

MACROSS RETURNS!

MACROSS

150 minutes, TV PG, ADV Films

Sorry, if my excitement is a bit overbearing to some of you but when I received my review copy of "MACROSS", all I can say in a very loud voice was "FINALLY!"

Before I discuss the DVD, let me go through a brief introduction of why many fans of this series are excited.

Back in the early 1980's, many people were exposed to anime via *Voltron - Defend of the Universe* and *Robotech*.

Robotech was a very popular series but at the time not many people knew that it was a series that was fused from three other series (*Super Dimensional Fortress Macross*, *Genesis Climber Mospeada* and *Super Dimensional Fortress Calvary Southern*

Cross).

The *Robotech* series have been released several times in different forms ala VHS and DVD including a remastered edition from ADV Films with Harmony Gold.

In 2001, a DVD box set of *Macross* was previously released by AnimEigo in Japanese and subtitles but no English dubbed.

In 2005, ADV films announced that they will be producing *Macross* featuring uncut digitally restored video and a faithful English dub in 5.1 surround sound.

To make things much more interesting, Mari Iijima (who played Lynn Minmay in the original Japanese series) will be doing the voice for Lynn Minmay in the dubbed English version as well.

The main storyline of *Macross*

takes place in 2099. Ten years of furious conflict and frenzied construction have turned an alien wreck into a human triumph, the colossal space battleship *Macross*.

On the day of the ship's launch, the world waits for mankind's next giant leap. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to them is that a merciless warrior race known as the Zentradi known for the destruction and conquest of planets have Earth in its sights.

When long-dormant systems aboard the *Macross* suddenly fires upon the alien fleet, the ship meant to preserve humanity may become its undoing. This leads to the war between the Earthlings versus the Zentradi.

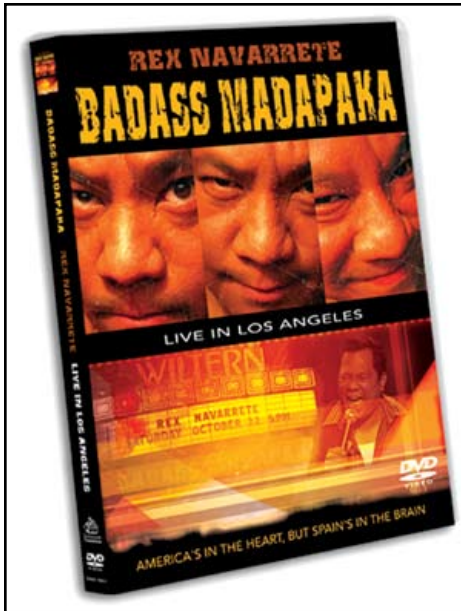
As I watched a preview DVD, I was amazed of how good the anime looks despite being over 20 years old. And for audio, I was very impressed by the 5.1 mix and also the English dubbing. Very well done!

Of course, for fans of the original Japanese dialogue with English subtitles, they are also available.

ADV Films plans on releasing a total of 7 volumes. The first will be around 150 minutes and is planned for release on January 10th.

I know that there are many fans who have purchased the many available forms of *Robotech* on VHS or DVD and possibly the previous *Macross* DVD Box sets but with digitally restored video, uncut and now with a very well done English dub ala 5.1, it's definitely worth picking up. Also, for the fact that Mari Iijima, the original Minmay doing the English dub is just amazing in itself. In my book this version of *Macross* is a must buy!

A+ —DENNIS A. AMITH



BADASS MADAPAKA

77 minutes, Kakarabaw Productions, Mature Language, not rated

Filipino-American comedian Rex Navarrete is back with his second DVD titled *BADASS MADAPAKA - LIVE IN LOS ANGELES*.

The first DVD release left me in tears because I couldn't stop laughing. The laughter continues on *BADASS MADAPAKA* which was filmed at the historic Wiltern LG Theater in the heart of Los Angeles.

The comedy concert DVD captures the life and times of the modern-day Filipino from California to Hawaii to the Philippines. Filmed over the span of a year, his stand-up takes a deep look at the Pinoy (male Filipino) take on travel, food, foreigners and even death.

Upon watching this DVD, the video and audio quality has improved. Especially with a 5.1 surround sound, giving you a feeling that you were watching the performance live.

Although the DVD does have a tendency to use Filipino terms and

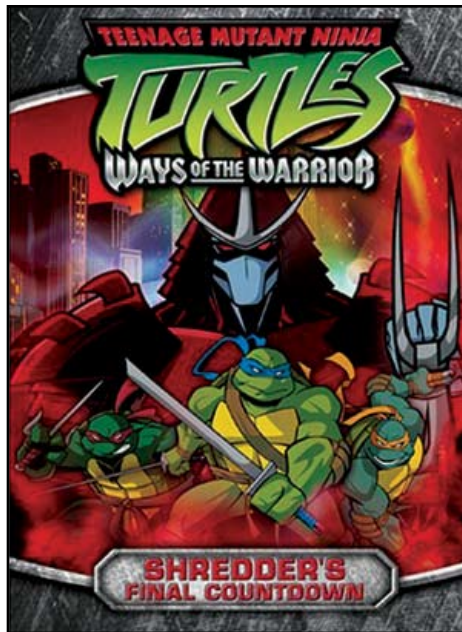
situations, for those who are not Filipino will not be lost with the dialogue.

Although the DVD is not rated, it does contain explicit language not suitable for young audiences.

The DVD also a featurette titled "Badass Madapaka Tour of the Pacific" featuring footage of Rex Navarrete in San Francisco, Hawaii and also the Philippines.

All in all, this DVD is a good representation of why Rex Navarrete has become the star comedian he is today with many sold out shows around the world, his show on MTV Philippines and an online show coming soon. The husky boy is in full force! Check it out!

A — DENNIS A. AMITH



TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: WAYS OF THE WARRIOR

Volume 3.4. 5 episodes, 110 minutes, TV Y, Funimation

I really haven't raved about an American action-oriented cartoon (that can be enjoyed by children and adults) since the 90's with

possibly *X-Men*, *Spider-Man* and *Batman*.

But I recently have been taking notes with the great writing for cartoons such as *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED* and *TEEN TITANS* and another one to add to this list is *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES*.

No, this is not the same (lame) Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that aired back in the 90's. This time around, it's much more action-oriented and also at times, serious in nature.

In the *TMNT: Ways of the Warrior* DVD featuring Shredder's Final Countdown, this is the DVD where it's an all out fight fest to the end between the Turtles and Shredder (for now).

I was a bit surprised with the the "EXODUS" storyline as Splinter and the turtles do what they can to stop Shredder by shooting him multiple times with arrows, using their weapons to injure him (ie. stabbing him with the sai's) and even seeing the Turtles actually getting hurt big time!

The show is definitely more character driven and perhaps even darker and using less of the "hey dude! I want to eat pizza" that clogged our television sets in teh 90's.

The DVD is quite simple with five episodes, trailers to other TMNT releases and that's pretty much it.

So, why get this DVD? Well, for one it's under \$10 and most of all to finally see Shredder getting his own personal butt kicking which was long overdue.

A — DENNIS A. AMITH