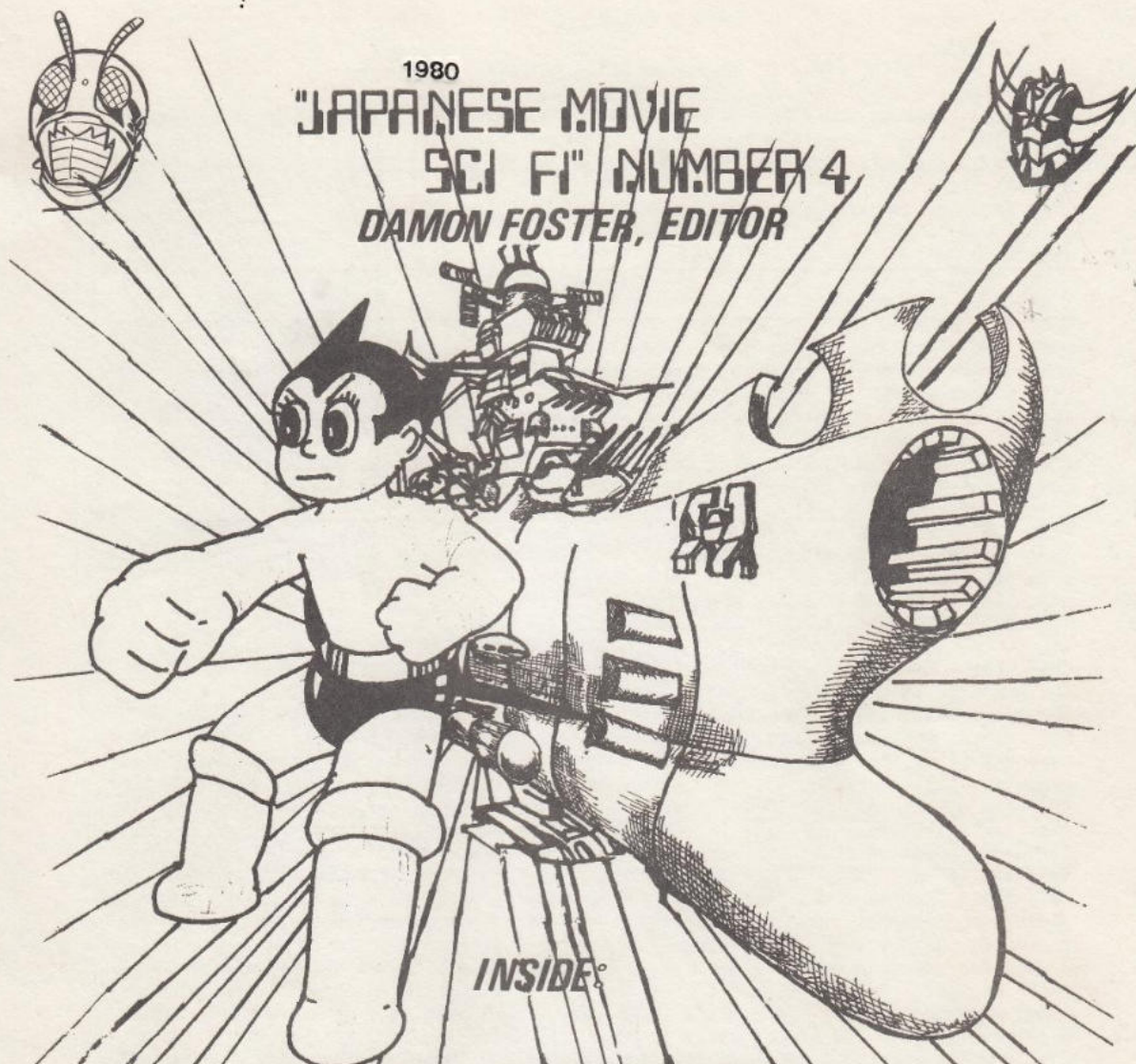


1980

**"JAPANESE MOVIE
SCI FI" NUMBER 4**
DAMON FOSTER, EDITOR



INSIDE:

GODZILLA VS GIGAN

STARBLAZERS

MESSAGE FROM SPACE

CAPTAIN HARLOCK

and more!

John Meloy
-60-88



EDITORIAL

Dear reader,

so here it is, finally! "Japanese Movie Sci Fi" (JMSF? What's that?) #4 now exists. It's been nearly 5 years (but by the time you read this, it'll have been much longer) since the last issue. JMSF was suppose to be a yearly magazine. But due to lazyness on my part, it's been delayed. But lack of money is the real problem. Because I'm broke, this is probably the last issue of JMSF. I'm still overstocked with back issues of JMSF #2, and wish I could sell them. Each issue costs a dollar. The issue is crude, not worth a dollar. The reason it costs so much is because I need the money to continue printing JMSF. I've never made money from JMSF (a non-profit magazine). At best, I break even, almost. I loose money. But I don't care. I make JMSF for fun, not money. Fanzine making is just a hobby. My first publication ("Japanese Monsters") was made in 1976. When I was 13 (1977) I created JMSF. In between making JMSF issues, I made yet another fanzine, called "Oriental Cinema," on cheap xerox. At one point, me and Brian Ridgway made one other fanzine, called "Japanese Monsters and Super Heroes," which didn't get very far. JMASH was a one-shot effort, no 2nd issue. More recently, I was also the editor of a new wave magazine called "BravEar" (it's spelled correct. Don't blame me for the title, I didn't invent it). But the staff (unlike JMSF, was I have total control over) fired me from the job because they didn't think I was good enough for them. Naturally, I was angry at first. But this encouraged me to continue with the once dormant JMSF. Another thing that revived my once dwindling enthusiasm for Japanese films, is Kaiju Productions, a local group of Japanese fantasy fans. This group of people occasionally holds "Japanese Fantasy Film Conventions" (and I've been to every one of them, of course), which are a lot of fun. These cons got me back in the right direction. Once again, I love Japanese movies. But at one point, I got tired of Japanese stuff. I was getting into Chinese Kung Fu films, and punk rock. Speaking of rock music, I think I should get back to Pink Lady (who were reviewed in JMSF #3). Shortly after that article, Pink Lady (a Japanese disco band) had their own variety show on NBC. Not surprisingly, it didn't last. American audiences were used to seeing full figured ladies like Dolly Parton (which reminds me of a funny joke. Q: How can you spot Dolly Parton's kids in a crowd? A: They've got stretch-marks on their mouths!), Raquel Welch and Linda Carter. Mitsuyo Namoto and Keiko Matsuda (Pink Lady) were too small. Their music stunk too. Their original Japanese music was okay, but that American disco/soul trash is awful (to me). The band has broken up, good!

Now I'd like to comment on JMSF #3. In the Editorial (last page), I said that the "Japanese Fantasy Film Journal" is boring. JFFJ is not boring. I don't know why I said that. I guess I was just jealous.

For this issue, I've made articles on "Message from Space," "Captain Harlock," and "Starblazers." These are old articles that I made a long time ago. I'm not up to date with recent TV shows.

This issue was suppose to be mostly cartoons. But I'm no animation freak. Thanks to the "Cartoon Fantasy Organization" (and various animation fan clubs), cartoons are big now. I'm not into fads, and I don't want JMSF to get too trendy. And my favorite TV shows (Kikaida and Gyaban) are live-action (and I do mean action!) shows.

But some of the giant robot cartoons are nice. But the popular space-dramas are sometimes boring and depressing (to me). I'm into hardcore violent action. I'm sick of seeing people crying, and having affairs in outer space, and then seeing the main characters killed, and endless sequels.

But Godzilla (king of sci-fi) is still my favorite. But it is very irritating that Toho hasn't made a new Godzilla movie since 1975. In a past issue of JMSF, I stated that Godzilla is alive, Gamera is dead. I spoke too soon. Shortly after JMSF #3, a new Gamera movie came out! It's about time that Godzilla returns.

This is most likely the last issue of "Japanese Movie Sci-Fi." I don't know, we'll have to wait and see. All contributions (if you wish to have your material returned, please enclose a SASE) welcome. Articles about recent Japanese TV shows are needed.

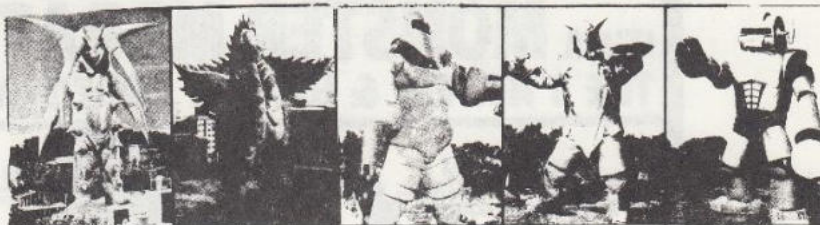
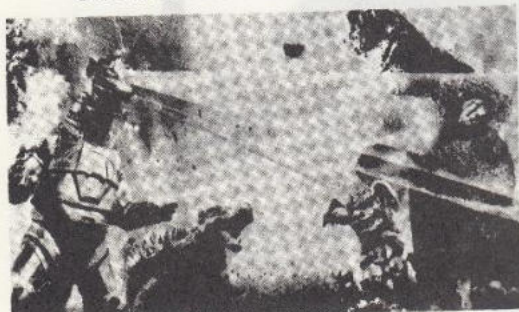
Damon Foster, editor



Contents

movie 5
at 4

GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND



TERROR OF MECHAGODZILLA



Iron robot is unleashed against the world. Who can save us?

TODAY
THE 3:30 MOVIE 7



TRASH COMPACTOR

Iron robot unleashed against the world. Who can save us?
Terror of Mechagodzilla

7 Today

EDITORIAL _____ 2

CONTENTS _____ 3

TITLE PAGE _____ 5

LETTERS _____ 16

JAPANIMATION: _____ 18

CAPTAIN HARLOCK/GATAIGA _____ 8

STARBLAZERS _____ 9

GATCHAMAN _____ 10

FORCE FIVE _____ 12

WHAT'S UP? _____ 14

BATTLE FEVER J/ULTRAMAN 80 _____ 15

GODZILLA VS. GIGAN _____ 16

GAMERA-SUPER MONSTER _____ 17

LAST DAYS OF PLANET EARTH _____ 18

MESSAGE FROM SPACE _____ 19

ENDITORIAL _____ 21

IT'S A **MONSTER MARATHON!**
THE 3 NEWEST & BIGGEST GODZILLA MOVIES

SPACE MONSTERS
FROM BEYOND THE STARS...
AT WAR WITH GODZILLA
FOR THE EARTH!

CINEMA SHARES
Presents

In COLOR and WIDESCREEN



GODZILLA
ON MONSTER ISLAND



SEE THE MIGHTY GODZILLA
IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH
WITH HIS COSMIC DOUBLE!

CINEMA SHARES
Presents

GODZILLA
VS.
COSMIC MONSTER

In COLOR



GIANT AGAINST GIANT... the ultimate battle!



GODZILLA vs MEGALON



In COLOR

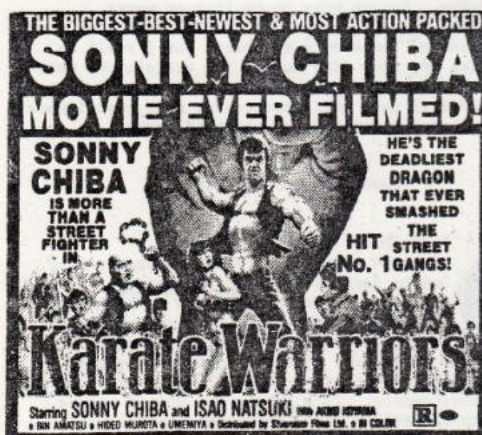
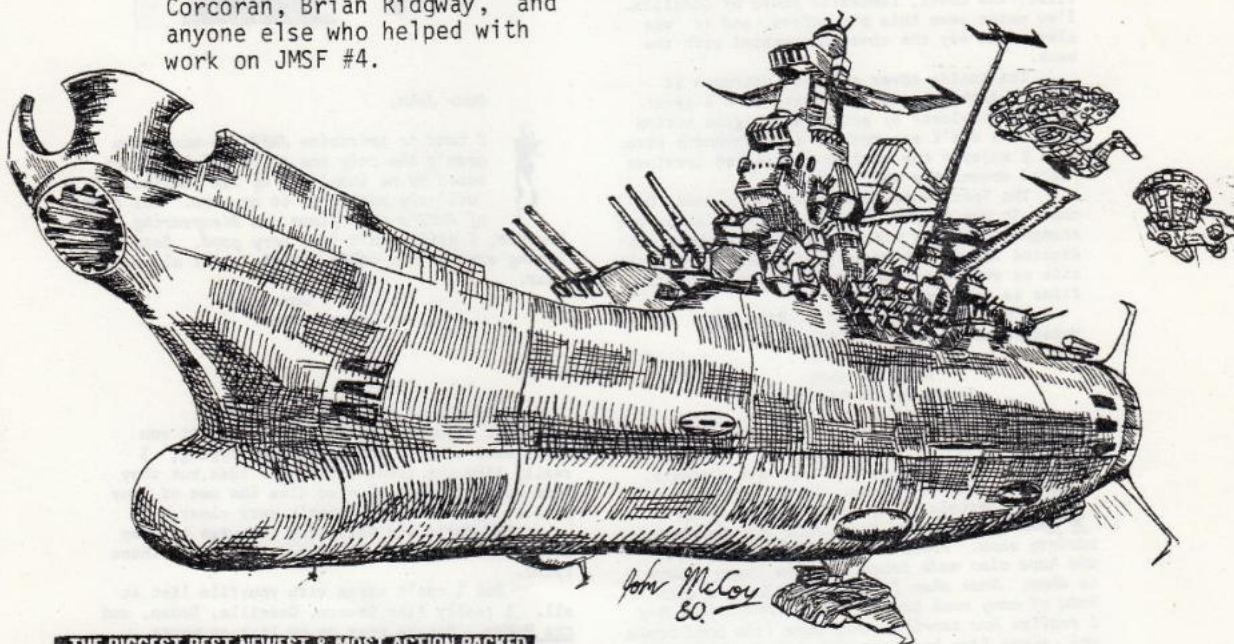
Spend a night with GODZILLA !

JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI

[NO. 4]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the following:
John McCoy, Kevin Grays, Laurie Knox, August Ragone, Kathy Corcoran, Brian Ridgway, and anyone else who helped with work on JMSF #4.



JMSF was published by Damon Foster.
JMSF #2 (the only back-issue which isn't sold out) is still available. It's available for one dollar an issue. As for postage, please enclose a stamp to insure immediate delivery. The issue itself is very badly made.



Yamaguchi Momoe

INTRODUCTION: JMSF is an amateur magazine that focuses on Japanese movies and TV shows. This is a non-professional publication, the effort of just one person.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The format for this letter's section is different than that of the past issues of JMSF. This time, I've made letters of response, placed after the reader's comments.

Dear Damon,

I recieved "Japanese Movie Sci Fi" #3 and it's great! First, the cover, fantastic photo of Godzilla. I've never seen this pic before, and it was clever the way the cover alternated with the back.

The inside cover still of Ultraman is great! Although somewhat dark, it's a great still with plenty of action and a good action pose. We don't see much of this anywhere else.

I enjoyed the smaller photos and drawings placed around the mag.

The Spectreman article was very good, Damon. It was very interesting to read about the changes that take place in these half-hour syndicated shows. Although poorly done, they help tide us over, because the wait between Godzilla films is too long.

I've previously heard of Pink Lady. PM Magazine had a story on Pink Lady.

Brian Ridgway
Bancroft, Michigan

Dear Brian,

thanks for the letter, and comments. About Pink Lady. When I wrote that article, I liked the band. After a while, they had their own American variety show. Produced by Sid & Marty Kroft, who have also made trash like the Donny & Marie show. Back when I liked Pink Lady, I didn't know of many rock bands. But fortunately, now I realize how terrible they were (the band broke up), since I've had more exposure to rock music. My favorite bands are as follows: Sex Pistols, Ultravox, Devo, Blackflag, and the Circle Jerks. So you can see, I've changed quite a bit since JMSF #3.

May the G-Force be with you,
Damon Foster

Dear Damon,

I was delighted to hear from you again, and to see that you are still cranking out the old fanzine. Japanese Movie Sci Fi is always stuffed full of informative articles and breathtaking photographs. Why don't you ever like your own endeavors? You must like them well enough to continue.

Thanks for staying in touch with me and keep up the good work. And I do mean good work.

John Stanley
Oakland Calif.



Dear John,

I tend to criticize JMSF too much, you aren't the only one to be slightly irritated by me insulting my own fanzine. I will try not to do it anymore. But some of JMSF's past flaws are disappearing. However, I still can't type very good. Lots of typing errors and other mistakes will always appear.

I wish I was dead,
Damon Foster

Damon,

JMSF #3 was quite an improvement over past issues. It was noticeable that you spent more time on the layout and typing. I really like the front/back cover idea, but they were sort of bare. I also like the use of many photos, although they weren't very clear.

The Majin and Whirlwind features were my favorites, since I can never find info on these films.

But I can't agree with your film list at all. I really like Gamera, Godzilla, Rodan, and the H-Man. Dagora goes on my list as worst.

On the Spectreman article, I think I've seen most of the show's episodes, but I still do not like the show very much. The article was well researched.

JMSF #3 is a vast improvement over past issues and I hope you continue on the road upward.

Brad Boyle
somewhere around Utah



Dear Brad,
although on my least favorite least, I no longer despise the H-Man or Dagora. I've seen Dagora (or Dagora, both names are accurate) so many times that the characters in the movie seem like old friends. Both films are realistic, almost slightly believable. Spectreman, on the other hand, is fake and entirely unbelievable. It's just a fun way to escape reality (something which drives me sane).

Life sucks,
Damon Foster

Dear Damon,

the cover of JMSF #3 could have been much better had you used either a different Godzilla suit picture or a different view of the Megalon one. You show it from what is probably its worst position.

The Spectreman article was informative, but please, either you liked it or you don't. By saying you like it and constantly aiming at the bad points you just contradict yourself.

I was shocked to read that you don't believe in God. That's a new one on me for Japanese fantasy fans.

Godzilla vs Megalon was okay. You should have spent more time defending this film. After all the criticism directed to the film, I was expecting something much more protective.

I didn't like my Battle of the Planets article. I wrongfully criticized the show, which made me feel bad, considering the BOTP fan I am.

Pink Lady came as a real shock to me, it was informative. Anything informative on Japanese material pleases me.

Kevin Grays
East Cleveland Ohio

Dear Kevin,

I don't even understand why I bothered to mention (in JMSF #3) that I don't believe in God. My view is as follows: The ancient Greeks believed that there were a lot of gods, who lived on Mt. Olympus. We now call it mythology. So what makes the belief of just one god any more realistic? I think all religion is mythology.

But I shouldn't be wasting time (and ink) on this subject.

Life stinks,
Damon Foster

Dear Damon,

I'm really glad I ordered JMSF #3, since I love the Spectreman show so much. It was the first article on Spectreman that I've seen in any magazine. I agree that some of the kids' dubbed voices have an irritating sound. I don't think all the monsters look so awful, though. A lot of them are different and original, just like the show's plots.

As for your favorite/least favorite film list (on your last page), I also really like Godzilla vs Cosmic Monster, but I'm not familiar with the others. I don't care for Godzilla, King of the Monsters or Dagora. But I do like Camera, and Voyage into Space.

Is JMSF #4 out yet? I'm really not too interested in Japanese cartoons.

Kathy Corcoran
Chicago, Illinois



Dear Kathy,

JMSF #4 was suppose to be all cartoons but I just couldn't restrict this whole issue to just one subject. I prefer good solid live-action. It's been so long since I've seen Spectreman that I don't even remember it very well. But I do remember that I loved it, inspite of its flaws.

My film list hasn't changed much either, although I have an addition to my favorites, it's Last Days of Planet Earth, a great movie.

Life is hell,
Damon Foster



If you have any comments or suggestions about JMSF, you may write to the editor at this address:

Damon Foster
26986 Grandview Ave.
Hayward Calif.
94542

Japanimation

by Damon Foster



JOE
TABUCHI

GATAIGA

Gataiga is a race car (and it runs on solar energy) that is composed of 5 cars which can be driven separately or they can combine.

The Tiger Team (people who drive the Gataiga) are: Joe Tabuchi (the macho, emotional hero), Ken (the show's fat guy), Sachio Wakatsuki (Joe's sexy girlfriend), Katsumi Wakatsuki (Sachio's little brother, who's got a pet hawk named Taro), and a man named Hiroki.

A motor company (called "Demon") is after the Gataiga, and they also want to conquer the world. The members of the Demon gang are: Black Demon (the leader), Queen Demon (who is secretly, Joe's mother) and Eric Bergen (who designs monster cars which are suppose to destroy the Gataiga).

Joe's father (who died on the first episode) created the Gataiga. After Mr. Tabuchi died, Joe was given a box with a tape recording (and a pendant) in it. The recording said: "This pendant has a picture of your long lost mother inside. I always told you that your mother is dead, but that's a lie. If you wish to locate her, investigate the Demon gang."

Queen Demon (Joe's secret mother) tries her best to save Joe from the other demons, on each episode. On the last episode, Eric gets irritated at Queen Demon for protecting her son (Joe). So Eric kills Queen Demon. And then Joe kills Eric.

The show is exciting at times but the animation is, for the most part, awful. Artwork is okay, music is nice. I saw this series (21 episodes) in Japanese, with English subtitles.

CAPTAIN HARLOCK

During the 30th century, pirates run the galaxy, and often rob their home planet (Earth). One of these pirates is Captain Harlock, whose space-ship is called the Arcadia. The crew members of this ship are: Tadashi Daiba, Yukei Kei, Masu, Memay, Tatara, and Dr. Zero. Although the pirates remain healthy and strong, the humans on Earth are becoming weak and lazy. This makes them an easy target for aliens (called Mazones) from outer space to attack. The earthlings (other than Harlock and friends) aren't even aware that the Mazones are trying to invade Earth. Because of Queen Raflesia's (leader of the Mazones) attacks, Harlock usually gets the blame.

But Harlock and friends won't allow Earth to be destroyed by the Mazones, and are willing to die in their fight to save the Earth. They're typical Japanese heroes. The old kamikaze/hari kari routine.

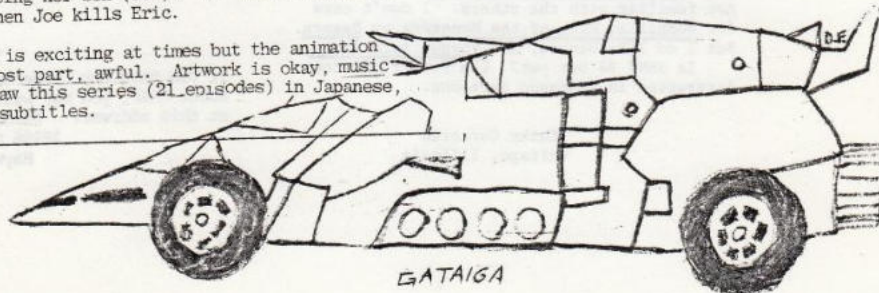
At the time of this writing, the show was not released to America (on a major TV station) with American dubbed voices. I saw this show on a Japanese station with English subtitles. I enjoyed the series enough to watch it regularly, each week.

Although not one of my favorites, this is an entertaining space-drama.

Producers: Tamiya Takeru and Kosu Yoichi
Music by Hirao Masaki and Yokoyama Seiji
Screenplay by Yamakazi Haruki
Translation by Dana Nishiyama



HARLOCK



GATAIGA

STARBLAZERS!

BY DAMON FOSTER

In the year 2199, Earth is under severe attack by the planet Gammilon. Led by dictator Desslock ("Desra" in Japanese, and the Gammilons are called "Gorgons" in Japan), who's bombs have turned planet Earth into a wasteland. Everyone must live underground. But Queen Starsha from planet Iscandar has something called Cosmo DNA, which can restore Earth so it won't be just a wasteland. The Starforce (an Earth defense group) sends a space-ship called the Argo ("Yamato" in Japanese) to Iscandar to get the Cosmo DNA.

The crew members of the Argo are: Derrick Wildstar (Susumu Kôdai in Japan), Captain Avatar (Okita), Mark Venture (Daisuke Shima), Nova (Mori Yuki), IQ9 (a robot), Homer (pronounced like Gomer, except with an H), and Sandor (a bionic head mechanic).

The Argo pulls through a number of tight situations while fighting the Gammilons (Colonel Ganz, General Lyssis and General Crypt) but they eventually reach Iscandar, and use

the Cosmo DNA to cure the Earth.

The Argo also manages to destroy the planet Gammilon. But Desslock survives, and joins forces with a different race of evil aliens. This time, the Argo is up against the Comet Empire. The Argo is also off on a journey through space (again).

The Argo is headed toward Telezart. On this planet is Trelayna, who has magical powers. Although reluctant at first, she eventually uses her powers to destroy the comet empire. But she dies too, try and hold back your tears.

That's basically the plot for the 52 episodes (but there were additions in Japan) shown in America so far. Hopefully, they'll release the show's 3rd season (not to mention all the Yamato movies) to America, eventually.

This series is (of course), a Japanese science fiction show. So naturally, I like it. But I don't really think it stands out very much. At first, I loved it. But then I found out that everyone loves it. This discouraged me from liking the show. Whatever the mass majority prefers, I'm not into. I go my own way, if something gets to popular, I lose all interest.

But this is a good show, in spite of my reaction to it.

The show isn't meant to be action packed, or exciting. Instead, it's an intelligent dramatic show. But in America, it's considered a kiddie show. It's shown in the same time-slots as a show like Scooby Doo. STARBLAZERS is better off being shown at the same time-slot you'd expect to see something like STAR TREK.



Kevin Gray 79

STAR BLAZERS graphics

Produced in the United States by
CLUSTER TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS
Originally Produced in Japan by
Yoshinobu Nishizaki, under the
title of "Space Cruiser Yamato"
Based on the original story by
Yoshinobu Nishizaki
General direction by Leiji Mat-
sumoto
Screenplay written by Keisuke
Fujikawa and Eichi Yamamoto
Planning by Yoshinobu Nishizaki
Music composed by Hiroshi Miya-
gawa
Published by Nippon Columbia re-
cords
Animation director Noburo Ishig-
uro
Production supervision by Eichi
Yamamoto, Toshio Senda, and Arin-
obu Toyoda
USA and Canada distribution by
WESTCHESTER FILM CORPORATION
Storyboards by Yokatsu Yasahiko,
and Yoshiyuki Yomiko
Animation supervised by Toyo Ash-
ida, Takeshi Shirato, and Kazumiko
Udagawa
Background artwork by Hachiro Tsu-
kima
Character design by Leiji Matsumoto
Assistant direction by Hiromi Mike-
moto
Photographics by Tadao Haraya
Edited by Kazuo Inoque and Tomoko
Etsuno
Sound direction by Atsumi Tashiro
Special effects by Mitshuro Kashiwara
Assistant director Kazunori Tanahashi

END



PAGE 10

GATCHAMAN!

BY KEVIN GRAYS



The following is a corrections and additions follow up to my previous article in the last issue of JMSF. I have now discovered a lot more concerning the series BATTLE OF THE PLANETS (GATCHAMAN in Japan) which I hope to pass along to readers.

When BOTP premiered in the USA, it proved to be a success for its distributors (Sandy Frank Productions) and made it to channels nation-wide. It picked up a lot of fans, forming the International Gatchaman/BOTP Fan Club. It's certainly not hard to see why BOTP is so popular. The animated series succeeds where most fail.

As one becomes more involved in the Japanese version, and learns of the changes made for American release, it can really get upsetting. Zark 7, the robot that G-Force supposedly couldn't do without (HA!) wasn't even in the original version of Gatchaman, neither were Rover 1 and Susan. Zark could have been a good character, but Sandy Frank has turned Zark into an absurd character. The jokes he tells, the terrible way he narrates the episodes. It does the show very little good. Most upsetting, is how Sandy Frank has the nerve to try and immitate the excellent animation quality of Tatsunoko, by inserting scenes of G-Force in the Ready Room, with Zark. Imagine the amount of footage cut from Gatchaman.

In its original form, GATCHAMAN is one of the most violent shows you could come by. It was not rare for Mark/Ken to chop off an enemy's head, using his boomerang.

But with American censorship codes and all, the show had to be condensed. But I don't see why such an amount was cut for inferior scenes.

Gatchaman's first episode premiered

on Oct. 1, 1972 at around 6 PM, and must have been one of the most violent shows at the time. Most Japanese cartoons average about 52 episodes, but Gatchaman managed 105! It ended its run on Sept. 29, 1974. When Gatchaman was converted into BOTP in 1978, it consisted of only 85 episodes. Why the others were cut is anyone's guess, but I figure they probably contained most of the violence.

In 1978, on the 17th anniversary of Tatsunoko Productions formation, it was decided to do something special and it was the premier date of GATCHAMAN MOTION PICTURE. The film was a feature-length animated special that was more or less a retelling of Gatchaman and preparation for another Gatchaman series, called GATCHAMAN II. It is also interesting to note that Tatsunoko released a Gatchaman Movie Brochure which revealed Zoltar was 'created' by the Luminous Spirit when he mixed together and mutated a set of twins. It's an assumption that mixed twins refers to one male and one female.

Upon the date of October 1, 1978, the showing of Gatchaman II began. The Gatchaman force still have their magnificent bird-like uniforms, however when they go off into outer space they now have special space suits with an Ultraman-ish design to them, and they also look very good.

The new Phoenix is a tremendous vessel with a head, wings and tail of a bird. It is covered with detail, and bright colors. I dare say that it has got to be one of the greatest vessels ever filmed, animated

or otherwise. It's usually drawn from an angle that adds to its excellent form, and it also transmutes into the fiery Phoenix. Its full name is the Godphoenix and it's piloted by a little robot who accompanies G-Force on their missions called Pimer. There's also a new base called G-Town and it too is astonishing to behold, mainly because of its size and extreme detail. Security Chief Anderson is also in GATCHAMAN II and the violent war with Spectra still continues.

With the success of Gatchaman, Gatchaman II, and the movie, Tatsunoko has made yet another Gatchaman series, called GATCHAMAN FIGHTER. It has G-Force with their winged uniforms, but with new weapons and ships. I think Gatchaman Fighter centers mostly around more of a fight with the Luminous Spirit himself, but there is another new villain with a name that sounds something like Egobosura.

Gatchaman merchandise in Japan is booming everywhere and the quantity of the items is available is staggering, right up there with ULTRAMAN and Space Cruiser Yamato. Even here in America, so far we have BOTP comic books, lunchpales, and games.

Let us hope that the other shows are also distributed to the USA, and in better condition than BOTP.

GATCHAMAN designed by Tatsuo Yoshida and Ippei Kuri.
Mechanicle designs by Mitsuki Nakamura and Kunio Ogawara.



GATCHAMAN VOICE CREDITS

| CHARACTER | VOICE |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Zoltar/Berg Katse: | Mikio Terashima |
| Mark/Ken: | Katsuji Mori |
| Jason/Joe: | Isao Sasaki |
| Princess/Jun: | Kazuka Sugiyama |
| Keyop/Jinpei: | Tsubasa Shioya |
| Tiny/Ryu: | Shingo Kanemoto |
| Anderson/Nambu: | Tohru Ohira |
| Spirit/Generalissimo X: | Nobuo Tanaka |
| Kronus/Kentaro Washio: | Hisayoshi Yoshizawa |



FORCE FIVE

BY DAMON FOSTER

Five of Toei's excellent robot cartoons have been released to America (meaning that they've been dubbed into English, whereas some shows are broadcast on foreign TV stations with English sub-titles), and in fairly good condition, not heavily edited. That's why TV stations have refused to purchase them, due to excessive violence. At the time of this article, I never saw this series on a network or syndicated TV station. I saw them on a pay TV station. But I only saw them in feature-length movie versions. Each movie consists of about 4 episodes from a Japanese TV show.

But that's only 4! Hopefully, we'll eventually be able to see the rest of the episodes from these outstanding robot adventures. But if these TV shows are shown on syndicated TV, somebody is bound to start whining about too much violence on TV. It just so happens that these Japanese cartoons are the most intelligent cartoons around! Take a look at any Japanese cartoon. And then compare it to Popeye.

- SHO MOVIE—Cartoon**
"Shogun Warriors: Grandizer." (Japanese; 1982) Not rated; a giant robot defends Earth. (1 hr., 35 min.)
- SHO MOVIE—Cartoon**
"Shogun Warriors: Galking." (Japanese; 1982) Not rated; Earthlings vs. belligerents from a technologically advanced planet. (1 hr., 45 min.)
- SHO MOVIE—Cartoon**
"Shogun Warriors: Starvengers." (Japanese; 1982) Not rated; heroic robots defend Earth. (1 hr., 35 min.)
- SHO MOVIE—Cartoon**
"Shogun Warriors: Spaceketeers." (Japanese; 1982) Not rated; a princess fights space pirates. (1 hr., 45 min.)
- SHO MOVIE—Cartoon**
"Shogun Warriors: Danguard Ace." (Japanese; 1982) Not rated; space pilots vs. evil scientist. (1 hr., 45 min.)

Shogun Warriors: Starvengers—Earth is under attack! (1:45) Nov. 3, 6, 18, 24, 28

Danguard Ace—A wicked scientist seizes command of a space station. (1:41) May 4

Shogun Warriors: Grandizer—Vicious Vegan invaders are on the attack. (1:41) Feb. 12, 14, 22

Shogun Warriors: Spaceketeers—Khan and Dektor must be stopped! (1:41) June 8

GRANDIZER

Lance Hyatt is a member of the Space Science Institute. Lance (in his flying saucer) lands on a ranch, after being attacked by a UFO. On the ranch, he meets Panhandle Morgan (president of the "Let's Welcome Aliens to Earth Club"), Brenda (the sexy female of the series), and Sonny (a little kid). Also on the ranch is a mysterious farm-worker called Johnny Bryant. Johnny Bryant is actually "Orion Quest," an alien from space who has control over an enormous robot called GRANDIZER.

Unfortunately, Earth is under attack by aliens from outer space who want to conquer our world. They're called "Vegans," and their members include Melecose, Lady Gandal, and Ding the merciless. But their combined forces are no match for Grandizer, who is protecting the Earth.

Animation produced by Toei and Dynamic Pro., Japan

Created by Go Nagai

Music by Shunsuke Kikuchi

Produced + Directed by Jim Terry

Voices:

Greg Kerkelie Betty Mciver

Collins Walker Pearl Terry

Laura Cummins Sean Faherty

Bob Linda King Jim Terry, JR

and Mr. Angelo



Shogun Warriors: Galking

Earth is under attack! It's up to the powerful Galking robot to save the world from King Darius and the Death Horror Corp. Outer space adventure at its best! (1:41) June 18, 20, 24, 30



Shogun Warriors: Starvengers

Princess Aurora and the Spaceketeers must find and stop the evil brothers Khan and Dektor from gaining galactic control! (1:41) May 14, 18, 20, 31



Shogun Warriors: Danguard Ace

Those fearless pilots, the Spaceketeers, must save the Earth from the evil forces of Danguard and the Danguard Corps! (1:41) March 12, 14, 22, 31

STARVENGERS (GETTA ROBO G in Japan)

Copernicus is an intelligent scientist who has invented three space-jets, and they're called: Star Dragon (Getta Dragon in Japanese version), Star Arrow (Getta Raiga in Japan), and Star Posiedon (Getta Posiedon). The three jets can combine to form three different robots. The pilots for these three jets are: Homar, Paladin and Fowltip. Another pilot (who has a separate jet) is Series, Mr. Copernicus' daughter.

But it's not all fun and games. Earth is under attack. Emperor Ramsorch has sent the Pandemonium Empire to destroy planet Earth. Fowltip is reluctant to defend Earth, until one of his friends (a kid named Joey) is threatened by the invaders.

Produced by Jim Terry Productions
Assistant editor: Laura Rindner
Created by Go Nagai
Music by Shunsuke Kikuchi

SPACEKATEERS (STAR ZINGER in Japan)

On page 12 is an ad for this program. The ad features Grandizer, who is not even in the show.

The plot involves two evil brothers, Kahn and Dektor. They plan on conquering the universe. Luckily, a princess (called Aurora) is protecting the universe. She is aided by the Spacekateers, a team of super heroes.

Jim Terry Productions has done an excellent job at releasing these films to America. All the Force Five shows are entertaining, but I found this one (Spacekateers) to be especially fun.

Supervising editor: Lawrence Bridges
film editor: Stewart Nelson
assistant editor: Laura Rindner



GAIKING

A giant robot is protecting our planet from cosmic invaders. This time, it's King Darius and the Death Horror Corp. Planet Earth must be very special. All aliens want to conquer it!

TV Guide listings for this movie list it as being: "Shogun Warriors: Gaiking" (all of the Force Five shows are listed as Shogun Warriors). The film itself has no mention of Shogun Warriors.

Videotape editors: Collins Walker,
and Floyd Ingram

Video facilities: American Film Factory, Inc.
Film editing facilities by Precision Post
Written by Collins Walker



DANGUARD ACE

A pilot named Winstar (who controls the robot Danguard Ace) pursues a mysterious jet. The jet's pilot is Capt. Mask, a soldier who must wear a metal mask, permanently attached to his head. It was placed there by Camisar Crell, and an alien called Monaco. They lead an evil army who plans to conquer the Earth.

Capt. Mask joins forces with Comander Cross, to fight the invaders. Other members of Cross's group are: Butch Norton (mechanic), Lisa (communications officer), Dr. Pills (physician), Tony Rocket (a daredevil), Patty (an Irish pilot), and Professor Snow.

Created by Leiji Matsumoto and Dan Kobayashi
Music by Shunsuke Kikuchi
Produced and directed by Jim Terry



WHAT'S UP?

BY DAMON FOSTER

This article is suppose to be a recent up-date, reviewing what's been happening since the "Re-hash" article in JMSF #3.

"Return of Godzilla," and "Godzilla vs the Devil" were just rumors, no such films were made.

Also mentioned in the Rehash article was "Za Ultraman," which was later changed to "Ultraman Joe." In 1980, yet another Ultra hero appeared. It's "Ultraman 80," the best Ultra series to date.

"Shogun" was broadcast on NBC in 1980. This 12-hour miniseries was telecast on five nights, beginning on September 15. The show's ratings were high, it was a tremendous success. The show was a combination effort between Paramount, TV Asahi, Toho and Tohoku Shinsha. Paramount spent about \$7.5 million while the three Japanese sponsors split the same amount equally among the three. The series was based on a novel by James Clavell.

Producer Arthur Henley
Director Jerry London
Screenplay Eric Barcovi

Also reviewed in JMSF #3 was the Japanese pop band, "Pink Lady." The group has since then, broken up. Also mentioned in the Pink Lady article was another singer/actress, Momoe Yamaguchi. She is (was) one of Japan's most popular entertainers. In 1980 she married her long-time co-star, Tomokazu Miura, and then she retired from show business. She was born on January 17, 1959.



MOMOE YAMAGUCHI

In April of 1980, "Japan Tonight" (a night of Japanese TV shows) was broadcast in New Jersey. I managed to obtain TV Guide clippings for some of these shows (because I was unable to see Japan Tonight) and here's what I got:

ULTRAMAN-cartoon

A showcase of Japanese TV begins

with the adventures of this extra-terrestrial super hero.

MIRACLE TV-variety

Skits feature a super taxi equipped with disco lights /Yuck! -Ed./ and a shower; a spoof on matrimony.

MITO KOMON-drama

In feudal Japan, Mito Komon (Eijiro Tono) aids a young woman menaced by a scheming competitor determined to take over her family's business.

Oryo: Rumiko Koyanagi

NAKKI-drama

The underwear thief has struck again and Nakki's bra has vanished. Leading her classmates in a search to find the culprit, Nakki sets out to prove the innocence of her friend Hitoshi. Nakki is played by actress Sakakibara Ikue.

Back when Japan Tonight was shown, it was rumored that it might be shown in other parts of the country. Unfortunately, it wasn't shown in my area. How many of you readers have seen Japan Tonight?



the beauty pair

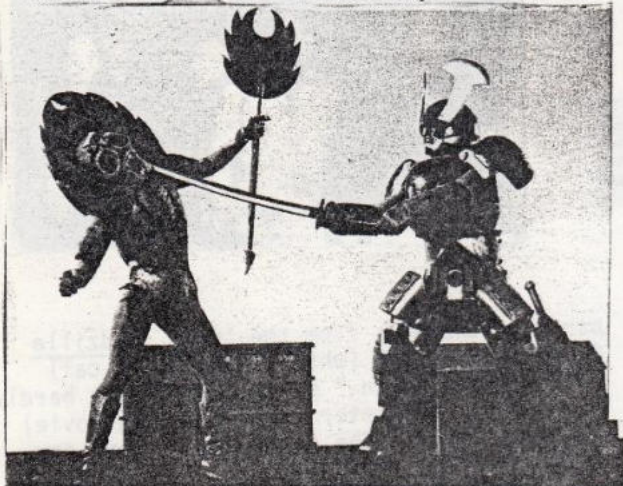


Sakakibara Ikue

A Japanese music duo (the "Beauty Pair") broke up in May 1979. The two members (Maki Ueda and Jackie Sato) made their debut in '76, but in '79, the two members got angry at each other and the band ended. They decided to fight each other in the WWMA World Woman's Singles Match in Japan. The loser would have to retire from show business. After 50 minutes of fighting, the judges proclaimed that Jackie Sato had won. Maki retired (temporarily) and went back to live at her home town in Tottori Prefecture to open a boutique. But on July 1, 1979, she returned to show business. She made a solo record called, "Invader Walk." But her skill at self-defense lead her to having a regular part (as a villain) in Toei's excellent fantasy series, "Battle Fever J!"

BATTLE FEVER J

Battle Fever J is one of Japan's more innovative super hero shows. This TV show was the first program which combined two popular super hero elements: Karate chop heroes (of the same style as Kamen Rider and Gorenge) and Shogun Warriors (heroes like Raideen and Voltus 5). Although Battle Fever J is live-action, it features



giant robots who were inspired by the animated robots. Battle Fever J later inspired shows like: Sun Vulcan, Denziman, and the Japanese Spiderman.

This series is about a human-sized task force (but they also have an enormous robot) who is at war with the forces of Egos.

The leader of the team (who they refer to as "Shogun") is Kurama Tetsuzan (played by Azuma Chiynosuke).



ULTRAMAN 80

TBS is at it again! With the help of Tsuburaya Prod., a new Ultraman has come to Earth. It all started in 1966, when the original Ultraman series was created. The original Ultraman is still a classic, but rather crude when compared to the more recent Ultra shows. In between Ultraman and Ultraman '80, we saw: Ultraseven, Ultraman Ace, Ultraman Taro, Ultraman Leo, and Ultraman Joe.

Ultraman 80 is from Nebula M78, but has come to Earth to protect it from giant monsters. His human form is Takeshi Yamato (played by Hasunori Hasegawa), a member of the Terrestrial Defense Forces.

This series has outstanding special effects, well-designed monsters (it's about time!), and nice music.

The plots are nothing special, the same old stuff we've seen many times before.

But this series is spectacular, just like all the other Ultrabrothers.





Toho Movie Company
made in 1972
released to America in 1978
Produced by Tomoyuki Tanaka
Music by Akira Ifukube

40. Movie: "Godzilla on Monster Island." (1977)

41. "Godzilla on Monster Island." (1977) Godzilla opposes enemy aliens in a battle that could be the last war on earth.

"Godzilla on Monster Island," 77. Godzilla and his friends romp through the pleasant suburbs of Tokyo on a Sunday morning stroll.

42. MOVIE—Science Fiction "Godzilla on Monster Island." (Japanese; 1977) Another war of the creatures, with Godzilla joined by Anguirus against King Ghidorah and Gigan to save mankind. (90 min.)



BY DAMON FOSTER

Originally, I had written an extensive filmbook, featuring all of the film's dialogue. But I no longer can afford to print such long, detailed articles. I must save as much space as possible. Besides, the film's plot is very simple. Aliens from space are trying to conquer the planet Earth. This time, it's giant beetles. With the help of Gidora and Gigan, they begin destroying Tokyo. But Godzilla and Angilas (who are able to speak English in this movie) are willing to fight to save the Earth.

The film is sensational (so are all the Godzilla films). Special effects—Very good, but a lot of stock-footage is used.

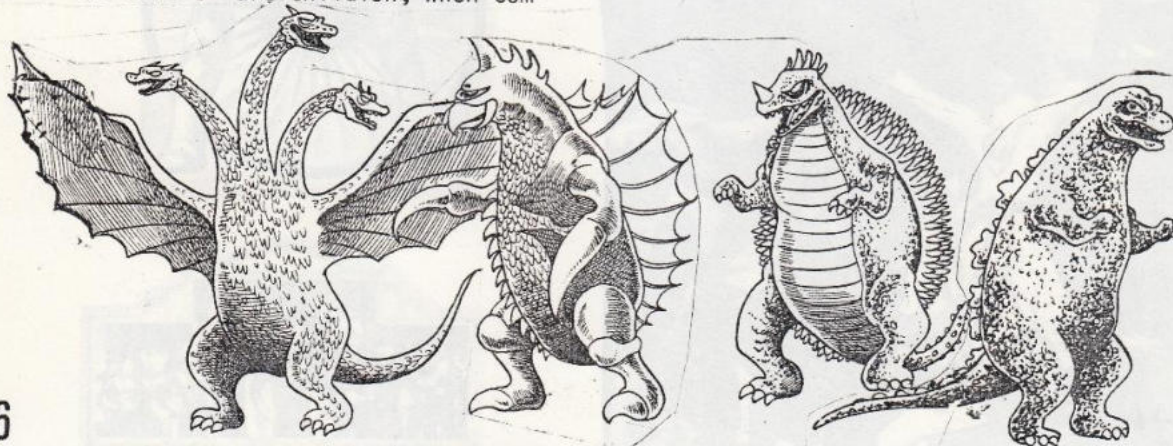
Music—Akira Ifukube, at his best. But a lot of old music (from earlier movies) is used. Voice dubbing—Terrible, almost ruining the film.

Many people complain that the Godzilla films of the 1970's are childish, when com-

pared to the ones from the '60s. Godzilla ON MONSTER ISLAND (which I prefer to call "Godzilla vs Gigan," since Godzilla is hardly even shown on Monster Island, in the movie) is intelligent. The film doesn't have any little kids in it at all.

The film's fightscenes are very good. Godzilla always gets beaten up in his 70s films. In the 60s, he didn't have this problem. I guess his 70s enemies (Gigan, Megalon, Mecha-godzilla, Hedora and Titanosaurus) are a lot tougher than his 60s enemies.

This movie's highlight is a mechanical Godzilla called the "Godzilla Tower," which bears a striking resemblance to the Godzilla Shogun Warrior, put out by Mattel.



GAMERA, SUPER MONSTER

Produced and distributed by Daiei, 1980

Starring:

Mach Fumiake

Yaeko Kojima

Yoko Komatsu

Keiko Kudo

Koichi Maede

Toshie Takada

Hiroshi Hatashi

Tetsuaki Toyosumi

Hideaki Kobayashi

Makoto Ikeda

Kisao Hida

Planned by Masaya Tokuyama

Producers: Shigeru Shinohara,

Hirakazu Onba

Screenplay by Niisan Takahashi

Music by Shunsuke Kikuchi

Directed by Noriaki Yuasa

MOVIE—Science Fiction
 "Gamera—Super Monster." (Japanese; 1980) The prehistoric flying turtle vs. gigantic alien creatures. Mach Fumiake, (2 hrs.)

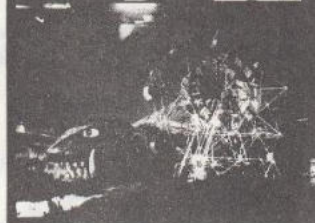


Gamera is back, finally! His previous movie (Gamera vs Zigra) was released way back in 1971! But in 1980 came Gamera's latest colorful adventure.

The film lacks creativity. Once again, Gamera is protecting the Earth from alien attack. But this time, Gamera is aided by three sexy space girls. They can fly, have secret identities, and roll in the dirt so they won't get hit by laser beams. They're the film's highlight, since Gamera only appears in stock-footage scenes. The stock scenes ruin an otherwise fun movie. These are old fights where Gamera takes on all his previous foes. These scenes merely remind us how good his films once were. Fortunately, the movie shows Gamera fighting Zigra, which is good. "Gamera vs Zigra" wasn't released to America, so this film is the only chance we get to see Zigra in action. This fightscene has a hilarious moment. Gamera

produces musical notes by hitting Zigra's dorsal fins with a rock. There are two other cute scenes in the film. While flying through space, Gamera encounters the Yamato, and Galaxy Express 999. These scenes are just a kid's dream. The kid, by the way, is very, very irritating. Especially when he sings his "Gamera March" song. The singing voice doesn't even match his talking voice. All of the film's voice dubbing is unconvincing.

The film serves as a showcase for Gamera's past battles. Barugon, Gyaos, Viras, Guiron, and Zigra. They're all here. For the grand finale, Gamera crashes into a Star Wars-ish spaceship, to his apparent death. Good!



LAST DAYS OF PLANET EARTH

BY DAMON FOSTER

Toho, 1975

Directed by Toshio Masuda

Screenplay by Yoshiro Masuda

Music by Isao Tomita

Photography by Rokuro Nishigaki

Special effects by Shokei Nakao

Synopsis:

Pollution gets the blame (again), as Earth's environment is changing (for the worst). Radiation causes slugs to enlarge, but an army destroys them, so nobody had a chance to study them. Next, kiddies become abnormally strong, intelligent and fast. But they eventually die, pollution can do no good. Then plants grow real big and damage subways. Research teams (scientists) all die while exploring an island which features monstrous bats and scary cannibals. All these monsters are the results of contamination. Then college students discover creative ways to commit suicide.

Riots occur when the government tries rationing food.

By this time, government authorities realize that things are bad, something must be done.

With:

Kaoru Tomita

Tetsuro Tamba

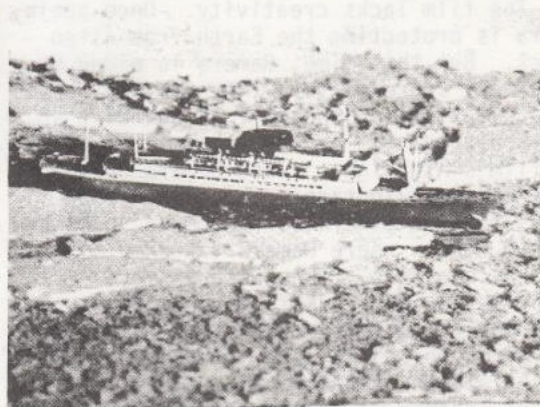
Toshio Kurosawa

Yaoru Yami

Akihiko Hirata



MOVIE—Science Fiction
"Last Days of Planet Earth." (1978)
Futuristic tale predicting the world's doom with floods, nuclear catastrophe, volcanic eruptions and ecological disintegration. (90 min.)

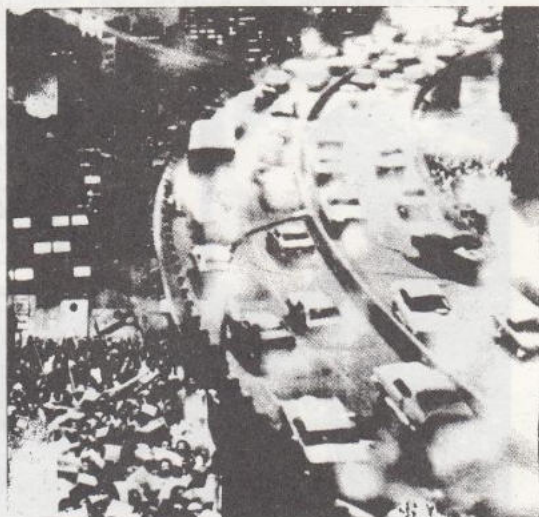


JAPANESE TITLE: NOSTRADAMUS NO DAYOGEN
CANADIAN/FRENCH TITLE: THE END OF THE WORLD
BRITISH TITLE: CATASTROPHE 1999

I saw this movie twice. First, in its original, uncut Japanese version (with English sub-titles) at the Kokusai theatre (in Japan Center, San Francisco). Then I saw it on American TV. It was taken from the British dubbed version (the British may have condensed it), and the Americans probably cut out a few scenes. To make it worse, the local TV station which aired it is notorious for chopping their films to pieces. So the American version that I saw was heavily edited. Fortunately, I'd already seen it un-cut.

The Japanese version was outstanding, and eerie. It gave me a disturbed feeling. Much of the film's bizarre effect still remains, even in the butchered American version.

The movie is based on the predictions of Nostradamus, a European philosopher.





BY DAMON FOSTER

MFS has been referred to as a SW (Star Wars) rip-off. It was inspired by, but it's not a rip-off. A rip-off is something cheap, quickly produced. Besides, much of SW was inspired by Japanese films. For example, the name "Death Star" (which should have been called the "Dead Star") comes from "Attack from Space," a Japanese film from 1964.

Special effects-Very colorful, the laser effects are realistic and well detailed. Beautiful sets and miniatures. Cute costumes. **Dubbing**-After hearing people criticize the dubbing, I was surprised. The dubbing is actually quite good.

Action-Although the film has its dull moments, the film has a few fist-fights and many space battles. The film's best scene is a swordfight duel at the end.

The plot:

Rockseia XII (an evil dictator) sends his army (Gavanas) to attack the planet Jillicia. After the planet is destroyed, a Jillician wise-man named Kido sends a gang of magical walnuts into space to find some super heroes. These super heroes are to avenge Jillicia, by destroying the Gavanas.

These superheroes are:

General Garuda (a retired soldier), Meia (a spoiled rich girl), Aaron (a bored punk), Shiro (Aaron's friend), Hans (a former Gavana, who's father was killed by Rockseia XII), and Beba II (a robot).

And so these heroes risk their lives by attacking the Gavanas. After many long, hard battles, the Gavanas are destroyed. The universe is safe (but not really, the movie later had a TV show sequel with 26 episodes).

Star info:

Sonny (Hans) Chiba- Known as Shinichi Chiba in Japan. Mainly popular for his role as the "Streetfighter". He's also been in martial arts TV shows like: Yagyu Conspiracy, Guerrillas 7, Karate Kiba, and the Bodyguards. But JMSF readers might best remember him as "Space Chief" (from the film, "Invasion of the Neptune Men") or as Ken (from "Terror beneath the Sea"). Although he's no Bruce Lee, Chiba is an excellent martial artist. During filming of MFS, Chiba's left knee was injured. Fortunately, it wasn't serious (although it did put him out of commission for a few days).

Vic Morrow- An American actor, born in NY, educated in Florida. His controversial death took place on July 23, 1982 at Indian Dunes Park. He was killed when a helicopter accidentally crashed into him, while filming a scene from the film, "Twilight Zone."

Etsuko Shiomi-Although the film's credits call her "Sue," her real name is Etsuko. Born on October 24, 1954, in Okayama City. Like Chiba, Shiomi is another martial art star. She's co-starred with Chiba in many of his movies and TV shows. But Shiomi is unhappy about her being type-cast as an action star, and wants some more dramatic roles.

The following is an article that appeared in an issue of the Detroit Free Press (on November 1, 1978), to show how film critics felt about MFS.

ZAP! IT'S PLASTIC-AND MADE IN JAPAN

By Susan Stark

Free Press Film Critic

Those chosen to serve the forces of good have a little glowing walnut dropped on them. That tells you a lot about this film.

The walnuts, and a lot more foolishness, show up in "Message from Space," Japan's hasty answer to "Star Wars."

Its dubbed dialogue is so studiously breezy that it is more laughable than the picture's bounty of special effects. The American earthlings "oh wow" their way through space while their Japanese colleagues snap off lines like: "Those cats are in a hurry" and "The old hag put a mickey in your drink."

The sole robot on hand, a squat, burbling R2D2 type, exclaims, "Hot dog, master," at one point.

The story line follows that of "Star Wars" more than closely.

An evil tyrant threatens the peaceful planet of a lovely princess. Her grandfather tosses eight walnuts into space and sends her to find the eight



Still MFS-8

Princess Esmerilda (Sue Shiomi) defends herself against the enemy in "Message From Space,"

Mat 2B

heroes the walnuts will attach themselves to.

With them, she will search for peace, joy, beauty, the faith, and so on.

Many light zaps, and because this is a Japanese product, much swordplay, the princess and her walnut holders turn the villain hot pink, blow up his Deathstar-ish domain, and head out into space to look for a virgin star on which to establish their peaceable kingdom.

Plots, of course, don't matter much in this genre, but the Japanese might have strayed at least a bit from "Star Wars," itself not blazingly original.

What the Japanese do play with, fairly successfully, is the Halloween aspect of it all. The costumes and hardware are far more gaudy and ghoulish than those of the American blockbuster. Also a lot tackier.

The princess and her people wear green wreaths that scream "Plastic!" everytime you see them.

Even in a low-budget disture like this, the filmmakers could have gone for the real stuff. No matter how you look at it, leaves come cheap.

Vic Morrow, best known for TV's "Combat" series in the '60s, plays a boozv Army renegade who finds a walnut in his drink. Peggy Lee Brennan, an unfamiliar name destined to stay that way, plays an earthling adventuress who also comes to possess a walnut.

The very young, and the very young at head will undoubtedly see the fun in all this.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| General Garuda..... | VIC MORROW |
| Hans..... | SONNY CHIBA |
| Aaron..... | PHILIP CASNOFF |
| Meia..... | PEGGY LEE BRENNAN |
| Esmeralda..... | SUE SHIOMI |
| Noguchi..... | TETSURO TAMBA |
| Rockseia XII..... | MIKIO NARITA |
| Urocco..... | MAKOTO SATO |
| Shiro..... | HIROYUKI SANADA |
| Robot Beba 2..... | ISAMU SHIMUZU |
| Jack..... | MASAZUMI OKABE |
| Kamesasa..... | NOBURO MITANI |
| Dark..... | HIDEYO AMAMOTO |
| Kido..... | JUNKICHI ORIMOTO |
| Lazarl..... | HARUMI SONE |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Directed by..... | KINJI FUKASAKU |
| Produced by..... | BANJIRO UEMURA |
| | YOSHINORI WATANABE, TAN TAKAIWA |
| Created by..... | SHOTARO ISHIMORI |
| | MASAHIRO NODA, HIROO MATSUDA |
| | KINJI FUKASAKU |
| Screenplay by..... | HIROO MATSUDA |
| Director of Photography..... | TORO NAKAJIMA |
| Music Composed by..... | KEN-ICHIRO MORIOKA |
| Music Performed by..... | COLUMBIA'S SYMPHONY |
| | ORCHESTRA (JAPAN) |
| Science Fiction Supervisor..... | MASAHIRO NODA |
| Space-flying Objects Designed by..... | SHOTARO ISHIMORI |
| Special Photographic Effects by..... | MINORU NAKANO |
| Art Director..... | TETSUZO OSAWA |

A JOINT PRODUCTION OF TOEI COMPANY, LTD. & TOHOKUSHINSHA FILM CO. LTD.



Still MFS-5

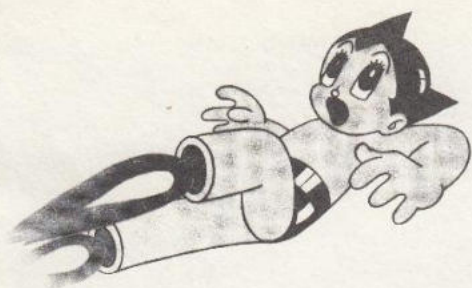
Mat 2A

Elder statesman of the Jilucians, Kido (Junkichi Orimoto), right, relates the plight of his people to two brave warriors, Garuda (Vic Morrow), center, and Prince Hans. (Sonny Chiba), second from left. "Message From Space".

The Film-Makers

Running Time: 105 Minutes





JAPANESE MOVIE SCI-FI NO. 4! 1980-'81



ENDITORIAL



Dear reader,

this is the last thing I'm typing for this issue. I've seen the pages for JMSF #4. Although it's an improvement over past issues, I'm still not satisfied. If I ever do get satisfied, JMSF might cease to improve.

I think the main problems with this issue are: Sloppy paste-ups. On the original masters, the messiness is almost undetectable. But on the copy pages, it's very un-neat. Lack of good, solid information. I had to do all the articles, so I got lazy, I should have done more research.

Also, my style of writing is painfully naive. I have a limited vocabulary, and my choice of phrases is bad.

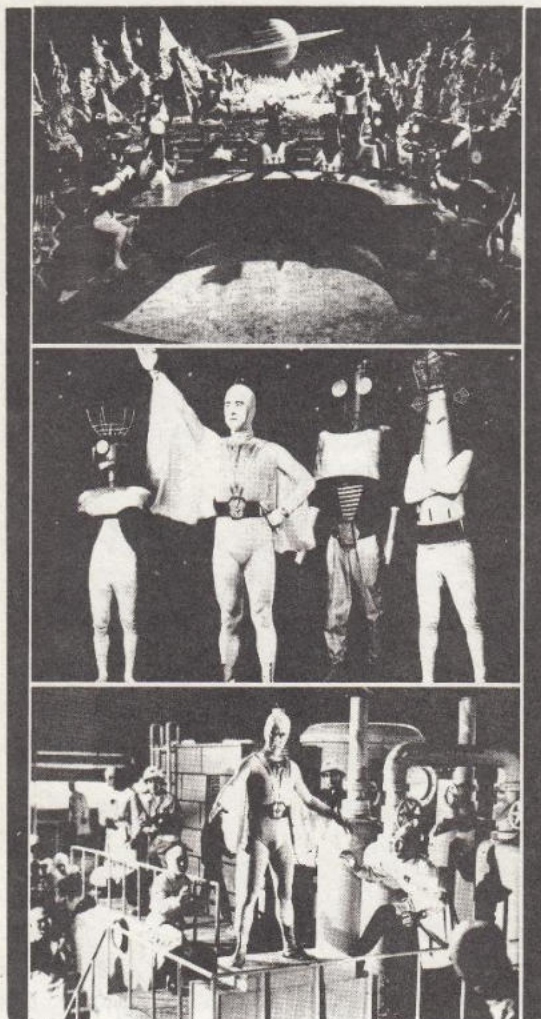
This issue contains too much degrading criticism. I even criticized the TV shows that I like. To avoid hostility, let me say this: To some extent, I enjoy all of Japan's fantasy productions. Weather it be Godzilla films, one-shot movies, superheroes, samurai movies or animated cartoons. I like them all. I've even enjoyed watching Japanese soap operas and Japanese musical variety shows.

The articles for this issue were written in 1980. The typing and paste-ups were done in 1981. But the actual publishing was done in 1982. This issue supposedly covers the years 1980 and 1981. So this is the "1980-'81 issue of JMSF". JMSF was suppose to be a yearly magazine. But this issue applies to both '80 and '81. The next issue (#5) will be for 1982-'83.

Of course, there's no guarantee that there will even be a fifth issue of JMSF. It may or may not continue. My other fanzine ("Oriental Cinema") also may or may not continue. If OC does continue, it will be geared toward Chinese gung fu movies.

So that's it. JAPANESE MOVIE SCI FI #4. I hope you enjoyed reading it. I certainly enjoyed making it.

Damon Foster ダモソ・フォスタ



It's the heavyweight championship of the world!

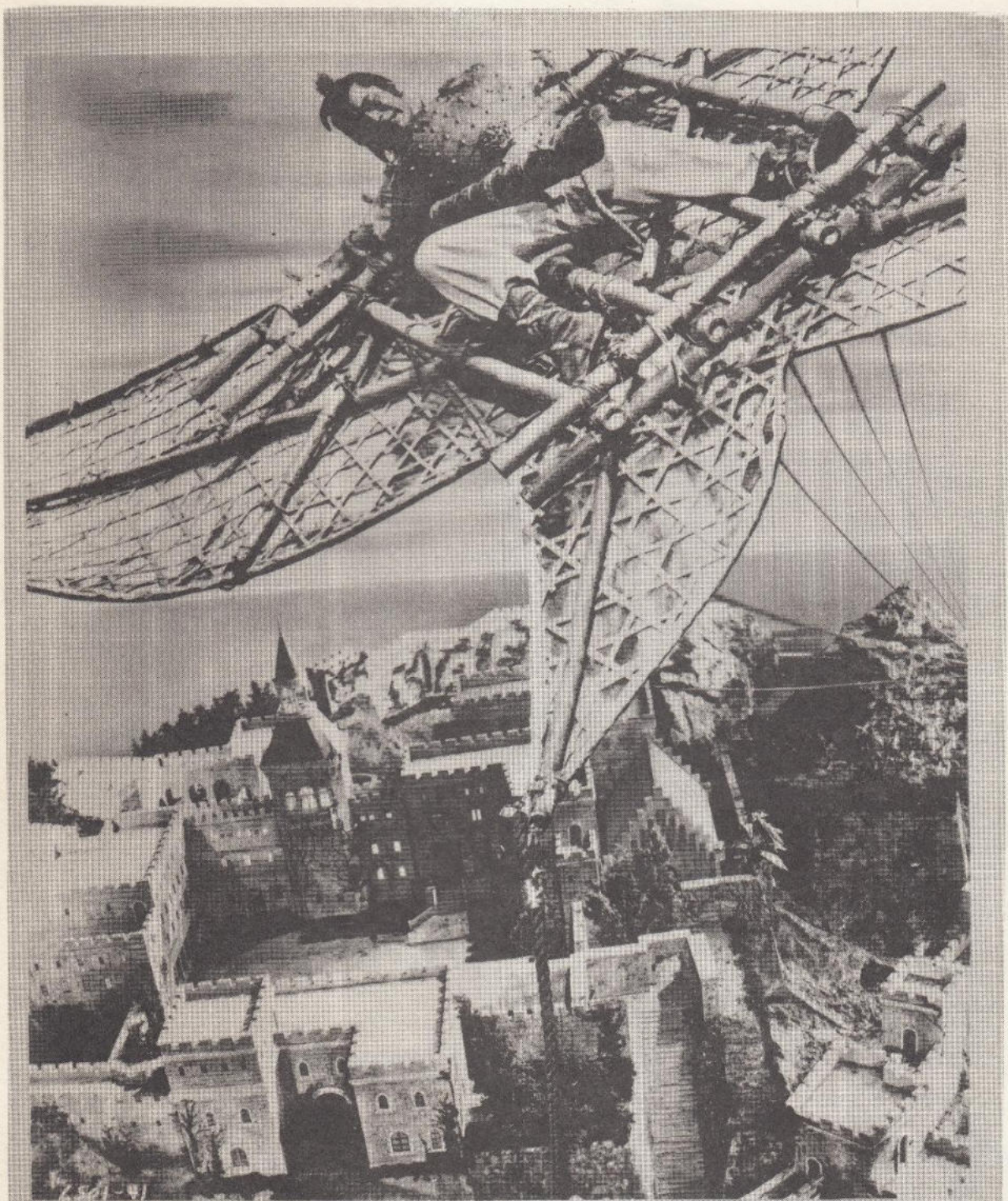
KING KONG vs. GODZILLA

48

WKBS

TONIGHT'S MOVIE
8PM





"THE LOST WORLD OF SINBAD"

IN COLORSCOPE

PRODUCED BY TOHO COMPANY, LTD.

15