



Spirited Away

by *Amanda! and Sarah*

(Why do you get an exclamation point?)

Hello Everybody! We're here to introduce you to the wonderful world of *Spirited Away*. Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi. We can't really say much about it.

Okay, I apologize for my boring friend. What she means to say is we don't want to give too much away, but we did want to share with you how much we love this great movie. Right? Right. Of course, someone else is writing an article also, right? So why don't you just get on to squealing about the mouse, because I know you're going to.

Alright! There's this really really really really cute mouse. And it's all big and fat and there's this gnat-thing that carries it about by its tail. And I won't tell you anymore about it, because that would give stuff away about the plot. But it's really cute.

And she's not the one with the weird rodent fixation.

Okay, that's going to go right over people's heads. They're going to have no idea what you're talking about and we're going to get lots of "what?"

And this article wasn't going to anyway?

Good point. Do you want to say anything before I start going on about all the other really cute things in this movie?

silence

Excellent, my turn again. Yay! I'm listening to the GTO first opening theme right now! Driver's High by L'arc en Ciel!

I'm listening to it too. By the way, that was very on topic. Do we really have anything to say in this article at all? Other than that the mouse is cute, and the little soot things are cute, and there are things on the bridge that look like Totoro?

What a wonderful segue, my friend! For those of you who are fans of Miyazaki, you might notice that the little soot things (you'll know them when you see them) are the same little soot things that inhabited the house at the beginning of My Neighbor Totoro. That's what I love about Miyazaki, those little details.

I liked Yu-Baaba's telephone.

You're doing a good job on contributing to this conversation, my friend.



(Continued on next page)

Atta girl!

Spirited Away

(Continued from front page)

I haven't finished. You're mocking me. Just because I let you type. And why are you wearing a slinky as a collar?
You think slow; I'm bored.

.....

La la la la, still nothing happening.

I think it's kind of funny that Disney didn't realize how much better this movie is than their own movies until it won an Oscar, and then they rereleased it.

Another interesting fact is that Titanic surpassed Miyazaki's earlier film, Mononoke Hime, as the highest grossing film in Japan of all time. Titanic was then surpassed by Spirited Away. So yay for something great and Japanese surpassing Leonardo DiCaprio's bad acting skills!

Ok, now you have bashed Titanic. I know you wanted to do that.

Guess who teaches my fall class on the Anthropology of Japanese Popular Culture? Some professor named Miyazaki! Coincidence? I think not.

I think so. We haven't said a whole lot about Sen to Chihiro, have we?

Nope!

I liked the little details. And I liked when I was surprised. I liked the way Chihiro's parents were... idiots is a little harsh. Oblivious doesn't sound quite right either.

I'm going to go with adults. They were typical adults.

That's pretty much the extent of it. Childhood is pretty special in most of the Miyazaki movies I've seen.

Awww, now we're getting sappy.

And I was just going to mention the squelching.

What squelching?

There's really quite a bit of squelching. And muck and mud.

Well, they are living in a bathhouse. If there wasn't any muck and mud, it wouldn't be very realistic, now would it?

Yes, the bathhouse for the gods is really a very realistic concept. And I'd like to point out that all of the hot springs episodes in all of the anime that I've ever seen, none of them have had a realistic level of filthiness.

How long is this article now?

It depends on formatting. I'm not going to say something like 2 pages and then the editor would make it all single spaced and it'd still be a page and everyone would look at me funny because I can't count. So. It's as long as it is.

Oh, very deep.

That's me!

It's getting fairly long in any case, and we aren't actually saying anything. We should probably wrap it up.

Hmphh, stopping all my random fun. Well, it's a really good movie, and you're all here to see it, which is good, so we don't actually have to say all that much. I'm sorry I won't be able to be there with you all to enjoy the Miyazaki goodness, but I have to go home to celebrate some major Christian holiday or something.

Fortunately, there's probably a better article about it somewhere in this newsletter.

So it's okay that we wasted your time.

It's a wonderful movie. Enjoy it.

Is that it? Bye!



Releasing Control Art Restrictions

Hellsing and Dark Magic

By The Colonel

If you haven't noticed, *Hellsing* is actually a really good series, especially for those who like dark action drama. Watching it made me curious about who Alucard is and about the magic used in the series. Actually, the name might better be translated as Alucard, for obvious vampire related reasons. I didn't realize it at first, until I saw it written forward and then backward. I might be slow, but at least I write articles. The implications are intentional, as we will find out soon. The Manga adds more to this than the Anime, portraying an alternate to Bram Stoker's version in a flashback to Alucard's capture by Abraham von Hellsing.

However, the more intangible aspect of the series is the sigil on his gloves and the incantation he uses before going into a fight. He uses the phrase "releasing control art restrictions to level ..." and then he states some level. This level, like the length of his hair and the opacity of his glasses, reveals just how serious Alucard is going to take the battle. Sometimes, even the sigil on his gloves can be seen to glow. The question is, what is Alucard doing when he releases control art restrictions and what does that have to do with the sigil on his gloves?

Remember that Integra's family was familiar with dark magic and someone, maybe her father, bound Alucard to the Hellsing family. It seems obvious then that Alucard is bound by some control art derived from dark magic such as a rite of domination. However, that would not seem to fit with the fact that Alucard can release the restrictions placed on him. It must mean that the restrictions were meant to be temporarily released so that Alucard can fight unhindered. That would still have allowed a Hellsing to have the final say, in case of emergency. Think of it like a scram button. Unfortunately, that does not entirely explain the sigil.

A sigil can be used in conjunction with a rite of domination, which is used to gain control and authority over something. In this case, the sigil would be part of the magic binding Alucard to the Hellsing family. Remember that the sigil was on the door outside Alucard's cell. Before the door was open, it is obvious that Alucard could not fight or escape. Once the door was opened, breaking the symbol, Alucard was free to fight. With the symbol also on his gloves, it still restricts him. So why would he wear the gloves? Often a sigil is a mark designating access to vast power. So the sigil on Alucard's gloves is also a focus for the magical power that he uses, making it a kind of catch 22. Both his bond to his magical powers and his bond to the Hellsing family are symbolized by the sigil.

The extent of the binding on Alucard can be seen when he leaves the fight with Incognito to save Integra. Letting Integra die could have freed Alucard from his bonds. This devotion makes Alucard the great achievement of the Hellsing family. An extremely powerful vampire completely bound to a mortal. It also makes for some great Anime.

Next time: the merits of the preview segment – the humor laced tangents.



I'd run to church at this point.

Who is that Masked Man?

Who is that masked man? One of Japan's newest politicians.

A professional wrestler who fought his way to victory in local assembly elections under his ring name and wearing his trademark mask has vowed the mask will not leave his face even after he enters the staid halls of Japanese politics.

"This is my face," the wrestler — known as "The Great Sasuke" — was quoted by the Nikkan Sports newspaper as saying of his black and white full-face mask with bright scarlet streaks and golden wings by the eye holes.

"I won support from voters with this face, and to take it off would be breaking promises," the 33-year-old wrestler, whose real name is Masanori Murakawa, said of his victory in conservative Iwate prefecture, some 460 km (290 miles) north of Tokyo.

Catching opponents on the back foot to take one of 10 assembly seats, the wrestler said he now hopes to demonstrate his "superabundant power" outside of the ring as well as in it.

Sasuke's vow to go masked into the halls of power in Japan, where battles have been fought in the past over legislators refusing to don neckties, has authorities scratching their heads.

"There is no law specifically forbidding it," one Iwate prefectural official was quoted by Nikkan Sports as saying. "But now that he has won, we must look into the issue."

In a sign, perhaps, that the rough-and-tumble world of politics may prove more bruising than expected, Sasuke was forced to limp his way up to the polling box with one ankle in a cast.

He attributed the injury to stumbling over a curb during the election campaign.

Source: www.reuters.com



The Great Sasuke is no slouch on foreign affairs: "War? Why not just put Saddam Hussein in a giant headlock, tomodachi?"



An actual picture of the club's manga collection (not all of it could fit on camera)!

Like Manga? We know you do, so come to Manga Club, Wednesdays at 8 PM in the Big Red Barn!

Guess what Crazy Steve's cooking? Come to concessions in the back to find out (and buy some yummy pocky while you're there)!



Chickens were harmed in the making of this photograph. They tasted like chicken.

Newsletter Movie

Producer: Tommy Mastrangelo

Director: Andrew Gould

Stuntpeople: Amanda! and Sarah, The Colonel

Announcements

Visit Sam Goody's in Collegetown and flash your CJAS membership card for 10% off all Anime-related goods!

Come to E-board at 5 PM on Fridays in Goldwin Smith 160-something.

Spring Marathon: May 3rd, Goldwin Smith D (that's this room) from Noon til Midnight!

Congratulations to next year's CJAS officers:

President - Damien Ragsdale
Secretary - Sarah Dunlap
Treasurer - Eric Neuberger
Archivist - John Thacker