



THE RETURN OF THE GUYVER

GUYVER THE BIOBOOSTED ARMOR VOLUME 1 (DAYS OF FUTURE PAST)

4 episodes, 100 minutes, ADV Films, Rated: TV MA V

GUYVER is back! And this time with a new 26 episode anime series from ADV Films.

I have to say that “GUYVER” has been a major anime series among old school anime fans. We grew up watching the 12 episode OAV series and of course there were the two live movies but the manga story of “GUYVER” has been around a long time.

The series written by Yoshiki Takaya and started back in 1985 in “Shonen Captain” magazine is currently serialized in Kadokawa’s

Monthly Shonen Ace magazine over twenty years later.

The “GUYVER” series can be a bit complex for me to explain but to simplify things, two high school students Sho and Tetsuro discover a mysterious object which pretty much is being heavily sought by the Chronos Corporation. The object envelops Sho and transforms him into Guyver unit 1.

Chronos tries to get the unit back through evil means but standing in their way is Sho who uses the unit to protect and also in many instances, save his friends.

The anime series (12 episode OAV series) was released in the United States way back in the early 90’s and re-released by Manga Entertainment around 2001.

The new TV series is more closely

based on the manga and allows for more character development for Sho and also the people behind Chronos.

The series is known for its violence and although not as violent as “Hokuto no Ken” (Fist of the North Star), GUYVER does occasionally dismember its foe. But nevertheless, fans of this type of anime will enjoy “GUYVER”.

I did make a first episode comparison between the OAV and the current TV series and they are similar in some parts but quite different in terms of storytelling.

The new anime series doesn’t have the sketch/drawn style look that the original series (which many OAV’s from the 80’s tend to look like) had but it still looks very good, the voice acting in the new series is very well done and the story thus far is full of action and very exciting.

The DVD features the English dub ala 5.1 and the Japanese audio in 2.0.

The first volume comes with a 32-page booklet with interviews, production designs and character and Zoanoid info, a first episode commentary with Guyver fans Rod Peter and Jack Glauser, manga-to-anime comparison and the clean opening and ending themes.

As much as I enjoyed the OAV series, I definitely look forward to watching more of this series because it’s closely based with the manga series and i’m enjoying the character development. GUYVER fans should be very happy with this anime series.

The first volume of GUYVER will hit store shelves on November 14th.

I highly recommend this series. Plenty of action, violence and heck, it’s frakkin’ GUYVER! `nuff said.

A — DENNIS A. AMITH