



BABES AND RAGING ROBOTS

JINKI: EXTEND - VOLUME 1

5 episodes, 125 minutes, ADV Films

Tsuzaki Aoba is a teenage girl who enjoys staying in her room and building plastic robots.

Life was going good until her caretaker (her grandmother) passed away and all of a sudden, she is kidnapped by men dressed like women and carted away to some hangar.

While escaping, she discovers a giant robot and to escape from her

kidnappers, Aoba decides to hide inside the robot.

As much as it is a dream to see a real robot, let alone one that is several stories high, she is more excited to watch two men pilot the robot and go into battle with another.

Enter the world of ANGEL, an elite fighting force which pits its Jinki robot versus ancient Jinki.

With Aoba's fascination of robots, her passion for them gets her recruited into the fighting force but

she then learns the truth of why she was kidnapped and who is behind ANGEL.

Directed by Murata Mazahiko (Gilgamesh, Mazinkaiser), Jinki: Extend is about young women who have uncanny talent and ability to become Jinki pilots and save the world.

We were able to watch the two preview episodes provided to us by ADV Films and the first episode is more of an introduction to the characters and the robots and the second episode deals with Aoba learning who is behind ANGEL.

The special features include a character relationship chart, text interview with Orikasa Fumiko (who plays Aoba in Japan), video interview with Orikasa Fumiko, Takekawa Takuma (Ryohei) and Wakabayashi Kazuhiro (sound director), glossary of terms, Venezuela location notes, clean and closing themes and on air opening and closing.

Although girls who pilot mecha and try to save the world may be a storyline that may have been done many times before for Japanese animation, the storyline does focus on different girls from different geographical locations who pilot the Jinki and features many humorous situations that makes me interested in it.

With three volumes planned (twelve episodes total), I look forward to seeing how this anime develops.

The DVD will be available on September 5th.

- DENNIS A. AMITH