

The Heartwarming Tale Of A Boy And His Bot

Contributed by
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The most widely accepted stereotype for a Japanese Film is the concept of a massive Robot/Monster/Alien stomping through a city to either destroy it or to protect it. Innocents running screaming and bad guys are scheming. So with that formula it is easy to see where the wide acceptance of Giant Robo comes from. The story of a boy and his bot is a heart-warming one. A full scale anime OVA that grabs your attention with even a bit of the first episode. Reminding old timers of the live action "Johnny socko and his flying robot" however unlike the simple plot of the live action. Also very similar to another movie that dealt with the WWII era, Kishin Heiden. However I believe this OVA stands on it's own. Giant Robo is a massively intricate story.

Daisaku Kusama is the youngest member of the experts of justice and he alone controls Giant Robo the most awesome and powerful robot in the world. The experts of justice hold in their ranks some of tightest character descriptions in almost any anime. The underlying currents in their motives and the inter play between characters easily detracts from this just being a Mech Bashing anime. Don't even get me started about Ginre. The good guys in this one hold some awesome and diverse powers. To many to describe play by play in one article. So you have good guys now you need BAD GUYS!!! Then comes in Big Fire, Allegiance Or Death Big Fire! So they are the evil squinty-eyed bad guys, (In some Japanese mythology it was considered that good people have big eyes while evil people have small eyes) Big Fire is trying to control the world and dominate the Experts of Justice and Giant Robo. They will accomplish this by manipulating the world greatest asset since sunlight, The Shizuma drive, a form of cold fusion that is a fully self-sustaining power source. However with all gifts there comes a price and that takes form in the Tragedy of Bashtal. Big Fire is trying to recreate that horrible mistake. So big fire has captured the remaining mad scientists and is on a hunt for the black attaché cases that hold the keys to the worlds re-destruction. The plot on this one is good. Really complex keeps you guessing, watching the character creation take place this smoothly is a true delight of an OVA of this nature. You really are grabbed by the care taken to develop each specific individual and the attention to their backgrounds and the part they take in the plot. You will laugh, cry and scream with enthusiasm as this anime tears along into action.

Now I have to admit something, I like opera. There I said it, and with that in mind Giant Robo is awesome in the soundtrack department. Not too sappy and the opening theme is almost an anthem by itself. The music is passionate and I feel the use of opera helps to relate an elegant yet powerful feeling. The soundtrack reminded me a bit of the first episode of Memories by Katsuhiro Otomo (Akira, Domu, Sister Sarah). With melodic interludes and powerful drum builds. It can be a bit over dramatic at times but this is an Action-Drama-Mecha-Superhero anime style so why not? The episodes I have seen have been dubbed and I will have to say as and avid hater of dubs, this one is not that bad. Usually I will turn away a dub without a second thought but the English voice actors in this still managed to keep the emotion in the dialogue. I really don't think much really got lost in the translation because they spend a great deal of time on character development.

The attention paid to mecha detail is intense down to the rivets on Giant Robo's feet. That is expected for this genre of OVA. The emphasis and detail on the characters and villains is

quite amazing in it's own right. The fighting between the Experts vs Big Fire is fantastic the special attacks they have are really wicked and the impact and direction of the animation is full of momentum. The art style itself seems a bit like the 50's and really is in a class by itself it would be hard to compare this movie to any other current mecha hits like Macross, MellowLink or Gundam. The movie has a PG rating but the fighting is still graphic enough to scare my cat.

Excellent movie for the Otaku and pinko alike. The animation plus character development makes it a sure winner and Ginre is only the most amazing female anime creation to date (sorry lum). So I have to suggest this movie to anyone that would enjoy a complex good vs evil throw down. One warning if you see one you will have to buy them all. Every episode drops the end with major plot hangers. Now all of the episodes are released so very shortly they will all be available to you. Now go buy Giant Robo today and find out why Big Fire wears pointy hats!