



**LET'S GO VOLTRON FORCE!**

**VOLTRON: DEFENDER OF THE UNIVERSE VOLUME 1 (BLUE LION) COLLECTORS EDITION**

15 episodes, 375 minutes, World Events Productions, Ltd./Anime Works

The mighty lions are back with a digitally restored DVD release of Voltron: Defender of the Universe.

In the early 80's many Americans had their first major share of anime. First with Robotech (three animated series: "The Super Dimension Fortress Macross", "Super Dimension

Cavalry Southern Cross" and "Genesis Climber Mospeada" all fused into one anime) and in 1984, my personal favorite was Voltron, Defender of the Universe (created from two animated series: "Hyaku Juu Oh Golion" and "Kiko Kantai Dairugger XV").

Unlike Robotech, Voltron keeps about 90% of its original animation but Japanese, religious, sexual and violent references have been removed.

Most mecha anime shows from Japan tend to feature major violence (death, being trampled or some death

by the enemy) but with strict rules on American television, all mecha animated series had the violence removed.

Also, having its own music and also in the history books as the first show to feature Dolby Stereo during that time.

But what made Voltron such a hit (the animated series held over 60% in viewership for households) was its awesome storyline and very good voice acting.

The series focused on a group of space explorers who come upon a planet being attacked by the evil Zarkon and his empire. Upon being captured, the explorers manage to escape but in time of crisis, they come in contact with Voltron. And this leads to a battle between Voltron controlled by the space explorers and a princess and the evil Zarkon empire.

So, here we are in 2006 and the Voltron looks and sounds better with a digital remaster for the video and audio in digital 5.1.

The Collector's Edition features a tin case of the blue lion and special features include the original pilot: The Voltron Trilogy (which introduces the three Voltron), staff interviews (the original staff behind the 80's release), making of the DVD's and episode synopsis with original airdates.

This release is just the ultimate release that fans have been wanting. If there was anything I could of wanted was to see an original subtitled Japanese version of "Hyaku Juu Oh Golion" but that is asking too much.

This is the ultimate release and I can't wait for the next volume and I can only hope the other Voltron series (featuring Galaxy Garrison and its 15-member team) will be released in the United States and also receive the same treatment.

Highly recommended!

**A+** — DENNIS A. AMITH