



RE-RELEASE OF A CLASSIC!

AREA 88 - ORIGINAL OAV SERIES

3 OAV episodes, 195 minutes, ADV Films

With the release of the new AREA 88 TV series on DVD from ADV Films, fans of the new TV series will now get an opportunity to watch the classic 1985 OAV series "AREA 88" scheduled for release on July 25, 2006.

The story of "AREA 88" revolves around a young pilot named Shin Kazama.

Life is going good. He has a good job with Yamato Air Lines and dating his boss' daughter and possibly may run the Yamato one day.

That was until his good friend Kanzaki gets Shin drunk and enlists him in the Aslam Foreign Legion.

A mercenary air legion somewhere in the desert with no escape unless you get enough kills to buy your way out, to survive until your

term is up or to escape, which the latter will more than likely end in death.

Throughout the OAV, you get to see the lives of the pilots and Shin doing whatever he can to make it out alive and get his revenge on Kanzaki who is now doing whatever he can to marry Shin's girlfriend.

But life in Area 88 is not going to be easy and with several kills left before earning his release, will Shin make it out alive?

Originally released as a four VHS set in the early 90's by US Manga Corps in Japanese with English subtitles, the OAV series were edited compilations from the older TV series.

During its early release, video gamers had the chance to experience "AREA 88" through the popular "UN Squadron" Super Nintendo video game.

In July 2006, ADV will be releasing classic as two feature length films (featuring OAV 1 and 2 as

one film and OAV 3 featuring the final two acts) with English dubs and special features.

Although I have only watched a preview version that featured only the first film, it is great to have the classic OAV's released in the US, especially for those who have been clamoring for the English dub version.

The special features are to include a "Introduction of the Fighters" and "Interview with Kaoru Shintani, the manga creator which the anime series is based from.

After watching the new anime TV series of "AREA 88", I have to admit that although I will always treasure the classic OAV series, with the TV series, you have character and storyline progressions and you get to feel more for the characters, including supporting characters and to see the men and women of "Area 88" doing what they can to survive and return home.

In the original series, with it being edited from the original TV series, the main focus is on Shin Kazama than the supporting characters.

Also, since it was created in 1985, some people may not like to revisit an anime OAV series that is over 20 years old.

But nevertheless, if you enjoyed the new television series or you watched the original and want to own this version, fans of "AREA 88" should definitely check this DVD out.

It's a definite classic!

- DENNIS A. AMITH