, the strongwilled intelligent and persistent commander, Jason, the quick tempered arrogant 2nd in command, Keyop, youngest of the team originally born from a single cell as a test-tube baby, Princess, the only female member with a special admiration for Mark, and Tiny, the overweight pilot of the Phoenix with a special loving admiration for food. Each

member has their own personal vehicle built so they fit into certain compartments of the Phoenix, becoming part of the ship. Mark has his super swift shuttle plane, Keyop has his tank-like flying space bubble, Jason has his race space mobile, Princess has her specially designed Galacticle, and the Phoenix serves as Tiny's main vehicle.

All members have a special wrist device which can act as a communicator and allows them to change into G-Force by merely uttering the word "transmute".

G-Force receives their orders from Security Chief Anderson and also located in Center Neptune is Zark 7, quite an incredible little robot who monitors the entire galaxy from his controls and scanners. Zark has an acute sense of humor and can easily compute solutions to help out G-Force. His companions are 1 Rever 1, a little yellow mechanical dog who can fly by his propeller tail as Zark can by his winged-like cape, and Susan, a sophisticated computer who adores Zark as he does her.



Jason





The show's animation is rather limited at times and it strikes blows against "Battle of the Planets." It's a bit unsteady and uneven at times. This is not to say that the animation is completely bad. Often stunning results are achieved with battle scenes and those that deal with outer space look actually real.

Not too much can be said for the plots either. Zoltar always sends some giant robot to earth and G-Force stops him using their cerabonic superpowers.

"Battle of the Planets" has 2 factors that make the show extremely fine entertainment and allow me to classify it as one of the best cartoons ever created. The first of which is the shows extremely fine character development. Where most cartoon heroes are perfect and rather shallow, G-Force members all have certain characteristics about them that fit each character excellently and come off brilliantly on the series. We immediately know from viewing one episode that Jason is quick tempered and tends to be hot-headed or that Keyop is a witty determined little guy. The characterizations are not limited to the heroes either. We can easily determine that the Great Luminous One never does initiate his own attacks, but loves to blame their failure on Zoltar and Zoltar himself constantly brags of his power, but he treats his own race like dirt. An intriguing aspect dealing with Zoltar is that one time G-Force finally caught the alien and removed his fox-like mask to discover long blonde hair and an extremely short glimpse of the face before the Luminous Spirit intervened. Of what they saw, G-Force was of the opinion that Zoltar might be female.



**G-FORCE**  
  
 X.M. 78

NOW FROM GOLD KEY  
 COMICS, COMING YOUR  
 WAY BI-MONTHLY  
**BATTLE  
 OF THE  
 PLANETS!**  
**G-FORCE  
 CONTINUES!!**  
*Kevin Hayes*  
 79





The 2nd excellent factor is the music of the series. Music supervisor Igo Kantor has done a truly excellent job. Kantor's specialty would appear to be excitement. His talent is of such a high calibre that without him the show would be sadly lacking, for it is his music that makes those great battle scenes that much more exiting, the sad and happy moments that much more emotional, and those suspended cliff hanging moments can fill with that anxiety thanks to Igo Kantor. He has supplied G-Force with a theme of greatness that is very good and definately not to be forgotten.

And the rest of this article is by Damon Foster.

Here are a few of the voice credits for "BATTLE OF THE PLANETS".....  
 Mark.....Kasey Kasey  
 7 Zark 7..... Allen Dinehart  
 Jason..... Ronnie Schell  
 Zoltar..... Keye Luke  
 Susan..... Helen Sosin  
 Princess..... Janet Waldo

Any corrections or additions are welcome. When it was released to America, some of the best parts were removed and Sandy Frank Productions added some ridiculous American scenes of 7 Zark 7.

In Japan, Tatsunoko has just finished making "GASHICHIYAMAN 2" which is a sequel to "Battle of the Planets". The show has the further adventures of G-Force. Their costumes have changed slightly and the new Phoenix looks just awful. It has the head of a bird and it has too much detail.

Zoltar's mask has much more detail too. Also, his blond hair comes right out of the mask.

Back to "BATTLE OF THE PLANETS" the show was made in Japan in 1972 and it was released to America in 1978. It consists of 85 episodes, each episode in color, and 30 minutes long. In the original Japanese version, Mark's name is Ken, Jason's name is Joe, Tiny's name is Ryu, Keyop's name is (get this) Jinpei, & Princess's name is June.



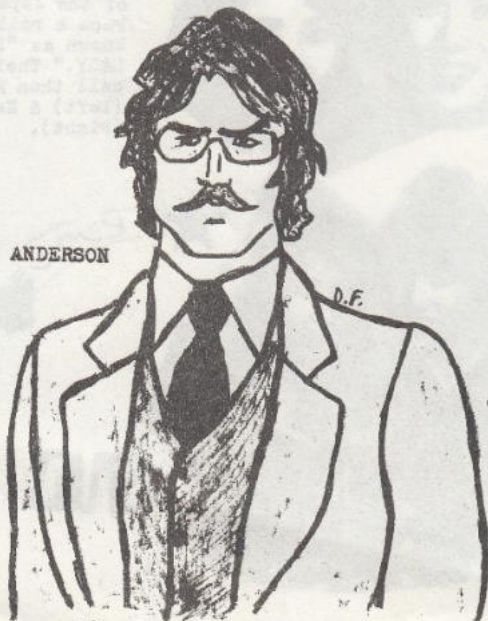
JASON



MARK

D.F.

END



CHIEF ANDERSON

D.F.



# PINK LADY

They sing in English, though barely speak the language. Tonight Japan's hottest rock group makes its American debut.

evening  
MAGAZINE



7:30 TONIGHT

5

BY DAMON FOSTER

"PINK LADY" is the most popular rock & roll group in Japan today. The group consists of two women. They are both 21 years old and their names are Mitsuyo Namoto and Keiko Matsuda. The two of them were friends and classmates in school and then they entered a television talent contest which started their career.

Today, they've sold more records than any other rock & roll star in Japan. They have sold over 72 million dollars worth records in two and a half years.

More than 80 products have their name. Anything from potato chips, to games, to magazines or dolls. Despite their high sales in Japan, the two are under a tight contract in Japan that provides only for a small salary, with no percentage of sales included and because of this, PINK LADY has moved to America and have been on a number of variety shows. Even before they moved here, I already knew of them. They also are an awful rock & roll group.

When they were in Japan, they did not make enough money. In fact, they were paid 250 dollars each for the first few records. Each record was a big hit in Japan too. That has changed considerably but it's still far less than an American rock star would make with sales like their's. All that could change if they make it in America.

PINK LADY's American producer and advisor (Paul Drew is his name) believes they'll be a tremendous success in America. He also says that they should learn to speak English well. They can read English and they can understand English when you speak to them, but the hardest part for them is to speak it.

They sing in English very well but they aren't very good at speaking it. That's what confuses me. If they can sing it, why can't they speak it? I can't see what the problem is.

Paul Drew decided that their first release in America would be a song called "KISS IN THE DARK." The reason he chose this song is because it has a disco-beat and it'll get acceptance in the discos.

In my area, I have 2 Japanese TV stations (that's why I have seen so many super hero shows from Japan) and both TV stations have shown a number of Japanese variety shows. PINK LADY has made guest appearances on a few of these shows. I've also seen them on a few Japanese commercials. I also have a lot of Japanese magazines (kiddle magazines) which have a lot of photos of PINK LADY.

PINK LADY has also made a lot of appearances on American variety shows too. A few of these shows are the Lief Garret show, (but he is just a stupid slob

that I despise) and the Evening Magazine (I got most of my information on PINK LADY from that show). A few of the songs I've heard them sing are: "KISS IN THE DARK," "MONSTER," "UFO," (those last two songs are Japanese). On a variety show (a Japanese one) I've seen little girls trying to imitate PINK LADY. But they do a terrible job at it. Especially since the imitators are usually only about 12 years old! In this article, I have a few photos of PINK LADY and if you are wondering who is who, Keiko is the one with long hair and Mitsuyo is the one with shorter hair.

I have a little more information on Mitsuyo Namoto so I'll say it here. She was born on March 9, 1958, and she once said: "From now on, I intend to take on more responsibilities for work and will try even harder than in the past" (whatever that is suppose to mean).

Since I have a lot of space left, I'll try and think of something to say. Oh, a different Japanese rock star is Momoe Yamaguchi. I've seen her on a lot of different Japanese variety shows. She was born on January 17, 1959.

One more thing, many of you are probably mad that I made this article because it has nothing to do with science fiction. I just thought that maybe I should do an article on something a little bit different. I'd like to know how you readers like this article. Do you want to see more articles of this type? Let me know.



This is a collage of the Japanese rock & roll group known as "PINK LADY." Their fans call them MI (left) & Kei (right).



END



## Enditorial

Dear reader, well, I guess this ends the 3rd issue of JMSF. The next issue should be out some time in 1980 or 1981. Even if it does come out during 1981, it'll still be the 1980 issue. "JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI" comes out once a year.

The next issue will probably be an improvement over this one but I don't want JMSF to get too professional. I'd hate to have it become as boring as JFFJ. Unlike most other fanzines, (a fanzine is the name of an amateur magazine) JMSF consists mostly of art & photos. That's why some of the pages have so much pictures on them. I guess that's what gives JMSF its amateur look.

A lot of the information in this issue is very old. The reason so much old info is in this issue is because when I typed it up, it was new.

I'll be needing good art & photos on Japanese cartoons for the next issue. I want them on SPEED RACER, ASTRO BOY, 8TH MAN, KIMBA, FORCE 5, and whatever I can get my hands on.

Since I don't have much to say, I'll list some of my favorite Japanese films. A few of them are..... WHIRL WIND, THE KILLING MACHINE, GODZILLA VS COSMIC MONSTER, TERROR BENEATH THE SEA, and a few of my least favorites are..... LOVE & FAITH, WARNING FROM SPACE, VOYAGE INTO SPACE, DAGORA THE SPACE MONSTER, THE H-MAN, (but it has a very good theme song) DESTROY ALL PLANETS, GAMERA VS MONSTER X, ATTACK OF THE MONSTERS, RODAN, GODZILLA KING OF MONSTERS.

I want people to respond to my list but no one ever does. I'll think of very many important things to say later but I don't know of them now.

Damon Foster.

*Damon Foster*



### "JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI"

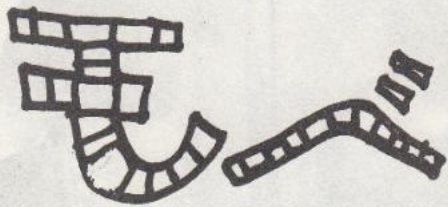
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