

INSUFFICIENT

DICTION

MOYOCO
ANNO

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

Moyoco Anno

VERTICAL



INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION



MOYOCO
ANNO

VERTICAL.



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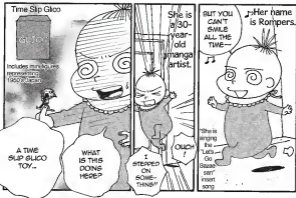
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ANY RESEMBLANCE TO REAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD,
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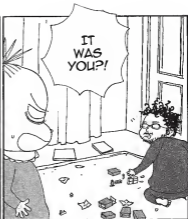
INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE

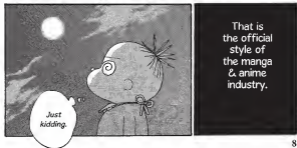
ONE

f i r s t











But her anxiety dissipated as they reenacted A Pigeon Wife.

I'M SONNA KILL YOU !!!



PIE!

PIEON-BEAM RAINBOW!!

CHAR'S CUSTOM CONDOM !!

FLOWER GARDEN TACKLE!



I'M SONNA KILL YOU!!

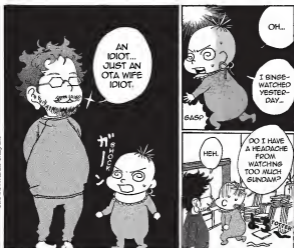
*This is a line from the manga A Pigeon Wife.

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE

TWO





From the movie *The
Battle of Okinawa*



*According to Director-kun,
his pose is wrong in this frame



The correct lyrics are "God plays too much and I don't know what to do."



The correct cheer is "Yee!" (copied by GAINAX Kamenashi)



END

EPISODE

THREE

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

t h i r d

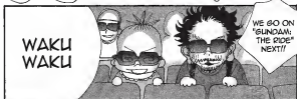








When we went to Fuji-Q Highland for our honeymoon...







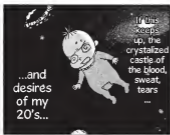
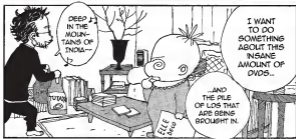
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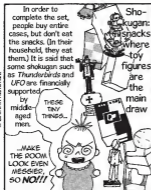
EPISODE FOUR

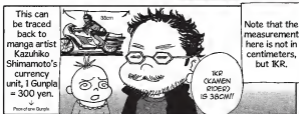
fourth

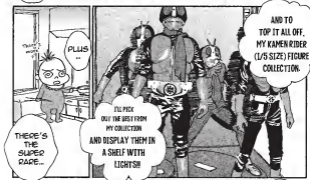
INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

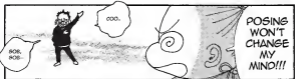


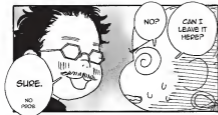






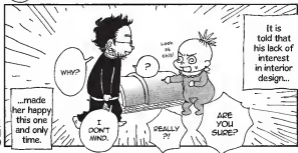
*Estimated value: over 140,000 yen





What is a Smarty?!

It is Rompers' beloved far infrared sauna (half-cylinder shape)!



INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE

FIVE

fifth



I HEARD YOU CAN LOSE WEIGHT DOING THIS EVERY DAY!

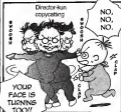
It looks like a drag queen dance show rehearsal.

10, 11, 12, 13

Keep head and neck straight



Rompers' current hype is hip twisting exercise.



He drinks 2-3 long cans of UCC coffee plus orange juice or Bikkie EVERY DAY.

h'n'c'c'c' GULP GULP

When they started dating, he was even fatter.



↳ Looks just like Omasan of Hey, Poo-er! And neck: towel!

YOU LOOK IDENTICAL TO IT!

Like 99.99% 100%

I'M NOT THIS FAT... AM I?

Apparently Director-kun was shocked by his figure in the first episode.



Otaku-Genre Directors' 5 Traits

- Glasses
- Beard
- T-Shirt
- Shorts
- Socklets



Okonomi-yaki (no meat), kitsune udon, pizza, pasta, vegetable curry, egg sandwich

Baby Sapporo Star Potato Ramen
Sapporo Potato BBQ Flavor

Because Director-kun can't eat any meat or fish, his diet consists of...

TA ——— DAH

SEA LION?

Photo from when they went to Hawaii.

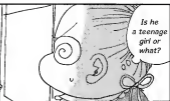


Beer, wine (red) and sake

and LIQUOR!!



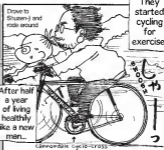






Height approx. 180cm

73kg...



Drove to (Shuzen-) and rode around

After half a year of living healthily like a new man...

©Mitsuru Ohno / Cycle-Cross

They started cycling for exercise.



Guys with unhealthy lifestyles easily lose weight just by making better choices.

WAS THAT YOUR GOAL?!

His body fat fell to 20% too

I CAN WEAR MY KAMEN RIDER SUIT!!



HLH?



TIME TO USE SMARTY!!



THE REASON I CAN'T LOSE WEIGHT...

...IS THAT I LIVE A WELL-REGULATED LIFE. THAT MEANS QUIT IT!



I GET IT.



END













END

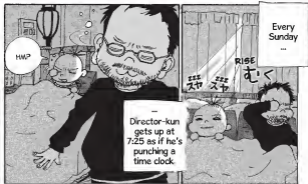
INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE

SEVEN

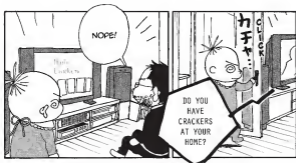
TO RECTION

seventh





*But the event is catered to mothers (who want to see the actors before transformation)





IT WAS ALREADY ROTTEN, BEFORE THE WIND BLEW.

THE WIND MERELY FELLED THE TREE WITH ROTTEN ROOTS THAT WOULD'VE FALLEN ON ITS OWN ACCORD.

ONLY VAGUELY ...



IT DID NOT SUPPORT JUST THE ONE TREE THAT FELL.

THE WIND BLOWS EQUALLY AT ALL THINGS!!

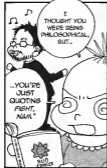
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MOYO?



TO BLAME OTHERS FOR YOUR OTAKU-NESS.

I KNOW!

THE ANALOGY FOR HUMANS IS...



I THOUGHT YOU WERE BEING PHILOSOPHICAL, BUT...

...YOU'RE JUST QUOTING FIGHT, MAN!



Namu ...



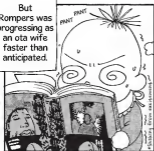
WIND BLOWS EQUALLY AT ALL THINGS!!

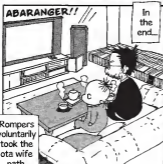
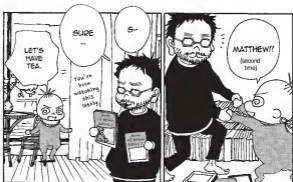
MOYO, WHAT IS AN OTAKU?

A HEART THAT LOVES!!

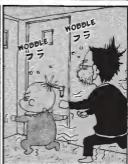
George Akiyama's masterpiece

But Rompers was progressing as an ota wife faster than anticipated.





Rompers voluntarily took the ota wife path.



END

EPISODE
EIGHT







But the BGM is Battle Fever J...



We even do the moves at times and Director keeps beat with his hands.

...people can totally tell that we're singing.

From the outside ...

IN FACT, I GO NUTS SOMETIMES, SINGING AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS SINCE I'M IN A CAR.

BUT NOW, I DON'T MIND.

YOU KNOW ...

Hurricane Polymer and Hyppo and Thomas are two favorites.



In the parking lot of luxury department store O-pyo in Hiro'o.

...getting immersed in it is easier.

Or so she realized.



Instead of resisting and being stressed out...

Director-kun starts singing even in the middle of a conversation if his favorite song comes on.

*X-Bomber theme song



SOLDIER, SOLDIER—

I GUESS S—

SO I DON'T GET UPSET MUCH, RIGHT?

FORGET MY LOVE !!



It happened when the osmosis was nearly complete.

WELCOME



Maybe my sense of shame is getting numb.

After an all-nighter

Um? Should I be ashamed in the first place?



THAT'S A TOUGH ONE—

EVERY YEAR?

I WANT TO COME HERE EVERY YEAR.

For their anniversary they splurged and went to the luxury inn "Orakaden"!!



NINJA OF SCIENCE

...WHICH MEANS THE VALET ATTENDANT...

THE CD STARTED WHEN WE TURNED THE ENGINE ON...

THE SONGS STARTED PLAYING WHERE WE LEFT OFF!!

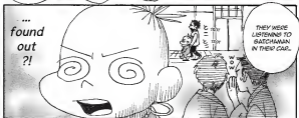


VROOR. VROOR. THE ENGINE SHARLS.

ゲオール

The next morning, when they got in their car...

HMP



... found out ?!

THEY WERE LISTENING TO GATCHAMAN IN THEIR CAR...



Rompers had taken another step towards being an ota wife!!

Brain-washed

SO WHAT?

...?

WHY CAN'T WE LISTEN TO ANIME SONGS?

WE SHOULDNT BE BANGAR-BAGGED!!

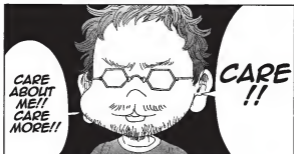
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EPISODE

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

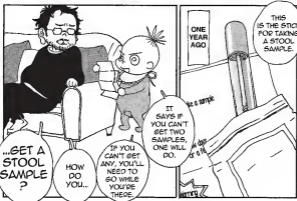
NINE

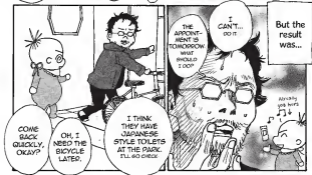
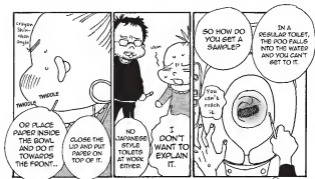


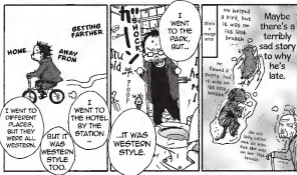




It is worth it, even if he says so.









END

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION! DIRECTION!

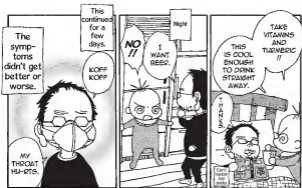
EPISODE

TEEN

tenth







The symptoms didn't get better or worse.

This continued for a few days.

KOFF KOFF

MY THROAT HURTS.

Night

NO !!

I WANT BEER.

DRINK UP!!

THIS IS COOL ENOUGH TO DRINK STRAIGHT AWAY.

TAKE VITAMINS AND TURMERIC !!



YOU'RE JUST SAYING YOU'RE SICK 'CAUSE YOU WANT ME TO PAMPER YOU.

YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER, AND YOUR THROAT HURTS A LITTLE.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WANDERING AROUND THE HOUSE BAREFOOT AND READING MANGA!!

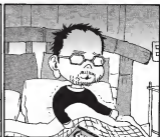
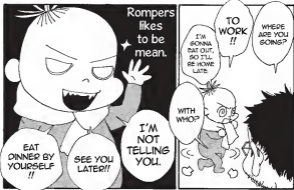


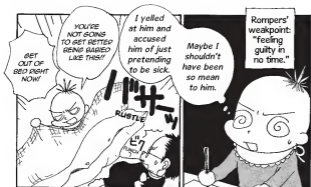
WHA—

I'M GOING TO BE LITERALLY COLD TO YOU.

YOU'RE NOT GETTING BETTER BECAUSE I'M BEING NICE!!

I'M NOT GOING TO BE NICE ANYMORE !!





INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE

ELEVEN

e l e v e n t h





I CAN'T FIND KAMUI SAIDEN 1, 2 AND 3... EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE 4, 5, 6 AND 7

...NO MATTER HOW HARD I LOOK.

GULP

THEY DIDN'T HAVE IT.



...THE MOONIN PRODUCED BY TOKYO MOVIE AT FIRST, THEN BY MUSHI PRODUCTIONS?

YOU MEAN...

DIDN'T YOU GO TO AOKIHABARA? DID YOU FIND THE FIRST MOONIN AND KAMUI SAIDEN DVD'S?



...done already ?!

You're ...

70

AHH THAT WAS DELICIOUS.



...MY MOUTH IS FILLED WITH DELICIOUS FOOD.

BUT I LIKE IT WHEN...

DON'T SWALLOW THE FOOD LIKE THAT !!

LET'S ENJOY DINNER A LITTLE MORE, OKAY?

GEEZ !!!!



*The correct lyrics "Hiding in the shadows..."



To appear in a film.

...filled with anime and tokusatsu songs.

Naturally, in the car is a newly purchased iPod...

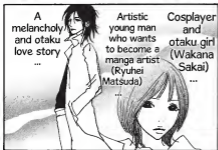
"Eat Everything at Once Man" and Rompers headed towards Hakone.

Hidden in the shadows, he loves...



... "Eat Everything At Once Man" !!

The birth of a Kamen-Rider loving, toku-satsu otaku

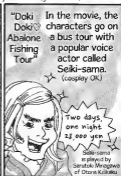


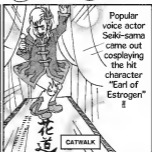
A melancholy and otaku love story ...

Artistic young man who wants to become a manga artist (Ryuhei Matsuda)

Cosplayer and otaku girl (Wakana Sakai)

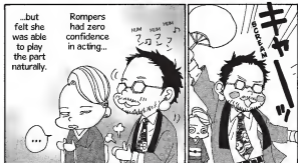
Otakus in Love
 directed by Suzuki Matsuo
 Original story by Jun Hanyunyu







NOTE: Matsuo-san is right. Since he was looking back this conversation



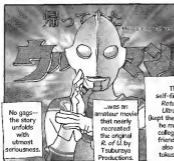
END

EPISODE TWELVE

t w e l f t h

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION





No gaps—the story unfolds with utmost seriousness.

...was an amateur movie that nearly recreated the original R. of U. by Tsuburaya Productions.

The self-financed Return of Ultraman (kept the title too) he made in college with friends who also liked tokusatsu...

Youthful Director-kun

Director-kun really did use to be Ultraman.



← Thin

He was broke and lived on bread crust and milk, apparently.



...to transform.

The hero Trooper Hayakawa (one of their gang played the role) uses glasses called "Ultra Eye"...



Into a giant Director-kun (Himself).

← Young



Director-kun (Himself) fighting a monster.

...he KICKS ASS in the miniature city.

Wearing a jacket spray-painted silver with red lines...



A man who became Ultraman on his own!



I WILL NEVER FORGET THE SHOCK I FELT THE FIRST TIME I SAW IT.



No way !!

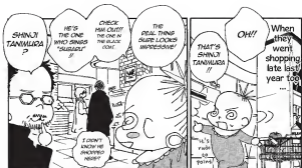
WHO?

RYOKO YONEKURA?



WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT RYOKO YONEKURA'S BEWITCHER?

Yet Director-kun doesn't know much about celebs...







END

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION
EPISODE

DIRECTION

THIRTEEN

thirteenth



Director-kun (Age 44) !!





YEAH, AND...?

YOU WERE
ALREADY
WEARING
IT FOR
FIVE DAYS
STRAIGHT!

WEREN'T
YOU IN THAT
OUTFIT WHEN
I LEFT?!



OH,
I PLAN
TO...
SOMEHOW.

HMP?

...MAY
I ASK IF
YOU HAVE
BATHED,
SID?

THIS MAY
BE AN IDLE
QUESTION,
BUT...



GO
TAKE A
BATH!!

BUT I'M
SLEEPY!!

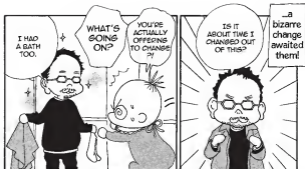
WAIT!
WHY ARE
YOU CLIMBING
INTO BED?!



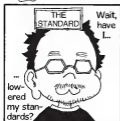
GET OUT OF BED RIGHT NOW!!

This was an almost daily occurrence at the Anno household, but...





There were 80 crinkled balls...



Just awful.



I WILL TOMOR-RO-W.

HOW 'BOUT YOUR MAKE-UP? NOT GONNA SHOWER??

UH OH, YOU'RE DRINK AGAIN ...

I'M GONNA SLEEP NOW.



Rather than Director-kun being reformed...

IS THE BIZARRE CHANGE HAPPENING TO ME?!

SAMGULE (サムギョウ)

Something we had ordered between Elder Eiyaru



SHORE

At night, went to sleep drunk.

↑ Did redo make-up (roughly) and wore a hat to hide everything

The scary truth: next day Rompers went out as is.



I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT BY HIM...OF ALL PEOPLE??

Married couples start resembling each other, they say.

Director-kun, awfully glad he got a chance to nag



...next morning.

SHOCK

UGH!

GO TAKE A SHOWER ALREADY!!

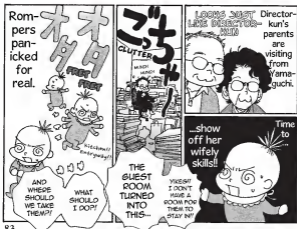
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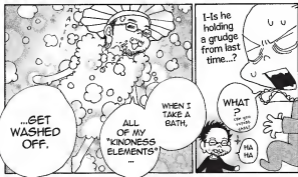
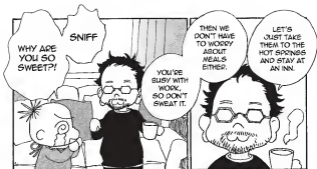
INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION DIRECTION

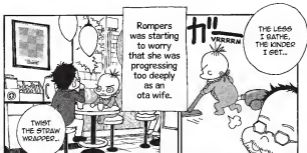
EPISODE

FOURTEEN

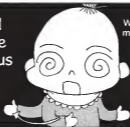
fourteenth







...stupid
might be
contagious
too.



Which means
... Otaku
is
contagious
...



JUST AS
YOU ARE
STUPID
TO

YOU
ARE
AN
OTAKU
TO
BEGIN
WITH

BEGIN
WITH.
NOW
SING!

FLUTTER

'CONTAGIOUS?'
I DON'T
THINK SO.

I NEED
TO BE
CAREFUL
!!

I
OUGHT
TO BE
CAREFUL
!!

D
H
A



The sound
from the
next girl's
is really
+ + + + +
+ + + + +
+ + + + +

♪ LIKE A
SALE~

OH
KASUNGA!

AND LAST
TIME WE
WENT OUT
FOR A
DRIVE...

WHO
WAS THE
ONE WHO
SAID THAT,
HMM?

STUTTERING
ON PURPOSE
IS OTAKU.

WH-WHAT
PROOF DO
YOU HAVE
P?





HAHAHA

AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON !!

B-BE-CRUSE ...

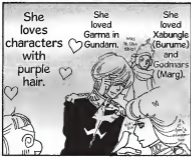


I PREFER BRANER.

*Ginga Banpau Brager

♪
*Ginga Shosaku Brager
S A S U R A I G E R

Not only that ...



She loves characters with purple hair.

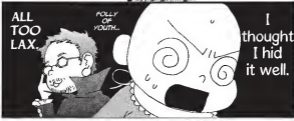
She loved Garma in Gundam.

She loved Xabungle (Burume) and Godmars (Marg).



...she was an anime fan.

When Rompers was in grade school ...



ALL TOO LAX.

FOLLY OF YOUTH...

I thought I hid it well.



ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS?

I EVEN BOOKED OUR HOT SPRINGS STAY.

AND WIFE!!

BUT NOW I'M A PROPER ADULT.

Listen to me !!



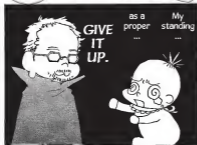
WELL THE STAMP ON THIS IS...

P-PROOF THAT I'M PROPER ...

THE MAP THE INN SENT ME.

SHOW IT TO ME.

Y-YES...



GIVE IT UP.

as a proper ... My standing ...



END

*True story!!

EPISODE

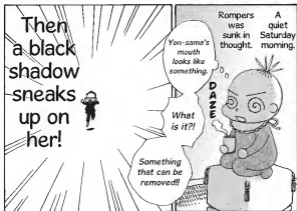
FIFTEEN

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

fifteenth

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION





...AND I
FINALLY
WON!!!

I'VE BEEN
APPLYING
FOR THE
LAST FOUR
YEARS...

I
WON THE
RANDOM
DRAWING!!

TEST-DRIVE
EVENT
FOR THE
MAGLEV
TRAIN!

He's
determined,
all right.

OH,
I
SEE.

YA
HO

Here,
"Railway
Fanatic"
is it!!

...
do exist.

"HAPPI-
NESS
GAPS"
between
most
couples
(married or
unmarried)

...

...a few
times
a year
for test-
drives.

Maglev is not in
commercial
operation in
Japan, but the
test tracks
open up to the
public...

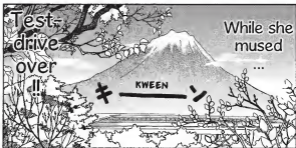
Top speeds of
over 500km/h

Bullet trains are better.









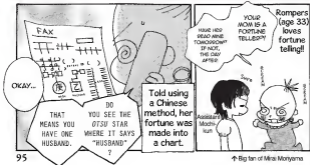
END

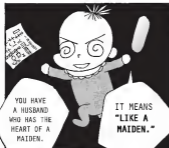
EPISODE

SIXTEEN

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION DIRECTION

sixteenth





YOU HAVE A HUSBAND WHO HAS THE HEART OF A MAIDEN.

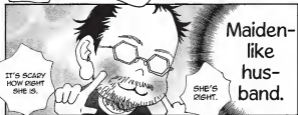
IT MEANS "LIKE A MAIDEN."

OH, THAT.



BY THE WAY, WHAT DOES OTSU (乙) MEAN?

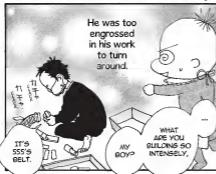
wife husband



IT'S SCARY HOW RIGHT SHE IS.

SHE'S RIGHT.

Maiden-like husband.



IT'S SSS'S BELT.

MY BOY?

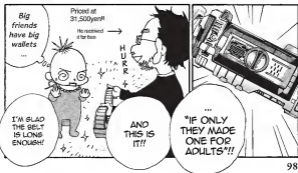
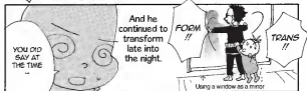
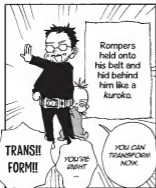
WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING SO INTENSELY,



I'M HOME.

Rompers returns home.







...It wasn't on purpose.

↑ Maiden-like line!



But... but...



WHY AM I PLAYING THE SUBARU DADDY?!

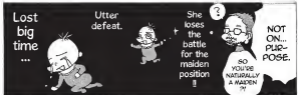
YOU PRINCESS!

I WANT TO BE CODOLEO TOO!

Suddenly, Rompers gets angry.

G A R H

← DADDY



Lost big time ...

Utter defeat.

She loses the battle for the maiden position!

SO YOU'RE NATURALLY A MAIDEN?!

NOT ON... PURPOSE.



The princess vs. elderly caretaker dynamic had been fated by the very stars.

I GUESS WE CAN'T HELP IT, THEN!

HAH !!

A husband who has the "maiden" star...

OH, THAT MEANS "MANLY AND WILD" AND IT'S A REALLY STRONG STAR.



WHAT IS KOU (BO)?

BY THE WAY, WHAT DOES MY STAR MEAN?

Tell me.

END

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE SEVENTEEN

seventeenth

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION



In a magazine interview, a fortune teller had urged Rompers to erect a home.

I WANT TO LIVE IN ONE!!

NO, A DETACHED HOUSE.

WE ALREADY HAVE A HOUSE HERE.

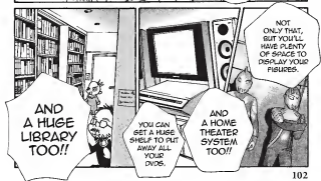


A little while back.

A HOUSE.

A HOUSE?







...an N Scale train set in a huge living room



...is the N Scale.

"That" ...



The next step would be the even bigger HO Scale









They fell
in love
with
the old
minka.

A
SHOWA-
ERA
HYBRID
HOME!!

THIS
IS IT!!

A
plot
with
an old
home.

ALL THE
WINDOW
SILLS ARE
MADE OF
WOOD—
♡



WE'LL
COMMUTE
TO
TOKYO!!

In the
mountains

NO
WOR-
RIES.

PLUS...
THIS IS
KAMAKURA.



NO, WE
LOVE IT
!!

IT'S OLD,
SO IT'LL BE
CHEAPER
BUILDING A
NEW HOUSE.

Reitor
Aaachi-
kun



...but it'd be
a pain if he
remembered,
so Rompers
tries not to
bring it up...

There's
**NO ROOM
AT ALL**
for the
N Scale...

I'd never
been to
Kamakura,
but it's
a nice
place ♡

I'm
glad he
forgot
his
initial
motive



...for a
while
there it
looked
like it
wasn't
meant
to be!

Aww...

...they
both
have
that
feeling!

When
they
know
it's
the
one...

END

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE

EIGHTEEN

eighteenth

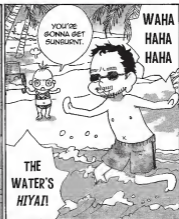


Director
and
Romper
headed to
Australia...



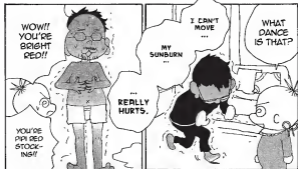
...despite
comments like,
"Why in August?"
and "Why visit
the Heart of the
World now?"

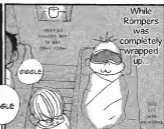
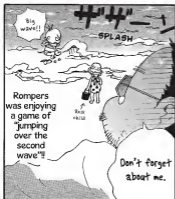


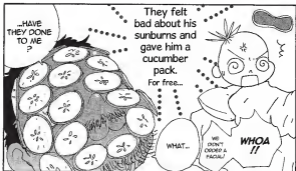


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END

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION
INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

EPISODE
NINETEEN
nineteenth







Who is
"MADAM
FART"
?!

Inspired by
the popularity of
Madam Pearl
and the
venerable
masterpiece
Madam Karuzawa,
Director-kun
came up
with...



おは
おは
おは



I CAN
TELL APART
SEVEN
DIFFERENT
FART
ODORS.

MY
NAME IS
MADAM
FART.

...a really
stupid story
(that I
hope you'll
forget).



AH
MADAM
FART
IS HERE.

OTHER
UPPER-
CRUST
LADIES.

HUH? WHO'S
EXCHANGING
THESE QUARDERS
ABOUT HERE?

WHAT
MIGHT THE
ODOR DU
JOUR BE?

*Budou-kai = Grape-fest



*Butou = Dance



* Also pronounced Budou = Martial arts





I THOUGHT
"MADAM FART"
WAS STUPID
ENOUGH...

WELL,
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
MOYOP?



WOW
|
h





END

EPISODE

TWENTY

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION | DIRECTION

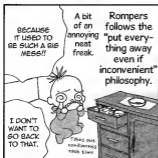
twentieth



Somewhere in Tokyo... A hellmouth was growing on the first floor of the Anno household.







...AND FINALLY GETTING TO LIVE IN A "TIDY ROOM"...

..I MUST SAY I DEEPLY REGRET BEING BURDENED WITH SUCH A SITUATION, SIR!

AFTER SPENDING YEARS TO OVERCOME MY HABIT...

The thing is, Rompers tends to stop caring once the mess happens.

I'll just accept that this is how this room is!

I WON'T COME OUT UNTIL YOU START CLEANING!!

And Rompers took refuge in it!

And yet Smarty, un-touched, was still there!

TROT TROT

トコトコ...



OKAY.

I'LL... CLEAN UP.

You want to pass?



DOES PUSHING HIM THAT FAR MEAN THAT I DON'T PASS AS AN "OTA WIFE" ?!

Would flying up sound Director's "Pasion" "Hater"?



Is... "the mess" a part of the otaku identity?



PLEASE.

IT'S OKAY!! DON'T CLEAN UP.



...on a major clean-up of his room.

So Director-kun spent a whole month...

TOKYO

TOKYO



NO.

I'M GOING TO!!



← Contrarian



END

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION

FINAL EPISODE

THE LAST

Rompers' friend found him, but the friend's own cat got so nervous that Rompers agreed to take him in. However...

I hope Director doesn't need?

Okay, until we find a way around?

Sorry

...a new family member. Mighty Jack Anno is his name !!

One month old

They have ...



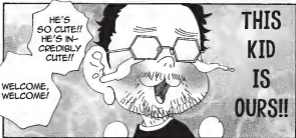
Asking the head of household just to be sure...

I TOOK HIM IN...

OHAYO!!

LMAO.

JUST FOR NOW!



HE'S SO CUTE!! HE'S INCREDIBLY CUTE!!

WELCOME, WELCOME!

THIS KID IS OURS!!



I WOULD NEVER MAKE A GOOD PET OWNER!!

Forgive me, sweetest loving.

EVEN THOUGH I HAD MY REASONS!!

So she only planned on taking him in "just for a blink."



The newly adopted dog *oyoi* wouldn't let go of them ever again.

Her parents loved them to pieces.



(Broke up with the boyfriend who cleared the task.)

She hadn't been able to take them out for walks from working all-nighters.

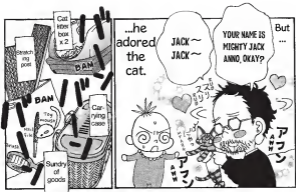


I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP PETS!!

Rompers had a painful past of sending her pets Robin and Yoyo-tan to her parents' home because she couldn't take care of them.

Wah! I'm so sorry!

You people.







...dis-
pense
an elite
otaku
educa-
tion
!!



And
with
all
their
might,
they
would
...

And thus,
Rompers
became a
full-fledged
ota wife...



**SOUNDS
LIKE A
LOTTA
FUN!!!**

SOOO !!

YEAHH



IF...

IF THAT
WERE TO
HAPPEN...



IF IT
WERE TO
HAPPEN?

THE END

DIRECTOR BRAIN

Filled with all sorts of otaku knowledge. Can pull out famous quotes from anime and manga in any situation.

DIRECTOR MOUTH

Turns into a cat mouth when happy.

DIRECTOR SPINE

Slouched. Perfect for making the first-generation Ultraman fighting pose.

DIRECTOR STOMACH

Has a lot of dislikes. Won't take in animal protein except dairy and eggs. Hates bell peppers and onions too. Mushrooms are "bacteria" and won't accept them.

DIRECTOR HAND

Good at drawing mecha and explosions, but terrible at drawing humans and animals.

DIRECTOR HAIR

Naturally curly hair is cute.

DIRECTOR EYE

Can break down anything in the universe into 24 frames per second. But has poor vision, perhaps due to watching too much TV since childhood?

DIRECTOR BUDDAH EARS

DIRECTOR BEARD
No special abilities like radar.

DIRECTOR HEART

Seems sensitive at times, but pretty tough.

DIRECTOR BELLY

Something he's worrying about lately. Says it resembles the "original design Getter Robo."

DIAGRAM

**THIS IS DIRECTOR-KUN****DIRECTOR LEG**

His slow walk is the model of *Kousoku's* Giant Warriors.

DIRECTOR FEET

Wears sandals even in winter.

Doesn't need to bathe for weeks.

DIRECTOR SKIN

Illustration by [Signature]
© [Year] [Publisher]
[Small text]

BEFORE AFTER MARRIAGE

after MARRIAGE



Regularly gets cut at a barber in Daikanyama.

Neatly trimmed beard.

WEIGHT LOSS OF 13 KGS

Wardrobe increased tenfold!!
(Since he only had 1 set of clothes)

He has long limbs,
so he can wear Italian brands
without getting them tailored.

Now has three pairs of shoes.



Overgrown hair uncut,
since his last visit to the
barber God knows when.
He didn't wash his hair,
so it stayed in this shape.

Wore the same sweats.
Didn't shower, so wore it to sleep.
The only time he took it off
was to throw it away.

Wore sandals
all four seasons.

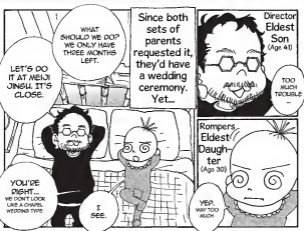
before MARRIAGE

INSUFFICIENT DIRECTION SECTION

EPISODE

EXTRA

Extra
extra







Everyone else had come as a couple!

And everyone is kinda dressed up!

ON A WEEKDAY?!



y-
Yes.

ARE YOU HERE TO MAKE A RESERVATION?

She has a bad feeling

...the wedding ritual, to be experienced together?!

Is the "reservation" a part of...



I'M FINE JUST WITH A CELL PHONE

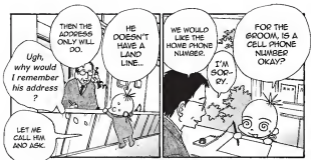
At the time, Director didn't have a land line.

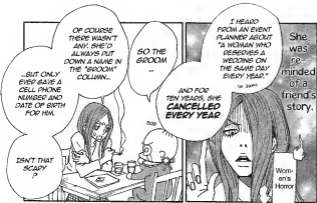
No fridge ritual



UM, OKAY.

PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH OF YOUR NAMES, ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.





OF COURSE THERE WASN'T ANY. SHE'D ALWAYS PUT DOWN A NAME IN THE "GROOM" COLUMN...

SO THE GROOM ...

...BUT ONLY EVER GAVE A CELL PHONE NUMBER AND DATE OF BIRTH FOR HIM.

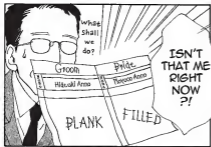
ISN'T THAT SCARY P

I HEARD FROM AN EVENT PLANNER ABOUT "A WOMAN WHO DESERVES A WEDDING ON THE SAME DAY EVERY YEAR."

AND FOR TEN YEARS, SHE CANCELLED EVERY YEAR

She was re-minded of a friend's story.

Women's Horror



What shall we do?

ISN'T THAT ME RIGHT NOW ?!

PLANK FILLED



Cell phone number and date of birth... Wait.



...the more she called, the sadder it got!!

Rompers called one more time, but...

SEEZ, WHERE DO HE GO?

HELLO P



END

Hideaki Anno Filmography

Born on May 22, 1960 in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Genji, blood type A.

Influenced by different manga, anime, tokusatsu, war chronicles, etc., at an early age, he begins self-producing live-action tokusatsu and animation in high school.

After failing to get into university, he enrolls in an art college with no academic career and heads to Osaka. An animation short he self-produced with friends wins the attention of anime magazines despite being an amateur project. The staff of *The Super Dimension Fortress Macross: TV Version* (1982) who saw the short invites him to join the team, and he debuts as a professional key animator for the show. He continues to produce tokusatsu movies and anime with his amateur group.

Expelled from college for non-payment of tuition fees, he moves to Tokyo and gets hired by Hayao Miyazaki as a key animator for *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (1984). Later, he joins his friends from Osaka in establishing an anime production company and works as the music designer and animation director of *Royal Space Force: The Wings of Honnōji* (1987).

With the OVA series *Gundam* (1988), he directs his first commercial work. Without a break, he directs the TV anime series *Mobile Suit Gundam: The Secret of Blue Water* (1989). After the series, unable to get into a new project, he picks up occasional hobbies such as scuba diving and skiing.

After five years of silence, he directs the TV series *Neon Genesis Evangelion* (1995). He gives his all to the series, and after it ends, he breaks. But he lacks the strength to release the *Neon Genesis Evangelion Movie* (1997) to the world.

Compelled to grieve from his preceding work, he directs his first commercial live-action movie *Love & Pop* (1998) based on Ryo Murakami's novel. He follows up by directing the TV anime series *It's a Wonderful Life* (1999) based on a shōjo manga. He directs another live-action movie *Shiki-Aitsu* (2000), which is his first attempt at shooting a film in 15mm.

Later on, he works on short-term projects including the *Tokubei Matsuo* promotion video, the anime short *Autism Frontier* and the short video *Ryusei Kachou*.

On March 26, 2002, he marries manga artist Moyoco Anno.

He directs a live-action *Catfish* (2004) movie based on Go Nagai's manga, then goes on to direct the TV anime series *Autism Frontier* (2004).

Later, while helping others create commercials and appearing in movies, he establishes a new production planning company (2006). Since then, he has been working hard on the *Evangelion: New Theatrical Edition* quartet, which includes *Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone* (2007), *Evangelion: 2.0 You Can (Not) Advance* (2009), and *Evangelion: 3.0 You Can (Not) Redo* (2012).



Director Anno's Official Website:
<http://www.kharu.co.jp/hideakianno/>

<http://www.kharu.co.jp/hideakianno/personal-biography.html> (English)

Akuma-kun Sennen Oukoku

Page 130: A manga where a human boy named Akuma-kun summons the demon Mephistopheles to defeat monsters that plague humanity. Drawn by Shigeru Mizuki as a rental comic starting in 1963 (later published by Kodansha in 1965), different series exist from different publications.

Akuma-kun and The Millennial Kingdom, the most serious and creepiest, enjoys the highest popularity. Akuma-kun was made into a live-action drama in 1966 and into an anime series in 1989.

Doubutsu Takara-Jima

Page 130: *Animal Treasure Island* is an animated movie by Toei Animation released in 1971. A tour de force based on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* but with almost all the characters replaced by animals, the dynamic and comical action sequences are wonderful. Hayao Miyazaki contributed to the development of this series. Old-school fans call it "Do-Takara."

Soratobu Yuureisen

Page 130: *Flying Phantom Ship* is a sci-fi animation movie with a script by Shotaro Ishimori released in 1969 by Toei Animation. A state-of-the-art combat vessel designed like a ghost ship faces down merchants of death. The plot is rather complex, with the Phantom Ship thought to be the enemy at first and the wholesome-seeming corporation turning out to be the puppet of the merchants of death. Anime fans praise the movie for depicting an addictive drink called "Boa Juice" and for the battle scene against the enemy robot Golem.

Lupin III

Page 130: A manga series by Monkey Punch that started in 1967. The three original TV series total 228 episodes, and many other anime have been produced including six movies, annual TV specials since 1989, and OVA.

Otaku prize the first TV series made in 1971. The first half is hard-boiled, while the latter half has sterling comical action after Hayao Miyazaki joined the team. Both halves are highly regarded. Notably, another must-see among otaku is the second movie *Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro*, which marked Hayao Miyazaki's directorial debut for theatrical features.

—Yasuhiro Kammura and Ed Chavez

END OF ANNOTATIONS

(FLIP TO START)

Kamui

Page 130: Sanpei Shirato's gekiga masterpiece *Legend of Kamui* (*Kamui-den*), which started in 1966, portrays ninja society while also showing the samurai, peasants and lower-class people's ambitions and lives in the early Edo period. The side story *Kamui Gaiden*, launched in 1967, recounted in a more entertaining style the escapade of genius ninja Kamui (who left his clan in *Kamui-den*) and was made into a TV anime series in 1969 (see Episode 2).

Dororo

Page 130: A period manga by Osamu Tezuka serialized from 1967 in *Weekly Shonen Sunday*. In the late Momochi period, as payment for his father's ambitions, Hyakkimaru is born with 48 different parts of his body taken away by demons. He travels with Dororo, a petty thief whose parents have succumbed to war and famine, to defeat the demons and gain back his body parts. Hyakkimaru's body is built with prosthetics with hidden weapons made by the doctor who raised him, making him a cyborg in a sense. It's gruesome, creepy, yet cool, and there is a strong anti-war message. A black-and-white TV anime series was made in 1969, and a live-action movie in 2007. Vertical released an English edition which won the Eisner Award.

Sasuke

Page 130: Sanpei Shirato's ninja manga that started in 1961. Taking place during the turbulent shift of power from the Toyotomi clan to the Tokugawa clan, it is a coming-of-age story of a young ninja boy named Sasuke. The series introduced *kokushimi-no-jutsu* (cloaking), *kage-bunshin* (multiple shadows), *mijin-pakure* (smoke screen) and other ninjutsu as probable and intriguing moves. Sasuke was adapted into a TV anime series in 1968, another classic.

Captain Scarlet

Page 130: The British tokusatsu puppet series, made by the staff behind *Thunderbirds*, aired in Japan in 1968. Earth defense force Spectrum battles against space creatures called Mysteron. This series improved the proportions of the puppets to allow for more realistic performances than its predecessor *Thunderbirds*. The coolness factor of the different mechanics is still intact.

Arare-chan

Page 130: Arare-chan is the main character of Akira Toriyama's comedy manga *Dr. Slump* (published by Shueisha in *Weekly Shonen Jump* starting in 1980). Dr. Slump is a flawless comedy series about a girl android, named Arare Norimaki, and Senbei Norimaki, the genius inventor who created her, and their hijinks in Penguin Village. Author Akira Toriyama's brilliant design and sense of coloration and composition redefined standards for manga. In 1981, a TV anime series was released under the name *Dr. Slump - Arare-chan*, and it was widely accepted by audiences and had a long run of five years.

Again

Page 130: A comedy manga by Kazuo Umezu that ran in *Weekly Shonen Sunday* starting in 1970. A 65-year-old grumpy man happens to drink a rejuvenation drug and turns into a high school student, and slapstick action ensues. His preschooler grandson stands out quite a bit, and the similar family structure suggests that *Again* was *Makoto-chan*'s prototype.

Astro Baseball Team

Page 130: A 1972 Weekly Shonen Jump baseball manga series written by Shiro Tuzaki and illustrated by Norihiro Nakajima. A group of baseball superhumans each with a ball-shaped birthmark create a team to defeat the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants and eventually Major League Baseball. Special moves such as the "Giacobinids Swing," "Killer L-Shaped Pitch" and "SkyLab Pitch" go beyond the realm of sports and are more like a combat spectacle. Spanning 20 volumes, there are only three matches in the manga! It's a hot-blooded epic where one inning could take several chapters to unfold.

Director-kun wrote a brief commentary for the 1999 reprint.



Macaroni Hourensou

Page 130: This is a comedy manga that was serialized in Akita Shoten's Weekly Shonen Champion magazine starting in 1977. *Hourensou* means "spinach" but also plays on the character for "boarding house." Kindou-san, a 40-year-old high school student who has failed to graduate all the time, and Toshi-chan, a 25-year-old high school student who has also failed many times, befriend a normal high school student named Souji Okita who moves into their boarding home. With its steady torrent of robust humor, the series is considered by many to be the pinnacle of comedy manga. Author Tsubame Kamogawa spent all his energy on this work and took a long break after the series ended. It is a legendary work.

Urusei Yatsura

Page 130: Rumiko Takahashi's sci-fi comedy manga ran in Shogakukan's Weekly Shonen Sunday magazine starting in 1978. An alien demon girl named Lum barges into protagonist Ataru Moroboshi's home and changes his life for the better (or worse). This work established the current rom-com trend of "a cute (but odd) girl suddenly appearing before an ordinary guy, luckily falling in love with him, but causing heaps of trouble." Having a lot of unique and colorful characters is a Rumiko Takahashi trademark. The series became a TV anime in 1981, and movies and OVAs were produced afterward. The second movie, *Urusei Yatsura 2: Beautiful Dreamer*, which revolves around never-ending preparations for a school festival, became its director Mamoru Oshii's breakthrough work.

Makoto-chan

Page 130: A comedy manga by Kazuo Umezu that also ran in Weekly Shonen Sunday, from 1976. Preschooler Makoto-chan embroils his classmates and family in trouble and endless moments of toilet humor and surreal jokes. Kazuo Umezu was best known as a horror manga artist up until then, but this tour de force secured his place as a gag manga artist.

The Otaku Identity

Page 123: The figure drawn in this frame is titled *Arina Shinyokohama in Akihabara* and came included in the Japanese Pavilion catalog at the 9th Venice Biennale of Architecture held in September 2004. It depicts a giant girl carrying a backpack who appears in Akihabara... The fact that this was an official piece of merchandise at an international event where top architects from around the world display their designs is proof that otaku culture is infiltrating the world.

Bic Camera

Page 124: One of the largest electronics retail chains in Japan, **Bic Camera** is an icon that cannot be avoided whenever one is in a major shopping area in Japan's metropolises. If you are interested in DVDs, toys, cameras or video games, **Bic Camera** is a must.

FINAL EPISODE

Mighty Jack

Page 125: The name was decided when Rompers first came up with "Jack," and Director-kun added "Mighty" in front upon seeing the M-shaped pattern on the kitten's forehead.

Mighty Jack is a 1968 tokusatsu sci-fi drama. Targeted to adults, produced by a keenly enthusiastic Tsuburaya Productions, and aired in prime time, it was the first hour-long tokusatsu drama in Japan and boasted a production cost of over 10,000,000 yen. *Mighty Jack* agents ride the advanced submarine *MJ* and fight against evil organization Q. The main mecha, *MJ*, designed by Toru Narita, is quite possibly Director-kun's favorite mecha.

Since Director-kun named the kitten after his beloved *MJ*, it's easy to imagine him doting on Jack.

Robin and Yoyo-tan

Page 126: It may be a coincidence, but Robin and Yoyo-tan look almost identical to the pups who star in Rompers' full-color comic *Ochibi-san* for the *Asahi* Newspaper.

Buy All Volumes of a Manga

Page 128: There are many manga series Rompers bought all volumes of with her disposable income, but this panel features *The Osamu Tezuka Complete Manga Collection* published by Kodansha. Including all the extra materials, there are a total of 400 volumes! The retail price comes out to above 240,000 yen. (32,400).

[Whiteboard]

Page 130: It looks like they are teaching the different phrases shouted by *Ultraman*, *Ultra Seven* and *Kamen Rider*.

Amuro is the main character and a Federation pilot from *Mobile Suit Gundam*. His line, "Amuro, launching!" was refreshing compared to the typical "XX Robot, go!" lines people were used to hearing.

Underneath is the exchange between Susumu Kodai and Captain Okita from episode 24 of *Space Battleship Yamato*. The *Yamato* is crippled by enemy forces on Planet Gamilus. When girl-friend Yuki Mori asks, "What's going to happen to Yamato?" acting captain Kodai weakly replies, "Dunno. No, this may be the end..." The bedridden Captain Okita dispenses life-saving tactical advice to Kodai: "Dive into the ocean."

Hiromi Go

Page 117: Debuted as an idol singer in 1972 with the song "Otokonoko Onnanoko" ("Hey, Go Go"). Since then, banking on his sweetly handsome looks, he's been appearing for over 30 years in TV dramas, variety shows, movies and plays. "Kinda" is the line repeated by Hiromi Go's character, Takuro, from the family drama *Muu* that aired on the *Wednesday Theater* time-slot for the TBS network in 1977.

Maetel

Page 118: The mysterious heroine from Leiji Matsumoto's manga *Galaxy Express 999*. Together with Tetsuro, a boy whose mother was killed by Count Mocha, she travels on the space train 999 towards a planet reputed to give machine bodies for free. The TV series ran for 2½ years and there are three animated movies as well. Rompers is singing the TV anime ending song, "Blue Earth," performed by Isao Sasaki and the Suginami Junior Chorus.

Happy Mania

Page 118: An 11-volume *Josei* manga series by Rompers originally published by Shodensha starting in 1996. Back in 2003 Rompers made her English-language debut with this internationally lauded romantic comedy.

Nangokushuka

Page 118: A Cantonese-food restaurant chain with its flagship store in Harajuku. The four characters that comprise the name mean: south, lands, sake, and house.

EPISODE 20

[Doraemon]

Page 121: Though not mentioned by name, this page shows the lead characters of one of the most beloved children's manga of all time: *Doraemon*. In this comic by Fujio F. Fujiko, for Shogakukan, a boy named Nobita is visited by a time-traveling earless blue robot cat named Doraemon. The two tackle all sorts of everyday problems and embark on adventures using the futuristic technology Doraemon introduces to the hapless Nobita.



I Deeply Regret

Page 122: The salute is a pose from *Sgt. Frog*, sir. *Sgt. Frog* is a manga by Mine Yoshizaki that ran in Kodokawa Shoten's *Monthly Shonen Ace* magazine starting in 1999 that was also made into a TV anime, sir. Rompers loves *Sgt. Frog*, and Director-kun read the manga too and felt his heart being cleansed, sir.

Kata Tjuta

Page 108: This geological site near the Ayers Rock is also known by its English name Mt. Olga. Kata Tjuta is legendary amongst fans worldwide as being one of the locations that inspired Hayao Miyazaki's *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*. The place is known to have a "valley of the wind" due to its unique formations of the soft sedimentary rock called conglomerate.

Yamaguchi Dialect

Page 109: Yamaguchi Prefecture is located at the farthest west point of Japan's main island of Honshu. As well-documented in many manga and anime, people in western Japan, which includes Osaka and Hiroshima, often speak dialects. Yamaguchi is no exception.

Pipi Redstocking

Page 110: Play on the classic children's story *Pippi Longstocking* (by Astrid Lindgren) that was a hit TV series in America. Tomboy Pippi wears long striped stockings that go up to her thighs.

EPISODE 19

Madam Pearl

Page 115: Director-kun's inspiration owed to the 2002 drama produced by Tokai Television and broadcast by Fuji TV. The original novel by literary giant Kan Kikuchi was serialized in a newspaper in 1920 and saw a silent-film adaptation the very same year.

At the mercy of the changing times and of society, Ruriko, the daughter of a former nobleman, turns into a vamp to take revenge on men's ego. In the TV series, the time period was changed from the Taisho period to postwar Showa.

Madam Karuizawa

Page 115: A 1982 film from Nikkatsu's "Roman Porno" line (a selection of pink films that ran from 1971 to 1988). Set in the Japanese resort town of Karuizawa during the summer, it depicts a young man's ambitions and failure to integrate into high society. Based on the mystery novel by Akira Sagashima. This is the first pink film Director-kun ever saw. He watched it because

the actors who played the hero (Takayuki Godai) and heroine (Yumi Nemoto) of the 1981 tokusatsu series *Suu Vulkan* appeared in it.

Dragonball Budoukai

Page 116: *Dragonball* is an action manga by Akira Toriyama that ran for 11 years in *Shonen Jump* starting in 1984. Total volumes sold said to be 130 million copies. In the story, the *Tenkaichi Budoukai* (*The Strongest Under the Heavens Martial Arts Tournament*) is held once a year to decide the world champion of martial arts. Male or female, young or old can participate, and even aliens take part.



EPISODE 17

“De~viiiiil!”

Page 103: Transformation pose from the TV series *Devilman* (1972 from Toei Animation). Protagonist Akira Fudo yells this (and rips his clothes) as he gets bigger and transforms into Devilman. It is a heroic expression that's not in the original Go Nagai manga and is an action meant to portray Akira's exploding emotions as well.

N Scale

Page 103: One of the standard sizes of train models, it refers to a rail width of 9mm. It's called N Scale because it's 9 (nine) mm, 1/150th of an actual rail (foreign trains and bullet trains have wider tracks so they're 1/160th size). Laying out the tracks, adding mountains, rivers and fields, and recreating towns using miniatures to create a georama: an ultimate form of the models hobby.

The compact size of the N Scale is a perfect match for Japanese dwellings, but if you want to make a decent georama you would need at least half a tatami mat if not several mats' worth of space. To build a home with the room for that would indeed appeal to Director-kun.

Bullet Train 500 Series

Page 103: Even though they are all called bullet trains, there are different types of car designs, and Director-kun's favorite is the pointy nosed version used for Nozomi service with a silver, streamlined body. It has that futuristic look that can't be beat.

HO Scale

Page 103: Sized above the 9mm-rail-width N Scale is the 16.5mm-rail-width HO Scale. It is 1/80th of an actual rail. Because it is so big, the specifics of the trains are extremely detailed and the cost of one car can run upwards of a few hundred thousand yen (the equivalent of a few thousand dollars).

EPISODE 18

Visit the Heart of the World

Page 107: Scattering the ashes of your loved one in Australia... A scene from the popular drama (and novel) *Sekai no Chuushin de Ai wo Sakebu* (literally “Shouting Out Love at the Heart of the World,” which was published in English as *Socrates in Love*). There are rumors that the title was inspired by Director-kun's *Neon Genesis Evangelion*'s final episode title *Sekai no Chuushin de Ai wo Sakenda Kenzou* (*The Beast that Shouted Ai at the Heart of the World*).

For the record, the Eva title is taken from Harlan Ellison's sci-fi short story “The Beast that Shouted Love at the Heart of the World.” (In Japanese, *ai* means “love.”)

At Ayers Rock

Page 107: Director-kun's pose here is the appearance pose of *Ultraman 80*. In this panel, though, it's the mirror opposite. At the Valley of the Wind, he is taking the fighting pose of Original Rider No. 1 (Hiroshi Fujioka version).

Folly of Youth

Page 87: One of many great lines uttered by the enemy Zeon major, Char the Red Comet, in *Mobile Suit Gundam*. After the Gundam suddenly appears and destroys two of his unit's mobile suits, Char matters to himself, "It's not easy to admit to the folly of one's youth."

Stamp

Page 88: With "science technology and animation" as the theme, *Japan Post* started issuing two of these types of stamps every month starting in December 2003. (Of the five Science Ninja troopers, it's sad that "Ryu, the Owl" is the only one not shown.) The first anime featured in the lineup was of course *Astro Boy*, and *Gatchaman* was released in March 2004. In February 2007, Director-kun's *Neon Genesis Evangelion* became a stamp too!

EPISODE 15

Yon-sama

Page 89: Korean actor Bae Yongjun, nicknamed "Prince of Smiles." His popularity in Japan exploded when NHK aired the Korean romantic drama *Winter Sonata*.

Maglev Train

Page 91: Unlike standard motors that rotate pistons, maglev or magnetic levitation uses repulsion to generate movement. Because there are no spinning parts, a vehicle can move at a high speed with relatively low noise. To create the next generation of bullet trains that can travel from Tokyo to Osaka in an hour, research started back in the 1960's, and speeds of over 550km have been recorded on the manned test tracks in Yamanashi Prefecture. Due to construction costs and impediments to land acquisition, it will take a while yet for the technology to be put to use in Japan, but in December 2002, Shanghai, China opened the world's first commercial tracks.



EPISODE 16

555 Belt

Page 97: The protagonist of *Kamen Rider 555* transforms by clipping the cell phone shaped "TT's Gear" onto his belt buckle. Kamen Rider has traditionally used a transformation belt as an important item, but this series really stressed the point with storylines involving a fight for the belt. The "Kamen Rider Transformation Belt" has been the king of "pretend toys" since the first series back in 1971 and is craved by little fans. Having a familiar technology like a cell phone be the transformation item hit a chord with not-so-little fans such as Director-kun. Toy maker Bandai understood the demand and finally released the "Transformation Belt for Adults."

Knowing Director-kun's passion, Bandai gifted him multiple units through different channels.

EPISODE 14

Xabungle

Page 86: *Combat Mecha Xabungle* (*Seirou Mecha Xabungle*) is a 1982 robot anime series directed by Yoshiyuki Tomino. Set in a dusty world reminiscent of Westerns, the ever-cheerful characters ride in Walkers (robots that look like construction machines) and wreck havoc. The opening song shouted out by Akira Kushida makes you feel energetic.

Ginga Shippuu Sasuraiger / Ginga Senpuu Braiger

Page 87: Sci-fi action anime series by the now-defunct Kokusai Eiga-sha. The J9 Series is comprised of three shows: the 1981 Western-inspired *Galaxy Cyclone Braiger* (*Ginga Senpuu Braiger*), the Shinsengumi-inspired 1982 show *Galactic Gale Baxinger* (*Ginga Reppuu Baxinger*) and the gangster-flick-inspired *Galactic Whirlwind Sasuraiger* (*Ginga Shippuu Sasuraiger*) from 1983. The songs for all three shows are performed by Masayuki Yamamoto, and they're awesome.

Rompers' favorite anime songs have a high ratio of Masayuki Yamamoto.

Burume

Page 87: One of the characters from *Xabungle*. A nonchalant second-in-command of the bandit group "Sand Rats" that the protagonist joins. He's in love with the female leader, Rag, but his cynical personality prevents him from being honest about his feelings. He is voiced by Toshiro Furukawa.

Godmars

Page 87: *Rokushin Gattai God Mars* (*Six God Combination God Mars*) is a 1981 TV anime series. Despite being a robot anime, many female fans were drawn to the good-looking characters, and it grew popular enough to spawn a movie and new OVA series. While based off of Mitsuteru Yokoyama's sci-fi manga *Mars*, the manga didn't have the robots.

Marg

Page 87: A long-lost twin brother of *God Mars* protagonist Mars. He is from Planet Gishin and is forced to fight against his own brother by an evil emperor. Younger brother Mars has black hair, but Marg has green hair. Female fans heavily favored Marg. The OVA series *God Mars: The Untold Legend at 17*, produced after the TV series concluded, focused on Marg's story. He is voiced by Yuji Mitsuya.

Garma

Page 87: An adversary in the anime *Mobile Suit Gundam*, Garma is a Zoon colonel and fourth child of the principality's sovereign. Thanks to best friend Char's treachery, he dies in battle in the series' fifth episode. As the sheltered scion of a wealthy family he cooed naiveté, and Char opines that Garma died "because he was a spoiled kid..." Had a habit of twirling his purple bangs that fell on his forehead. Originally voiced by Katsuji Mori.



MAT

Page 76: The Earth defense team that is featured in *The Return of Ultraman*, an acronym for "Monster Attack Team." Their secret headquarters is on the floor of Tokyo Bay.

Trooper Kishida

Page 76: One of the six members that form MAT. He comes from an elite military family, and his uncle is a high-ranking official in MAT. He frequently clashes with the impulsive protagonist Trooper Go (Ultraman) but has a strong sense of justice. The handsome actor, Ken Nishida, has been cast in many a historical drama and detective show. He also appeared in the tokusatsu show *Hurricanger* as Mugensai Hinata, the master of the Hurricangers.

The Return of Ultraman

Page 76: The original *Return of Ultraman* (*Kaettekita Ultraman*) is a 1971 series produced by Tsuburaya Productions. Even though the title says "Return," there is no story continuity with the 1966 *Ultraman* and is an independent new work. The two red lines on the body are its distinct markers. Compared to the original that had fantasy elements, the series' portrayal of the defense team MAT and such paid heed to realism.

Laliho Laliho Lalilulielon

Page 76: Director-kun is singing the opening theme song of the Hanna-Barbera animation series *The Super Three* (known in the U.S. as *The Impossibles*). Whenever a crime occurs, a popular rock band yells out "Lali-ho!" and transforms into secret agents with superpowers. The goofy opening song is perfect for singing when you're happy.

EPISODE 13

Chashumen

Page 79: This call-out is from the golf manga *Ashita Tenki ni Naare* (*Great Super Shot Boy*) by Tetsuya Chiha. Protagonist Taiyo Mukai uses the rhythm of the words to swing his golf club. He swings back on *cha*, holds on *shu* and swings down on *men!* The word itself means Char siu noodles.



Bathtub at His Apartment Was Broken

Page 80: At the time, Director-kun was living in a steel-and-concrete yet rundown 40-year-old apartment (with a 30-second walk to work). The drain pipes were rusted, and whenever Director-kun used his shower on the third floor, the second floor unit would get flooded. The plumber declared that it was impossible to fix.

Ultra Eye

Page 72: The character who uses the transformation glasses “Ultra Eye” is actually not Ultraman, but Ultra Seven. However, because Director-kun wears strong-lensed glasses, he used his as the transformation device for his self-produced movie.

Bewitched

Page 73: *Bewitched* is an American comedy series that aired for eight years starting in 1964. The story of witch Samantha who marries a normal human male and the ensuing bignks was popular in Japan and catalyzed the magical girl genre starting with anime series *Sally the Witch* (*Mahoutsukai Sally*). In 2004, TBS produced a Japanese live-action version featuring Ryoko Yonekura and Taizo Harada, which gained some fame too.

Ryoko Yonekura

Page 73: Born in 1975, she is a professional model and actress. In 2004 she played the lead role in the Japanese remake of *Bewitched*. More recently she dubbed the Japanese voice for Black Widow in the *Avengers* movie.

Shinji Tanimura

Page 74: A singer-songwriter, he made his breakthrough in the 70's with the Japanese folk-rock band ALICE. Many of his songs have been used for television shows and one became the theme song for the *National High School Baseball Invitational Tournament* (better known as *Koshien*).

Kouhaku

Page 74: Every year since 1953 the NHK has broadcast the *Kouhaku Uta Gassen* (*Red vs White Sing-Off*) to close the year. The best songs of the year are performed by two competing teams, the White Team featuring male acts and the all-female Red Team. *Kouhaku* takes place over the last hours of New Year's Eve and frequently serves as a mainstreaming venue for new acts. The winning team is determined by viewer votes cast by text message and the live studio audience.

Jiro Tamiya

Page 74: A handsome actor born in 1935. He played the power-hungry medical department assistant professor in the live-action drama of *The White Tower*. In 1978, he fell into depression and committed suicide with a shotgun. It was right before the final episode of *The White Tower* aired.

Shin Saburi

Page 74: A movie actor born in 1909 with a long career straddling the war. He was a handsome star in his youth and was considered one of the “Shochiku Sanba Garasu” (“Shochiku Studio’s Three Crows” or their trio of top stars).

Later in life, he played smaller but distinct roles in movies and TV dramas. He is well regarded as a movie director as well. Director-kun recognized Shin Saburi’s acting talent all over again upon watching the NHK drama *Kakaku Haka!*, based on Saburo Shiroyama’s novel, and the Shochiku movie *Jiken*. Saburi co-starred in *The White Tower* with the aforementioned Jiro Tamiya.

SEED

Page 69: *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED* is a TV anime series that aired in 2002. Set outside of the original Gundam timeline, it's a new Gundam series targeted to a new generation of anime fans. There are many good-looking characters, making it ideal for cosplaying.

Di Gi Charat

Page 69: Originally a promotional mascot character for the anime retail chain Gamers. The *Di Gi Charat* concept was eventually made into an anime by renowned studio Madhouse. The main character is known as Dejiko, and she wears a big cat-eared hat and huge belts on the sides of her head and neck. Though cunning and bratty, she can be unwary at times.

Earl of Estrogen

Page 69: A fictional anime character that appears in the movie *Otakus in Love*. Character design by director Matsuo himself.

Anno-san and Anno-san

Page 69: Those who know Director-kun refer to the two of them as "Double Anno" (Hideaki Anno and Moyoco Anno). This was coined by Director-kun. Kamen Rider No. 1 and Kamen Rider No. 2 are referred to as "Double Rider," so of course it is based on that.

Gibababaaan!

Page 70: The call-out in the opening song of the fictional anime series *Fukashigi Jikkentai Gibarenjao* featured in the movie *Otakus in Love*. An actual opening sequence for *Gibarenjao* was produced along with a theme, and Director-kun directed it.

EPISODE 12

When I Was Ultraman

Page 71 : An interview published in the February 2004 inaugural issue of a now-defunct magazine from Kadokawa Shoten called *Tokusatsu Ace*. Director-kun talks passionately about his love of *Ultraman*.

Amateur Movie

Page 72: In the early 1980's, many people in Director-kun's generation who grew up bathed in anime and tokusatsu shows had excess time and energy, so scores of them produced amateur anime and tokusatsu movies. Everyone within these circles pitched in for the production costs, and the staff consisted of unpaid volunteers. There were many parodies of their favorite heroes. Of course, many planned projects were never completed, and even when completed, weren't of a presentable quality. Director-kun and his friends from the circle *Daision Film* spent over six months on their mega-feature *Kaettekita Ultraman MAT Arrow #1* and completed it in 1983. Screenings were hosted nationwide and were well-received. In 2001, Tsuburaya Productions generously gave its approval and a DVD was released for a limited time (currently out of print).

Otona Keikaku

Page 68: As noted previously, this is a theater company established in 1988 by Suzuki Matsuo. Despite being a small company, they have turned out unique writers and actors such as Kankuro Kudo, Sadao Ahe, Tom Miyazaki, Seminosuke Marusugi and Kami Hiraiwa.

Sarutoki Minagawa

Page 68: Theater actor born in 1971. A member of the theater company Otona Keikaku. With his marked features and acting style, he has appeared in many movies and TV series.

Yoko Nagayama

Page 68: Actress, musician and former J-Pop idol, Yoko Nagayama is currently best known in Japan as a singer of *enka* (a type of ballad music with sentimental lyrics). Female enka singers often perform in Japanese kimono, and Rompers is emulating her enka-era hairstyle here. Rompers also sported a similar hairstyle when she went to New York Comic Con in 2012.

Rei Ayanami

Page 69: One of the heroines of Director-kun's anime *Neon Genesis Evangelion*. Her pigment-poor red eyes, her first appearance featuring her covered in bandages, and her trouble communicating with others grabbed fans' hearts in the 1990's.

Mahoromatic

Page 69: The manga *Mahoromatic*, written by Banjuro Nakayama, illustrated by Bow Ditama, was made into a TV anime series by Director-kun's former company Gainax. It's a story about a cute maid named Mahoro Ando who comes to work for a junior high school boy named Saguru who lives by himself—yet she's actually a combat android with only one year to live... She's an older-sister type, and her archetypal maid uniform makes her a standard for cosplay.

Minawa-chan

Page 69: Mahoro's younger sister-like character who appears in the latter half of the *Mahoromatic* series. She's klutzy and slow, which snags male fans' hearts. She too wears a maid uniform in her daily life.

Everyone from Prince of Tennis

Page 69: *The Prince of Tennis* is a manga by Takeshi Konomi that started in *Weekly Shonen Jump* magazine in 1999. Because the Japanese title is *Tennis no Ouji*, i.e. Prince, it's shortened to "Teni-Puri." Its popularity exploded with the 2001 TV anime series by Trans Arts and TV Tokyo. There are hardcore fans for each of the good-looking characters, and they even released individual CDs of the characters singing.

NARUTO

Page 69: A ninja manga running in *Weekly Shonen Jump* by Masashi Kishimoto so popular that the TV series has been airing regularly since 2002. Several movies have been produced as well. Not only the main characters but the marginal ones have designs that cosplay well, and many "processions" are sighted at Comic Market and other manga/anime events. The series has become a staple of cosplay globally.

iPod Filled with Anime and Tokusatsu Songs

Page 67: Because all the anime songs they listen to while driving wouldn't fit in the CD changer anymore, Director-kun bought an iPod and FM transmitter for his car. Their selection of songs in the car as of 2004 already exceeded 6,000...

Hiding in the Shadows

Page 67: What they're singing joyfully is the opening song of the 1968 horror anime series *Humanoid Monster Bem* (*Kaikai Ningyō Bem*) from Fuji Television and studio Daiichi Douga. The story is about humanoid monsters who hope to become humans one day. To accomplish their wish they protect humans by fighting other monsters. It has been re-aired several times (even receiving a remake in 2006), so despite being an older title, many people recognize the phrase, "I want to become human!"

Suzuki Matsuo

Page 67: Actor and stage director, born in 1962. Established a troupe called *Otowa Keikaku*, where he is a writer, director and actor. As an actor, he has been featured in many movies, drama series and variety shows. He has also written books such as *Otowa Shikkaku* and *Shunkyou ga Iku*. He was the voice of Kamon Nanhada in the anime *FLCL*, too. In addition, he was in Director-kun's live-action movies *The Legend of Section Manager Shooting Star* (*Ryusei Kōshō*) and *Cutie Honey*.

Cosplayer

Page 67: The term "cosplay" is short for costume play. It originates from costumed parties often seen at U.S. fan events. The term eventually made its way to Japanese sci-fi events and established itself as a fan activity at events like Comiket. Initially, cosplay was for signaling your fanhood for a particular series, but lately many fans enjoy cosplaying itself and the high-quality costumes are made to perfection.

A "cosplayer" in Japan is not "someone who is cosplaying," but more like "someone who goes to different events to cosplay who thinks it's a normal thing to do."

Wakana Sakai

Page 67: An actress and magazine model, Wakana Sakai has performed in a number of anime- and manga-related television dramas and films. A few titles that might be recognized by Westerners are *Ikebukuro West Gate Park* (TV series), *Kindaichi Case Files* (2001, TV series) and *Tramps Like Us* (TV series).

Ryuhei Matsuda

Page 67: Matsuda is best known outside of Japan for his role in Nagisa Oshima's 1999 live-action film *Taboo*. He has appeared in a number of internationally released manga-based movies including *Nana* (originally by Ai Yazawa), *Blue Spring* (originally by Taiyo Matsumoto) and Director-kun's *Cutie Honey*.

Like Binge-Read Eroica

Page 62: *From Eroica with Love*, briefly published in English by CMX, is a spy action manga by Yasuko Aoiike that was serialized in *Princess* magazine starting in 1977. The story features Dorian Red Gloria, the Earl of Gloria, aka art thief “Eroica,” and West German NATO intelligence officer Major Klaus Heinz von den Eberbach and their odd relationship. The mix of seriousness and humor has made the series popular in Japan. Many of the character designs are also inspired by famous musicians of the 70’s (Eroica looks like a young Robert Plant, while his assistant James looks like Jimmy Page).

Despite some breaks, the series is still running as of 2013 and currently has 39 volumes released. It’s definitely worth binge-reading.

EPISODE 11

Moomin

Page 66: A classic children’s story by Tove Jansson that has been adapted into several TV series. The “first Moomin” they’re discussing debuted in 1969 and aired for a year. The original author complained that the TV series didn’t represent her work and the production company changed in the middle of the series, but that first half is highly praised by fans. Even then, the fact that Director-kun has to say, “Tokyo Movie at first, then by Mushi Production” is typical otaku rambling. That aside, it’s the absolute truth that *Moomin* is a heartwarming story.

Tokyo Movie

Page 66: Better known as TMS Entertainment (originally *Tokyo Movie Shūsha* but now pronounced Toms Entertainment), Tokyo Movie is an anime production company established by the Japanese television network Tokyo Broadcasting (TBS) in 1964. They have produced numerous anime series based on existing works, such as *Star of the Giants*, *Lupin III* and *Detective Conan*. TMS is best known in the West for their work on *The Rose of Versailles*, *Cardfight!! Vanguard*, *D.Gray-Man* and *Kamisama Kiss*.

Mushi Production

Page 66: What sets this anime production company apart is that it was established by the God of Manga, Osamu Tezuka. In 1963, they produced something that no one thought possible—a weekly 30-minute anime series called *Astro Boy*—which would come to be the starting point of modern Japanese animation. Mushi Production fell into bankruptcy in 1973, but they turned out directors such as Yoshiyuki Tomino (*Mobile Suit Gundam*), Osamu Dezaki (*Black Jack* OVAs) and Gisaburo Sugii (*Glass Mask*), and their offshoot production companies are currently the pillars of anime.

Banner the Squirrel

Page 67: *Seton Animal Tales: Banner the Squirrel* (*Shiton Doubutsu-ki Rizu no Bansa*) is a 1979 TV anime series based on the 1922 short story “Bannertail” by Ernest Thompson Seton. Merely having said “squirrel” prompts Rompers to utter the anime’s title. Everyday conversation directly feeding into anime is, well...

made up of five members, it heavily influenced the later *Super Sentai* series.

The opening song starts with a children's choir singing "Shuha shuba shuba shuba" and has a retro melody. It was initially the opening song, but in the middle of the series it got switched out with the heroic ending song performed by Masato Shimon.

Another Step Towards Being an Ota Wife!!

Page 52: This line is in reference to the Shogakukan manga *Even a Monkey Can Draw Manga* (aka *SoruMan*) that ran in *Big Comic Spirits* starting in 1989. The comedy manga by legends Kentaro Takekuma and Koji Aihara feature themselves attempting to create "a manga that would become a hit." Taking an approach of a manga tutorial using Ken Yukiji's 1977 *gekiga* *Yabou no Oukoku* (*Kingdom of Ambition*) as a model, the work analyzes and evaluates manga culture and is known for its hard-hitting gags. When the comic versions of Aihara and Takekuma realize the many hard truths of manga, they look up to the sky and declare, "Another step towards our ambition!!"

EPISODE 09

Crayon Shin-chan Angle

Page 56: When the protagonist Shinnosuke Nohara of the long-running gag anime and manga *Crayon Shin-chan* gets embarrassed and blushes, he is always drawn at this angle.

Romeo

Page 57: The 1995 TV anime series *Romeo's Blue Skies* was released under the *World Masterpiece Theater* label. It's a coming-of-age story of Romeo, who sells himself for his family and works as a chimney sweep. There are many female fans who cried over his friendship with his best friend Alfredo.

Super Girl Asuka

Page 58: *Chou-Shoujo Asuka* is a sci-fi action shoujo manga by Shinji Wada (best known in the West for his series *Sukeban Deka*) about a competent but homely maid who transforms into a cute girl with supernatural powers. Shoujo manga written by male manga artists are somewhat lyrical, and that probably strikes a chord with Director-kun.

EPISODE 10

Long Time No See

Page 59: Rompers is greeting the readers like this because the manga was on hiatus while she worked on *Tokyo Bangaleki* (*Last Tokyo*) for Shodensha's *Feel Young* magazine. Episode 10 was the first chapter since the break.

Last Tokyo has never been collected into graphic novel format.

Gallery Fake

Page 60: A 32-volume seinen manga by Fujihiko Hosono about a lone-wolf art dealer who specializes in counterfeit paintings. When Director-kun was sick, only 29 volumes had been released.

A middle-aged salaryman, who is given the cold shoulder at both work and home, meets the mysterious guru Takahashi and finds his salvation.

Rompers is dancing the "Gan no Mai" (Dance of the Geese), which is a breathing method (if we can call it that) taught by Takahashi where you imagine, "This is fun... This is joyful..." and keep on going until you regain your health and attain satori... supposedly.



"Matthew!!" "Sure..."

Page 46: *Anne of Green Gables* (*Akage no Anne*) is a 1979 TV anime series from Nippon Animation and Fuji Television based on the novel by Lucy M. Montgomery. It is an excellent work by Studio Ghibli's director Isao Takahata (*Grave of the Fireflies* and *My Neighbor the Yamadas*) with character designs by the late Yoshifumi Kondo (*Grave of the Fireflies* and *Castle of Cagliostro*).

Matthew, an elderly man who has adopted orphan Anne with his younger sister, is a quiet type who goes along with Anne's dreamy chatter and always answers with a gentle, "Sure..."

EPISODE 08

Kamioka, Gifu

Page 48: In the outskirts of Kamioka City, Gifu, a thousand meters underground in a rocky mountain, is a neutrino observatory called "Super-Kamiokande" that became famous when Dr. Masatoshi Koshiba won the Noble Prize in Physics.

Director-kun took Rompers to participate in an observation tour of the Super-Kamiokande and related underground facilities. It was a long drive that took five hours each way.

[Car]

Page 48: Director-kun got his driver's license when he was 18 but was a "paper driver" for over 20 years who hardly needed one. However, when he got married, he bought a Nissan Fairlady Z on the cheap from a friend and has enjoyed driving ever since. He drives to work too.

With an anime song CD, long drives aren't a problem! The manga features the newer model '02 Z33 (sold in the US as the 350Z), but he actually owned a '91 Z32 t-top.

Toei Tokusatsu II

Page 48: Toei is a movie production company that has created many life-sized hero shows such as the *Kamen Rider* and *Super Sentai* series.

Director-kun cannot but categorize his CDs by production studio. And in this case "II" means version 2. Whenever Director-kun buys a new CD, he creates a new assortment of songs and makes a new version.

80 Minutes of Anime Songs

Page 49: Director-kun discovered the usefulness of computers for real when he learned to create compilation CDs of his favorite songs. He'll maximize the full capacity of a CD-R with his favorite songs and fill up his car's CD changer.

Catered to Mothers

Page 42: Toei's *Sentai* series and *Kamen Rider* have originally been shows catering to young boys, but since the 1990's, they have been casting good-looking actors to appeal to the boys' mothers as well. Older shows' groups tended to include distinct types—passionate guy, cool-headed guy, kid, chubby guy, girl—but lately, with the cast featuring only good-looking guys in the same age range, their genericness has become something of a drawback.

To “cater to fathers,” they've cast an adult film actress as the leader of the evil organization and a former popular pop-idol as the *sentai* team's guardian.

Kamen Rider 555

Page 42: The 2003 *Kamen Rider* series is written as “*Kamen Rider 555*” but pronounced “*Fi's*.” The mask design uses the Greek letter Φ (phi). (More details in Episode 16).

Gaoranger

Page 43: *Hyakujū Sentai Gaoranger* is the 25th *Super Sentai* series, broadcast in 2001. Warriors selected by spirits called “*Power Animals*” fight against a demonic race called the *Org* that is eating away at the planet's environment. Footage from *Gaoranger* was repurposed for the 2002 American TV series *Power Rangers: Wild Force*.

Abaranger

Page 43: *Bakuryū Sentai Abaranger* is the 27th *Super Sentai* series, originally broadcast in Japan in 2003. In an alternate universe, dinosaurs never went extinct and eventually evolved to become the dominant race on “*Dino Earth*.” Three Earthians are selected by a dragonoid to become *Abarangers* and battle against the invaders, of both Earths, called the *Evoliens*.

Abaranger would be the inspiration for the 12th *Power Rangers* series, *Dino Thunder*.

Three Years' Worth

Page 43: *Sentai* shows are broadcast roughly over a calendar year so they help keep track of time.

Example: “Um... That was the year *Timeranger* was on, so it was the summer of 2000.”

Fight, Nam

Page 44: *Totokoe, Namu* is a manga by George Akiyama that was serialized in *Asahi Sonorama's* *Manga Shōnen* magazine starting in 1976.

Buddhist monk Nam goes on a journey accompanied with his disciples, searching for the meaning of life. He preaches the emptiness of strife, but due to his inability to attain enlightenment he is unable to save evil-doers and takes them down with his fists instead. All of George Akiyama's manga feature stunning philosophies. Though none of his works are available in English, he is best known globally for his work *Ashura*.

Guru Takahashi

Page 45: *Kyōso Takahashi*, also by George Akiyama. What makes this specific title unique is that it was serialized, starting in 1990, in *Shōgakukan's* tabloid magazine *Weekly Post* rather than a traditional manga venue. Perhaps because of that, little has been written about the manga over the last twenty or so years.

EPISODE 06

Like the Heroes of House Theater

Page 38: House Foods World Masterpiece Theater, named after the block's sponsor, was a Sunday 7:30p.m. time-slot on Fuji Television that broadcasted many masterpiece anime series. Because the shows were based on classic children's stories from around the world, the main characters, whether male or female, were all kind-hearted.

House Foods, makers of the internationally available product House Brand Curry, was the sole sponsor from 1985 (*A Little Princess*) to 1993 (*Little Men*). The slot was formerly known as Calpis Family Theater, when Calpis, makers of the Calpieco Water brand of soft drinks, was the sole sponsor from 1974 (*Moomins*) to 1978 (*The Story of Perrine*). Even as the sponsors changed, this World Masterpiece Theater slot broadcast 28 works for 28 years up until 1997 when they serialized *Remi: Nobody's Girl*.

You can tell someone's age by whether they call it the "Calpis Family Theater" or "House Theater." Director-kun is of the "Calpis Family Theater" generation.

EPISODE 07

Hurricanger

Page 42: The 26th TV show in Toei's Super Sentai franchise, *Ninpuu Sentai Hurricanger* was originally broadcast in 2002. Starting in 1975 with *Five Rangers* (*Himitsu Sentai Gorenjū*), the series stars a group of 3-5 heroes who protect the Earth from an evil organization. The Super Sentai franchise, on which *Power Rangers* is based, continues to this day with the dinosaur-themed 2013 series *Kyoryuger*.

Since the 70's a new series is launched every February and then wraps up in January of the following year. The timely schedule would often inspire children to ask for the robot toys based on the series for Christmas and New Year's. Since they create a new series with a new motif every year and develop the storyline over an entire year, it's not to be underestimated despite being a children's show. Like the name implies (*ninpuu* means "ninja-style"), the motif of Hurricanger is ninja. Three good-for-nothing practitioners of the stealthy arts discover a legendary power to become Hurricangers and defeat space ninjas.

Kourakuen Amusement Park

Page 42: In the past, this was an amusement park situated next to Kourakuen Stadium, former home of the Yomiuri Giants baseball club. Today it is contiguous with facilities that surround Tokyo Dome, and the entire area, from the amusement park now called City Attractions to the dome itself (the current home of the Giants) as well as the Japan Boxing Commission Hall, is called Tokyo Dome City.

A sentai show performs in the amusement park's Sky Theater every weekend. The stage effects and action are spectacular and are nothing like the children's shows performed on department store rooftops. (Some department stores in Japan have small entertainment areas for children and young couples.) Depending on the season, the "real" pre-transformation TV actors make an appearance in the show as part of the attraction.

The commercial declaring "Meet us at Tokyo Dome City (Kourakuen Amusement Park)!" has been running for the past 20 years, but only in the greater Tokyo region.

Shiroi Kyotou (The White Tower)

Page 26: The 1965 novel, written by Toyoko Yamazaki and originally serialized in Mainichi Newspaper's Sunday Mainichi magazine, depicts power struggles at a university hospital. The book has been adapted into movies and TV series five times, no less.

On Director-kun's shelf is the 1978 TV drama series. Due to his suicide, the masterpiece became the last work of lead actor Jiro Tamiya, whose fearsome acting shines.

Otokotachi no Tabiji (The Journey of Men)

Page 26: This was an NHK Saturday drama that began airing in 1976 and lasted 13 seasons. Set at a security company, a former kamikaze candidate (played by Koji Tsuruta) and a couple of young security guards (Kensaku Morita, Yutaka Mizutani) clash over social issues and life. It was produced by an NHK pushing for content-driven drama in their Saturday Drama slot and willing to give pride of place to authors and scriptwriters. Written by Taichi Yamada.

Kamen Rider Figure Collection

Page 26: Rompers has a strict "no toys" rule, so Director-kun cannot bring most of his collection home. After a careful selection process, only items that get Rompers' approval are allowed to be displayed, and these Riders are among them. Of course there is more to Director-kun's collection, and a certain storage space and his desk at the studio is overflowing with hero figures and robot toys. The collection is still growing.

Ultra Bracelet

Page 26: A bracelet-shaped weapon worn on the left wrist in the 1971 tokusatsu series *The Return of Ultraman*. It transforms into swords, shields and various other arms. In episode 18, when Ultraman was defeated by space monster Bemstar, Ultra Seven sent it to him. (This episode brought "Seven" into the series, creating a turning point in the story).

Director-kun has a realistic metallic replica model of this ultra-item.

EPISODE 05

Hey, Pii-tan!!

Page 30: *Hey, Pii-tan!! (Oi, Pootan!!)* is a slice-of-life manga by Risa Ito. Essentially the series is a collection of short stories about food that stars a different protagonist each episode.

"Omori-san" is a recurring character (and occasional protagonist). He is a portly man who is obsessed with food. He may look like a loser, but he's considerate and someone you can rely on.

Muramatsu-san

Page 32: Assistant to the producer at the anime company at which Director-kun works. Looking after Director-kun, including ordering pizza for him, appears to be part of her duties. She's very pretty but never wears make-up, which is a waste.

Time Mechabuton

Page 24: The main mecha of the *Time Bokan* TV sci-fi/gag anime series produced by Tatsunoko Production in 1975. Shaped like a giant Japanese rhinoceros beetle, it is a time machine that can operate on land, sea and air. It is also the mothership of the surveillance ship *Ladybug-Drone* (*Tensou-kô*) and the submarine *Sarider-Marine* (*Yago-Marine*). Its sister ships are a grasshopper-shaped *Time Dotabaitan* and the stag beetle-shaped *Time Kurwagattan*.

Kazuhiko Shimamoto

Page 25: Manga artist known for hot-blooded series such as *Blazing Transfer Student* (*Honoo no Tenkousei*), *Nine in Adversity* (*Gyakkou Nine*) and *Burning Pen* (*Moeyo Pen*). The author himself is hot-blooded just like his protagonists. In fact, he was a classmate of Director-kun in college.

Gunpla

Page 25: *Gunpla*, or "Gundam plastic models," debuted in the summer of 1980 from Bandai, and unlike toys made for children in the past, the construction and quality of these figures were targeted to a secondary-school-and-above demographic. Despite being released only after the TV series had ended, they were a mega-hit among youths from grade schoolers to college students, changing the history of plastic models forever. The monetary unit of 1 *Gunpla* = 300 yen is referring to the 1/144 scale models that were sold for 300 yen.



Hiroshi Motomiya

Page 25: Distinguished manga artist known for his hot-blooded/manly-man art style. His most notable work in the West is *Salaryman Kintaro*. Motomiya began his career in the world of rental comics in the 60's, but he broke through into the mainstream in 1968 when *Shonen Jump* serialized his work *Ôtoko Iyôki Gaki Daikôsho* (referred to by some in the West as *The Ideal Man, Punk Gang Leader*). His other works include *My Skies* (*Ore no Sora*) and *Onbora Ichidai*. Techniques like adding motion lines into a gaping, shouting mouth create an impact unmatched by any in the business.

The Bullet Train

Page 26: Known in Japan as *Shinkansen Daibakuhô*, *The Bullet Train* is a 1975 film by Junya Sato, director of *Proof of the Man* and *The Silk Road*. A bomb is set up on a bullet train carrying 1,500 passengers; if the train goes below 80km/h, the bomb will explode! A thrilling action movie that could have inspired the American film *Speed*, it features actors Ken Takakura, Shinichi (Sonny) Chiba, Ken Utsui and Tetsuro Tamba. Due to the subject matter, the filmmakers could not get Japanese National Railway's cooperation, so most of the bullet train sequences were done with miniatures.

Time Bokan

Page 26: The original *Time Bokan* is a 1975 TV anime comedy series produced by Tatsunoko Production. In search of Dr. Kieda and the mysterious Dynamond, Tanpei and Junko set off on an adventure aboard a time machine created by Dr. Kieda. The enemy, the Time Skeletons, gained popularity due to their stupidity. The story followed the time-traveling protagonists battling it out with the clumsy villains, and seven TV series were broadcast over eight years as the *Time Bokan* Series.

EPISODE 04

Rainbowman

Page 23: A 1972 live-action superhero show produced by Toho. Protagonist pro-wrestler Takeshi Yamato trains deep in the mountains of India, and after accepting the soul of the high priest Devadatta, gains the ability to transform into Rainbowman in order to protect Japan. Yamato can shift into seven different forms, each representing elements of Taoism and WuXing.

Antagonist Mr. K of the "Die Die Troop" was tortured by Japanese soldiers during WWII and vowed to kill all Japanese.

The strategic use of topics like drugs and counterfeit money to jolt the hearts of Japanese may also have been a reflection of the times.

Shokugan

Page 24: Historically, snacks came with pack-in toys ever since the early shokugan Glico no Omake in the 20's. In modern times, the process has evolved to where toy manufacturers are distributing these goods through the food and grocery channels (basically selling toys in supermarkets and convenience stores), and the market is growing.

Notably in 1999, the shokugan Choco Egg produced by toy company Kaiyodo surprised many with the high-quality figures, and since then shokugan have been filling the store shelves as a collector's item. Though middle-aged men were initially happy to buy and "support" what they "always wanted," they're now struggling with storage space, unable to toss out the toys.

Thunderbirds

Page 24: A British supermarionation TV series that aired on Japan's NHK network in 1966. Former astronaut and multi-millionaire Tracy and his family establish a secret organization called "International Rescue" to protect humankind from disasters. The state-of-the-art mecha Thunderbird captivated "every last" boy including Director-kun. The takeoff sequence of the mecha left a long-lasting influence on Japanese anime and tokusatsu. There have been many toys and models released over time, but Konami's shokugan had the ultimate quality among them all.

UFO

Page 24: A British TV show created by the producers of *Thunderbirds* that aired in Japan in 1970. Each episode started with the narration, "In 1980, mankind created an Earth defense force called SHADO."

Konami released a shokugan featuring SHADO's mecha that had cutting-edge and realistic designs. Like *Thunderbirds*, this show determined Director-kun's fate.

Jet Jaguar

Page 24: A robot that appears in the 13th Godzilla movie, *Godzilla vs. Megalon* (1973). Although it was man-made, its sense of justice caused it to alter its size and fight against space monsters. Only Director-kun and a small number of weirdos would think this robot is cool, so it never got made as a toy until it was finally released as a well-made soft PVC figure in the twenty-first century.



Jedi

Page 20: The title of high-minded knights who appear in *Star Wars* movies. As Director-kun is impersonating, they wear dull hooded robes and use lightsabers as weapons. The noise Director-kun is making is the breathing sound of Darth Vader, the enemy general, a former Jedi who went to the dark side. Though an ex-Jedi, Vader does not wear a poncho-like hood, so Director-kun should have gone for another impersonation when Rompers made her comment.

Gundam: The Ride

Page 20: A *Mobile Suit Gundam* ride that used to be housed at Fuji-Q Highland. A 3D CGI recreation of the battle of A Baoa Qu from the TV series' final episode, the audience fled around the battlefield in an escape pod accompanied by a mobile suit. It shone for its storyline, which was intricately intertwined with the TV series, and for its high-speed visuals. The attraction closed on January 2007, when it was replaced by another ride.

Speed of Gundam III

Page 20: Here Director-kun is referring to the third theatrical release, *Mobile Suit Gundam: Encounters in Space*. It was a summation of the TV series, but many scenes were re-animated. The battles scenes created by the team, which included animation director Yoshikazu Yasuhiko and Ichiro Hano, whom Director-kun considers a mentor, are among the greatest achievements in robot anime. As a devotee of the movie animation sequences, Director-kun was dissatisfied with high-speed CGI visuals for their weightlessness and lack of feeling.

Oruchuban Ebichu

Page 21: Known in the West as *Ebichu*, this is a slapstick comedy manga full of potty humor created by Risa Ito. The protagonist(?) Ebichu is (as Director-kun's impersonation suggests) a cute hamster—one that offers crude commentary about her female owner's sex life and gets beaten up for it. Director-kun produced the TV animation for it.

Gundam Cookies

Page 21: At the Fuji-Q Highland Gundam ride, there was a souvenir shop called "Gundam Mania" dedicated to Gundam merchandise. Gundam Cookies were some of the more popular items there.

Zeon Duct Tape

Page 21: As with the Gundam Cookies, this was a souvenir product sold at Fuji-Q Highland—duct tape with Zeon insignia printed on it.

Playing Ultraman in the Men's Bath

Page 22: As mentioned earlier, Director-kun loves to act out Ultraman poses anywhere, but he especially enjoys doing so in hot springs and swimming pools! For water-related tricks, he can also do *Ultra Seven* (the 1967 sequel to *Ultraman*) and *Ultraman 80* (the 1980 TV series and the final property in the original Showa-era Ultra series).

Cobra Man

Page 15: A monster that appeared in episode 9 of the original *Kamen Rider* TV series. As the name implies, his motif is the cobra, and his right hand also happens to be a cobra that has the ability to spew poisonous gas that melts humans. Cobra Man's final battle against Kamen Rider was staged on the island of Sarushima.

Rider Kick!

Page 15: Obviously this is Kamen Rider's special move, "Rider Kick!" But that is not a typo. When you say the word "kick!" with force, you should hardly pronounce the "ck" at the end.

Polon

Page 16: *Ochawo Kami Monogatari Koro Koro Polon* is a 1982 TV anime series based on the manga *Polon of Olympus* (*Olympus no Polon*) by Hideo Azuma, the founding father of lolicon bishoujo manga and author of the Eisner Award-nominated *Disappearance Diary*. Azuma is also a mentor of Rumiko Takahashi and Misuru Adachi, who utilize many of the same design techniques Azuma perfected in his lolicon bishoujo style.

The theme song *Rompers and Director-kun* aresinging was written and composed by Masayuki Yamamoto of *Time Bokan* fame. The cute girly vocals and Yamamoto's funny rejoinders are a perfect mix.

Sarushima

Page 16: An uninhabited island off Yokosuka, Kanagawa in Tokyo Bay. Several episodes of *Kamen Rider* were filmed here. For almost a century, from the end of the Edo period to the end of WWII, the island was a military facility equipped with an artillery battery. The remains of the artillery battery were used in the series as the set for the evil organization "Gol-Shocker" and is a shrine to tokusatsu fans.

EPISODE 03

The Manga Road

Page 17: On top of *Rompers*' desk is an autobiographical manga by Fujio Fujiko about two boys who dream of becoming manga artists. It is the Bible to many a manga artist.

It may not be necessary to note that Fujio Fujiko is the penname of two manga artists. This manga is by Fujio Fujiko A, who wrote many popular series such as *The Laughing Salesman* (*Wanna Salesman*), *Kaibutsu-kun* and *Ninja Hattori-kun*, but Fujio F. Fujiko who wrote *Doraseemon* had even more titles.

Ultraman Poses

Page 18: One of Director-kun's special abilities—he's been making these poses since he was 6 years old. Director-kun spontaneously does these in public, which can be problematic.

Fuji-Q Highland

Page 20: Located near Lake Kawaguchi in Yamanashi Prefecture to the west of Tokyo, this is a large amusement park often referenced in anime and manga. Highland is the home to many roller coasters and ride attractions. If the express way isn't congested, it takes a little over an hour from Tokyo by car, so it's a great driving destination. But the return home on a holiday is congested, so beware.

Gundam has been one of the top anime characters. Rompers watched all 43 episodes of the first TV series night after night. No wonder she was sleep-deprived.

Vertical is currently publishing *Mobile Suit Gundam: The ORIGIN*, a manga written by the anime's art director Yoshikazu Yasuhiko based on the original TV series.

A Karate-Crazy Life

Page 13: Known in Japan as *Karate Baka Ichidai*, this manga is based on the life story of Masatake Oyama, the founder of Kyokushin Karate. Written by Ikki Kajiwara of *Star of the Giants* and *Tomorrow's Joe*, the comic was drawn by Jiro Tsunoda, celebrated for horror manga such as *Ushiro no Hyakutaro* and *The Dreadful News (Kyoufu Shinbun)*.

In the manga, the protagonist goes to the mountains to train alone, and to ward off his desire for human contact, he shaves off one of his eyebrows. Upon doing so, he looks at his odd face and mumbles, "I'm an idiot... Just a karate idiot..."

Tetsuro Tamba

Page 14: Born in 1922, Tamba is a charismatic actor who performed in almost 300 Japanese films and acted in such TV drama series as *Key Hunter* and *G-men 75*. Tamba is known in the West for his performance of Tiger Tanaka in the 1967 James Bond film *You Only Live Twice*. His inspired acting, bordering on lunacy, stands out from all the rest.

Here Director-kun is reconstructing a scene from *The Battle of Okinawa*. Facing annihilation, the Okinawa Defense Force regimental chief of staff groans from a nightmare. Director-kun is also good at impersonating Tamba's role as Prime Minister Yamamoto in the 1973 adaptation of *Japan Sinks*. For anime fans, Tamba also voiced the role of the Cat King in Studio Ghibli's 2002 animated film *The Cat Returns*.

The Battle of Okinawa

Page 14: A 1971 war movie closely based on history by director Kihachi Okamoto, whom Director-kun reveres. At the end of the Pacific War, the Okinawa Defense Force is abandoned by Imperial HQ and crushed by the U.S. onslaught along with inhabitants. Director-kun owns a laser disc of this film signed by director Okamoto.

Spectreman

Page 14: A 1971 tokusatsu TV series. Super-cyborg agent Spectreman is dispatched from Nebula 71 to Earth to defeat monsters sent by the brilliant mad-scientist Dr. Gori. Gori, banished from Planet E, wishes to take over the blue planet as he has been captivated by its beauty and is enraged by the pollution caused by its current inhabitants, mankind. In a reflection of the times, the monsters represented different forms of environmental travesties. When the show aired, the title was originally *Space Apeman Gori*, but it was later changed to *Space Apeman Gori vs Spectreman*, then lastly in October 1971 to *Spectreman*.

Golden Bat

Page 14: In *Golden Bat (Oogon Bat)* an envoy of justice in the form of a golden skeleton wakes up from a 10,000-year slumber to defeat evil. Bat is a mysterious hero who laughs jollily. The original story was a pre-war *kamishibai* (traveling paper drama), and several movies were later made, but the series Director-kun only saw four episodes of are from the 1967 anime series.

Daijiro Morohoshi

Page 10: A manga artist with a unique uncanny art style who has penned many fantasy adventure series. Both his short and long works are sharp. Many of his stories are inspired by ancient oral literature such as *The Record of Ancient Matters (Kojiki)* and *The Monkey King (Saiyuki)*. His works include *The Dark Myth (Ankoku Shinwa)*, *Yaku Hunter*, *The Dreaming Machine (Yumemiru Kikai)* and *The Dark Tales of Confucius (Koushi Ankokuden)*. A veteran who debuted in 1970, he continues to draw manga even to this day.

EPISODE 02

Kamui the Ninja

Page 11: *Kamui the Ninja: Stories Other than the Legend* is an animated TV series based on Sanpei Shirato's gekiga *The Legend of Kamui*. Upon breaking a rule of the ninja society, genius ninja Kamui leaves his clan only to be pursued by assassins. It was unusual for a cartoon airing in 1969 to have an older target audience, and the art employs stylish gekiga touches.

The song Rompers sings with tears in her eyes, its ending song "The Shinobi's Theme," is a masterful hymn about the loneliness of being a wanted man. The lyrics were written by Haruko Lee, the wife of Sanpei Shirato.

Zenderman

Page 12: *Zenderman* is a 1979 animated TV series and the third in the *Time Bokan* comedy anime series by Tatsunoko Production (the first being *Time Bokan* followed by *Yatterman*). Rompers is singing one of the in-episode songs, the theme of the time-machine robot, *Zenderlion*.

Zenderlion is in the form of a steam locomotive that has the number 4416 on his chest (he's a lion, which is "shishi" in Japanese, and "shishi" is also a pun on "4 times 4" which equals 16). The song is performed by *Zenderlion*'s voice actor, Masayuki Yamamoto.

Muska

Page 13: Colonel Romuska Palo Ul Laputa, or Colonel Muska, is the antagonist of director Hayao Miyazaki's 1986 animated movie *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*. Rompers is impersonating Muska's last scene where, blinded by the Aetherium amulet, he covers his eyes and screams, "My eyes...! My eyes...!"



Watching Too Much Gundam

Page 13: *Mobile Suit Gundam* is a TV anime series that premiered on Nagoya TV back in 1979. Calling robots "mobile suits," this series revolutionized the genre by presenting robots as mass-producible weaponry. As known to Vertical readers this is another title that determined Director-kun's future.

Tooting with human drama and void of superheroes, its realistic sci-fi story captivated a passionate fanbase. However, lackluster merchandise sales led to the TV series being cut short. Not longer after the series ended, its strong fanbase and the exploding sales of plastic models (*Gunpla*) led to theatrical releases and multiple sequels being produced over the years. Since then, the



Ideon

Page 9: The 1980 mecha anime, *Space Runaway Ideon*, directed by Yoshiyuki Tomino whom Director-kun reveres, and produced by studio Sunrise immediately after *Mobile Suit Gundam*, chronicles the escapade of youths who are caught up in an intergalactic war. Due to low ratings and slumping merchandise sales, the ill-starred series was cancelled a month earlier than planned, but its strong hardcore fanbase led to a theatrical release in 1983. Many consider it Tomino's best work, and it features plenty of great lines that Japanese otaku like to repeat. Yet another show that determined Director-kun's life.

Mirrorman

Page 9: Another tokusatsu series, from 1971. Produced by Tsuburaya Productions, the studio responsible for *Ultraman*, it has newspaper reporter protagonist Kyotaro Kagami jumping into a mirror to transform into a giant. The series used a special effect called optical compositing to create variegated beam attacks. "Mirror Knife" is one of Mirrorman's special moves where he shoots knives of light from the tip of his fingers. The echoed sound effects make it even cooler.

I'm Gonna Kill You

Page 9: This is from *A Pigeon Wife*, aka *Hato no Oyome-san*, a gag manga serialized in *Monthly Afternoon* magazine by artist Haguki. The only phrase the wife's son Bakko-chan can say is "I'm gonna kill you!" He says it regardless of his mood. "Hato Beam" is a deadly beam issuing from the wife's mouth, while the "Flower Garden Tackle" is the pigeon husband's special move.

Pan-Kopa

Page 10: Japanese anime fans tend to be picky about how they abbreviate titles. For example, Hayao Miyazaki's *Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro* (*Rupan Sansei: Kariosutoro no Shiro*) is called "Kari-Shiro." *The Wonderful World of Pass 'n Boots* (*Nagagutsu no Hatai Neko*), also by Miyazaki, is "Naga-Neko." *Animal Treasure Island* (*Doubutsu Takarajima*) is "Do-Takara." You cannot call them anything else amongst the fandom.

"Pan-Kopa" is an abbreviation of the 1972 film *Panda Koparda*, better known in the West as *Panda! Go, Panda!* It is a 35-minute children's short, but because it was created, written and conceptualized by Hayao Miyazaki, with mise en scène (i.e. direction) by Isao Takahata and animation by Yasuo Otsuka and Yoichi Kotabe, it is considered a must-see among anime fans. In 1973, a sequel called *The Rainy-Day Circus* was also released.



Yamato

Page 10: Known in the United States as *Star Blazers*, the 1974 science-fiction animated TV series *Space Battleship Yamato* is the monumental work that made anime what it is today. It morphed anime from a standard children's cartoon into a sophisticated show palatable to older audiences thanks to its *gustavo*-laden story and artwork and mesmerized Director-kun as a junior high schooler. There is no exaggerating how this series awakened "anime fans" to their identities. This is yet another work that defined Director-kun's life. There are three TV series, one TV special, and four movies, but the series Director-kun is recommending to Rompers is the original TV series.

Gigantor

Page 6: Known in Japan as *Tetsujin 28-gou* and renamed in the United States by the now-defunct anime localizers and distributors Delphi Associates, Inc., *Gigantor* is the giant robot manga (& anime) originator by manga artist Mitsuteru Yokoyama. Debuting in 1956, the manga was eventually adapted into a radio series, live-action TV series, four TV anime series and a live-action feature film. By far the most well-known is the 1963 black-and-white TV anime series, for which Ezaki Glico was the sole sponsor. And as such Glico would come to include *Gigantor* in their Glico's Extra snack boxes. The twenty-first-century re-release of *Time Slip Glico* snacks featured *Gigantor* as the first extra in light of this fact.

Lancelot Link, Secret Chimp

Page 7: The 1970 live-action American TV series featured an animal detective and was aired in Japan in 1971. It's essentially a slapstick comedy created by editing and narrating chimpanzee footage to mimick "acting." (You can figure out the content just by the title and song lyrics. Yep, you got it right.) The opening theme in the Japanese release was written and composed in Japan. The lyrics Director-kun couldn't remember were:

"Baddie had grampa, chimpan-grandpa.
Baddie had grandma, chimpan-grandma.
Kick those red red hips, kick them!"

Kamen Rider

Page 8: 1971 marked the debut of the long-running tokusatsu TV series from Toei. It's one of the works that inexorably shaped Director-kun's life. Despite originally being a low-budget children's show, the concept of a hero who'd been modified by an evil organization captivated audiences and became the foundation of various tokusatsu series featuring life-sized protagonists. As of 2013's *Kamen Rider Gaim*, there have been 24 *Kamen Rider* TV series.

The Original Hongo is the costume worn by Hiroshi Fujioka, who played the role of protagonist Takeshi Hongo before his hiatus due to an on-location motorcycle accident. Compared to the costume designs of later Riders, it had a dark and dull palette. Also known as "Original No. 1," when Director-kun talks about *Kamen Rider*, he is referring to this version. On a side note, when this page was first published, the Rider's shadings were incorrect. When it was re-published for their wedding *doujinshi*, Director-kun personally re-colored it using Mac Photoshop.

Doujinshi

Page 8: While Rompers and Director-kun didn't cosplay at their wedding, they really did pass out *doujinshi*.

Ultraman

Page 9: The original 1966 tokusatsu series was produced by Tsuburaya Productions. With its silver colored aliens, monster-of-the-week format, and United Earth defense forces Science Patrol mechanisms among its many groundbreaking elements, the series became a super popular show with viewership ratings of over 40 percent. This is another show that fatefully impacted Director-kun's life.

Annotations

(Otaku Edition)

用語解説
[v3.0]

All Characters Appearing in This Work Are Fictitious

This disclaimer started being used in Japan after the 1972 broadcast of the tokusatsu series *Chojin Barom 1* (based on a manga by *Golgo 13* author Takao Saito called *Barom 1*), when a child with the same name as the antagonist was bullied in school. Since then, all sorts of televised drama series began using this disclaimer.

EPISODE 01

Title Typography

The title design found mainly on the chapter headers presented in a black background with bold Mincho font is inspired by episode slides of Director-kun's anime series *Neon Genesis Evangelion*. Episode numbers in the Japanese edition were written in older kanji form, as seen in the anime. The "direction-changing text" typography was not Director-kun's idea, rather drawing on the style of Kon Ichikawa's 1978 live-action film *Queen Bee*. (This English edition retains most of the features from the original chapter headers; however, to match the U.S. editions of the animation the episode numbers are in the Times Roman font utilized by ADV Films, Viz Media and Dark Horse Comics.)

Let's Go Sazae-san

Page 5: One of the in-episode songs of the longest running animated TV series of all time, *Sazae-san*. The song is performed by Midori Kato, who voices the anime's lead character Sazae Fuguta. The song was played over the preview for the next episode without lyrics, so while many in Japan would be familiar with the melody, those who can sing it are considered hardcore.

Time Slip Glico

Page 5: A pack-jo toy found in caramel candy boxes from snack maker Ezaki Glico (best known around the world for its Pocky line of snacks) since 2001. Originally made back in the 1960's as *Glico no Ousake (Glico's Extra)*, the snack was re-introduced with toy company Kaiyodo manufacturing the figures. The small, detailed figures depict household appliances and vehicles from the 1950's to 1960's in addition to popular characters of the era such as *Gigantor* and *Ultraman*.

My wife's public image is that of a strong woman, but actually she's very sensitive, fragile and weak. She constantly has to face her difficult past, and she couldn't escape the reality of having to provide for her family. It's just that she needed to don a piece of armor called "toughness" over her heart. I can sense that deep inside she battles loneliness and alienation and is barely holding her emotional balance in check. That's why I want to devote whatever time I have outside of work to my wife. That's why I got married to her, and I want to protect her with everything I have, forever.



Currently in Japan, the economy is saturated to the point that we can allow otakus to stand tall and prosper. We have such an overabundance of information and our material civilization is full to the brim, but at the same time our spirits are impoverished, we lack imagination, and our social base is weakening. That's why I think we need manga like my wife's. I'm not being nepotistic, I promise.



What's amazing about my wife's manga is that she doesn't create any "out" from reality. Most manga these days are no more than a device to provide readers with a refuge from reality to satisfy them out there. The bigger fans they are, the more likely they'll become one with the fantasy and have difficulty accepting anything else. My wife's manga leaves a bit of energy to readers as they return to the real world. Instead of making you want to dwell in yourself, her manga makes you want to go outside and do something, it emboldens you. It's a manga for tackling reality and living among others. My wife lives like that and I think that's why she can write like that. Her manga accomplished what I couldn't do in *Eva* to the end. It was a big shock to me, really.



Compared to the many simplistic manga that pick up on the latest trends, she sticks to her style and originality and braves on alone. I'm amazed by my wife. I feel like she has more talent than I do, and I respect her as a writer as well, which I'm sure is why we're still together.

After *Eva*, there was a time when I wanted to stop being an otaku. I was sick of the stagnation of the anime industry and fans. I was filled with self-hatred back then. I was desperate.



I didn't think I would change much when I got married. But recently, I feel like I'm starting to. It's not that my core otaku-ness is diluting, but more that non-otaku aspects are being added to me. An otaku yet not an otaku. It's a different feeling I haven't felt before. Hey, it's an interesting world. And I only have my wife to thank for this.

I requested the opening disclaimer "All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental." to be included as a joke. In fact, this manga is a mixture of truth and fiction. My wife took things that actually happened and arranged it to make it more hilarious and entertaining. I checked the storyboard for each chapter. It wasn't so I could stop her from writing certain things but to help make the story even funnier. Like adding more otaku details or making the characters pose a certain way. Giving suggestions for ideas.



My wife went out of her way to keep it from turning into a generic lovey-dovey manga and always tried to put readers first. She carefully selected things that she thought readers would find entertaining to make the manga. And I tried my best to help her with that.



My wife can't glamorize herself. She looks at us with a critical eye. This is a good thing, but also a bad thing. If the characters can't plunge into their self-absorbed world, they can't be catalysts for the readers' narcissism. The real fun fails to come across in that case, and it can invite misunderstanding.



The character Director-kun is an otaku. Well, since he's based off of me and I'm an otaku, it's a given.

If I were to list up otakus' characteristics: we're introverts with poor communication skills unable to determine a suitable distance toward others; our identity is supported by our store of information and knowledge; we're very obsessive, self-righteous and cliquey for self-preservation, and can only talk about ourselves and suck at two-way communication; we're extremely self-conscious and can only look at things from our point of view, love narcissists, have a bloated sense of self that yearns to identify with our idols, and are sensitive to attacks... That's a long list of negative descriptions, but I like how it's shown as is. It's not an idealized form of an otaku but a truthful portrait for all to see.



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Fidealdi Anno



Re-reading it in one go, I gotta say my wife's manga is awfully funny. People have histories and I recalled ours. This one-of-a-kind experience is a privilege of being her husband. And at the same time, I think my public image has changed quite a bit. Only people close to me knew how dumb I am, until now.



To have your life exposed to the public is the fate of anyone who marries a manga artist. It's not just manga artists; novelists and writers frequently use their family as source material too. My friend Osada (Yoshiyuki Sadamoto) was featured in his wife's (Mako Takaha) child-rearing manga *Tatakae! Okaasan*, and he warned, "You'll experience it soon enough" when I told him I was getting married. So I was prepared for this.

But when you're actually drawn in a manga, it's a little embarrassing. I can objectively see how my wife views me, and her affection comes across touchingly well, but it's still embarrassing.

DISCUSSES

DIRECTOR
KUN



DIRECTOR

ANNUNO

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監督不行届

Insufficient Direction

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