



# Anime Explosion!: The What? Why? and Wow! of Japanese Animation, Revised and Updated Edition

By Patrick Drazen

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"An excellent reference work on the subject."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

For fans, culture watchers, and perplexed outsiders, this expanded edition offers an engaging tour of the anime megaverse, from older artistic traditions to the works of modern creators like Hayao Miyazaki, Katsuhiro Otomo, Satoshi Kon, and CLAMP. Examined are all of anime's major themes, styles, and conventions, plus the familiar tropes of giant robots, samurai, furry beasts, high school heroines, and gay/girl/fanboy love. Concluding are fifteen essays on favorite anime, including *Evangelion*, *Escaflowne*, *Sailor Moon*, *Patlabor*, and *Fullmetal Alchemist*.

**Patrick Drazen** is an anime historian who lives in Bloomington–Normal, Illinois.

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### **Editorial Review**

Review

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"A popular study of the Japanese genre of anime teaches a great deal about the art form and about Japanese culture in general—and how cultural themes reverberate through popular media."—**Anthropology Review Database**

"**The perfect introduction for any new to the idea of anime...**"—**The Midwest Book Review** (D. Donovan, Editor & Senior Reviewer, California Bookwatch)

About the Author

Patrick Drazen has presented at the 2004 Schoolgirls and Mobilesuits, at Yaoi-Con in 2002, at the 2006 Cherry Blossom Festival Anime Marathon at the Freer Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, and for several years at Anime Central in Chicago. He's been at anime conventions in Columbus, Indianapolis, and Peoria, and gave a talk on anime based on western literature at his alma mater Illinois Wesleyan University for Homecoming 2012. He also gave talks about anime at Mayor Daley's Book Club, an annual literacy festival for local authors. He's written articles on anime for *Animation* magazine and the British magazine *SFX*, on manga for *Time Out New York*, sits on the Editorial Board for *Mechademia* journal, and participated in a panel discussion in 2006 with Gundam creator Yoshiyuki Tomino as part of the Chicago International Film Festival. Drazen has an extensive anime collection, from Betamax to DVD, and his presentations have touched on Japanese folklore in modern anime, same-sex relationships, and the fluid nature of heroes and villains in anime.

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**Hilda Dumas:**

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