



IS THIS THE REAL LIFE? IS THIS JUST FANTASY?
Welcome to Cromartie High School, where the meanest and dumbest students are sent to do time! *by Dennis A. Amith*

CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL

Each episode is 12 min. each. Rel. 3/05 (ADV Films)

UNIQUE! My goodness, have I waited for a unique anime to come my way for many years. And it's finally here!

"Cromartie High School" is an anime that aired on television back in 2003 in Japan under the name "Sakikage! Cromartie High" and is based on a Kodansha Manga Award winning manga series by Eiji Nonaka.

Basically, a gag manga serialized in the weekly Shounen Magazine, the manga series has won many fans for it's over-the-top, bizarre humor and is planned to make its way into the U.S. on March 2nd, two weeks before the anime DVD release by ADV Films.

I had the opportunity to watch four episodes (each episode is 12 minutes long) and I was just amazed and awed by the story line because it's bizarre, and I mean that in a good way!

"Cromartie High School" is about a school which consists of the roughest, dumbest and bizarre students around.

Among these students is Takashi Kamiyama, who seems to be a student out of place in Cromartie High School.

A honors student through Junior High School, he was placed in Cromartie High School for some reason.

He adapts to the lifestyle of students around the school and writes about his adventures to his mother constantly but what makes him fit in at Cromartie High School that the other students fear about him is the

unknown. Why is a normal person attending Cromartie High School?

The first episode introduces several of the key characters of Cromartie High (which includes the roughest students such as a student who likes to eat pencils, a student that most of the school can't figure out that he's a robot and a student who looks similar to Queen's Freddie Mercury and is given the nickname Freddie) and how Takashi fits in with the crowd.

The second episode features Cromartie High School's most unusual but the student that Cromartie's students look up to the most, Mechazawa.

A robot that students think is an unusual/special human being.

Takashi and friend Shinjiro Hayashida (who sports a purple mohawk) wonder if people will ever ask him if he's a robot but it appears that no one has figured that out yet.

These are just two examples of the zany story lines of "Cromartie High School" and they get even better and more bizarre in future episodes.

The animation is well done and switches to a manga style look to cool anime style that I find enjoyable.

The English voice dubbing for the characters of "Cromartie High School" was exceptionally well done.

Cromartie High School is definitely a winner!

With it's bizarre humor and unusual characters, I can't say enough that this is an anime that you should not miss! Also, a manga series that you should not miss.

So, if you want something different from what is out there, definitely give "Cromartie High School" a try. **A**