



## SPRIGGAN: SPECIAL EDITION

2005, 90 minutes, RATED R (ADV Films)

### THE FIGHT FOR HUMANITY BEGINS HERE!

Back in 1998, “SPRIGGAN” was an anime hyped for its beautiful animation, based on a very successful manga series and of course, the people behind it.

“SPRIGGAN” was directed by first-time director Hirotsugu Kawasaki and supervised by Katsuhiro Otomo (the creator of “Akira”) and is based on a manga “Striker” by Chu Takasige and Ryoji Minagawa which appeared on the publication “Shonen Sunday”.

Suffice to say, the anime made headlines when there was a major bidding war over the rights to make the movie.

With Otomo and Kawasaki at the helm together with the animators of Studio 4°C, “SPRIGGAN” was a film to utilize traditional cel animation with computer animation which was very significant at the time.

As for the story behind “SPRIGGAN”, at the top of the world, the ancient artifact known as Noah’s Ark has been uncovered.

It is said that the artifact elevates

its keeper to the status of a god or it can be used to eliminate mankind from the Earth in seconds.

The race is on as two secret organizations go to battle in their efforts to recover the lost artifact - one seeks to destroy it, and the other wants enslave the human race!

It is a battle between the half-human cyborgs versus the secret organization known as ARCAM and their elite agents, the Spriggan in an epic duel for the future of humanity.

The original DVD release of “SPRIGGAN” from ADV Films was back in 2001. In 2005, a special edition has been released which features a new DTS soundtrack, the original CD soundtrack and two audio commentaries. One by the ADR director and engineer, the other by two of the English voice actors (Chris Patton and Kelly Manison).

Without spoiling the anime for the curious, I will say that “SPRIGGAN” is definitely action oriented.

The animation is very well done, the voice acting is very well done

and the DTS soundtrack for the English version is awesome! The video is 1:1:85 aspect ratio and anamorphic widescreen.

As much as I love “SPRIGGAN”, I feel that there are problems with this special edition release.

The inclusion of the CD soundtrack for “SPRIGGAN” is great because the music for the film is awesome. But there is a problem.

Although the back of the CD soundtrack lists 20 tracks, there are actually 27 tracks and unfortunately the 7 remaining tracks are not listed. No worry, if you were to put your CD in your computer, you can get the remaining track titles via Cddb.

And for a major release, there’s a typo on the DVD features listing.

But the one thing that made me knock the rating down to a B+ from an A was that the original 2001 DVD release of “SPRIGGAN” featured really cool animated interactive menus, video portfolios of the character designs, vehicles and equipment, key backgrounds which are now all gone in this special edition release.

Granted, for those who never purchased the 2001 release would probably never know but for those of us “SPRIGGAN” fans who do know, those special features from the original release was a major addition that really made the DVD a complete package and if included with the special edition, would have made it the ultimate.

But all-in-all, aside from that, you still get a spankin’ new look at “SPRIGGAN” with that DTS soundtrack. It sounded great via digital 5.1 several years ago but sounds so awesome now.

I highly recommend checking “SPRIGGAN” out! The experience is definitely worth it!

— DENNIS A. AMITH

REVIEW GRADE

**B+**