

MACROSS

DISC 3, EPISODES 9-12



Episode 9 - "Miss Macross" (October 2009)

MBS isn't just an acronym for Macross Broadcast System, but also one for Mainichi Broadcast System (Mainichi Hoozoo) -- the network affiliated with the Tokyo Hoozoo that originally aired the Macross TV series.

The designer of the Fanliner prize in the Miss Macross Contest is Ikki Takemi -- a repronounced anagram of Macross mechanical designer Miyatake Kazutaka.

Kawamori Shoji considers this episode to be one of the most important, even quintessential, episode of Macross. He laughingly notes that the focus on Minmay proves she's no ordinary girl. The creators also debut the Armored Valkyrie -- if only because it hardly appears in any other episodes.

Episode 10 - "The Blind Game" (October 2009)

The creators named Minmay's singing instructor and composer Kent Flyer after the Macross music composer Haneda Kentaroh. (Haneda is also the name of the domestic airport serving Tokyo, and its kanji literally means "feather field.")

Note the "Entrprise" (sic) onscreen reference, the first of several Star Trek references by Studio Nue, who are avowed science fiction fans.

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PH TORP HIT ON ENTRPRISE
      AT 8-31
COMPUTER DAMAGED 09
YEARS TO REPAIR
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QUADRANT 3-4          SECTOR
                      1 YEARS
                      2 STARDATE
                      3 [CONDITION]
      K =             K 4 SHIELD
                      5 ENERGY
                      6
                      7 AVAIL
      E =             = 8 PH TORP
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8     KLINGONS
                      BASES
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KLINGON AT 4-7
217 UNIT HIT ON ENTERPRISE
COMMAND?
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This is a partial copy of a screen from one of the earliest computer games, "Star Trek", originally written by Mike Mayfield in 1972; it spawned dozens of variants on all sorts of minicomputers, timesharing systems, and early personal computers.

The hapless pilot of Misa's Cat's Eye reconnaissance craft is "S/Sgt H. Iwata" -- not incidentally, Iwata Hiroshi is a Macross series producer from the contractor studio Anime Friend.

According to Kawamori Shoji, this episode raises the level of Hikaru and Misa's relationship and develops Misa's character in particular. The creators also wanted to expose Britai to the deep vacuum of space to counter the popular notions people have of space.

Writer Arthur C. Clarke and director Stanley Kubrick also tried to dispell the popular misconceptions about people in vacuum with the famous unprotected spacewalk scene in 2001: A Space Odyssey. Kawamori has always professed admiration for the late director and his film 2001 in particular.

Basically, when you're dumped into a vacuum, you don't explode, and your blood doesn't boil (at least, not at first). Instead, since you can't hold your breath against the pressure differential, the air in your lungs rapidly escapes (bad), and then the difference in oxygen concentration between the now airless lung cavity (no oxygen) and the blood (lots of it) causes the oxygen to rapidly diffuse out of the blood, into the lungs, and thence to space. You black out in a few seconds.

Episode 11 - "First Contact" (November 2009)

The Zentraedi video screens contains some of the first instances of written Zentraedi -- even though it was not an actual language at the time, but simply Japanese or English words written in code. Designer Miyatake Kazutaka developed the Zentraedi "alphabet" to hide references in the alien text.

It may not have been immediately obvious, but the stall in which Max does his impromptu costume change contains the Zentraedi equivalent of a toilet.

Kawamori Shoji considers this episode the "big turning point" and culmination of all the plot setup to date. Even as Minmay debuts as a singer, the story is actually shifting towards Hikaru and Misa instead. Kawamori notes that the creators have been foreshadowing this story twist, but isn't surprised if people are still caught offguard.

The creators also saw this episode as their much-anticipated opportunity to explore the time-honored science-fiction theme of first contact.

Episode 12 - "The Big Escape" (November 2009)

Some Japanese fans half-jokingly suggest that Hikaru must come from the Kansai region of Japan for saying, "Aho ka?" in this episode. The Kansai region, centered around Osaka, is the second-largest urban area in Japan after Tokyo's Kanto region, and it's known for its rougher, more colorful language and cultural idiosyncracies. "Aho" is a slang word, mostly used in the Kansai region, that is roughly equivalent to how "baka" ("idiot") is used in "standard" Japanese. AnimEigo has traditionally translated the "Osaka-ben" dialect into "Southern" English.

Kawamori Shoji notes that Hikaru's perception of Misa changes when he sees her show signs of vulnerability. The creators considered having an encounter between Max and the giant Milia if they had more time to develop subplots.

“Watashi no kare wa Pilot”

(My Boyfriend is a Pilot)

Performed by: Iijima Mari

Music / Arrangement: Haneda Kentarou

Lyrics: Asa Akane

Whoosh, whoosh! Whoosh, whoosh!
My boyfriend is a pilot.

Kyuun kyuun kyuun kyuun
Watashi no kare wa pailotto

Shining and making a rapid descent...
The jet engine going BOOM, a rapid ascent,
As it makes a long tail of jet stream cloud.
Two hearts come together.
It's a love sign in the big blue sky.

Kirari hikatte kyuukouka
Gotto fukashite kyuujoyoushou
Nagaku ookiku hikoukigumo de
Ookina haato ga kasanete futatsu
Aoi aozora labusain

“I love you, you love me?”
But he's head over heels
For his plane, instead of me.

I love you, you love me?
Dakedo karettara watashi yori
Jibun no hikouki ni onetsu nano

Whoosh, whoosh! Whoosh, whoosh!
My boyfriend is a pilot.

Kyuun kyuun kyuun kyuun
Watashi no kare wa pailotto