

MACROSS

DISC 1, EPISODES 1-4

Episode 1 - "Booby Trap" (July 17, 1999-February 7, 2009)

When the series debuted in 1982, the creators deliberately inserted no scenes of Hikaru in a Valkyrie cockpit into the opening, and only one fleeting shot of the Valkyrie in Battroid mode, substituting other shots in order to keep the Valkyrie's transformation and Hikaru's exploits a surprise until the very end of the episode. (After the debut broadcast, the standard opening animation that's on this DVD release was used instead.) A similar shot substitution was used in the first episode of Macross 7 to conceal another plot surprise.

As the camera pans across Roy Fokker's air show audience in the beginning of the episode, watch for the gaunt, dark-toned, mouth-gaping man in the back. He's the caricature of Macross creator Kawamori Shoji, as drawn by his old school friend and character designer Mikimoto Haruhiko. Kawamori was notorious for his aviation fan roots, noticeably dark complexion, and (at the time) disheveled appearance.

If the color scheme of the Valkyrie aerobatic team seems odd, imagine each fighter in Battroid mode. The creators designed the Angelbirds team colors to look like a Japanese schoolgirl sailor uniform -- navy blue skirt, red knotted hankerchief, and all. "Angelbirds" is a play on the US Navy Blue Angels and US Army Thunderbirds demonstration teams.

During Hikaru's flashback to Fokker's stunt-piloting days, look for "Kawamori" and "Haru/Hal" etched on the Fokker D.VIII replica turboprop biplane. At the time Macross was filmed, Mikimoto would sign his name as "Hal".

Among the many buildings that Hikaru demolishes at the end of the episode are Studio Nue, Artland, and the subcontractor Anime Friend -- three of the studios behind Macross. A "nue" is a chimera-like creature in Japanese mythology, and the Studio Nue logo on the building was penned by studio co-founder and mechanical designer Miyatake Kazutaka. (Oh, and also watch for Hikaru's infamous first "kill".)

Kawamori Shoji considers the first encounter between Misa and Hikaru as a major (but not only) plot point for the first episode. The creators also presented the characters and the bridge scene to emphasize that Macross is *"not"* a serious war story."

Episode 2 - "Countdown" (February 7, 2009)

The neighborhood urchin is Yoshio, affectionately known as "Yotchan" by his elders. His parents run the Japanese noodle shop near the Linn family's Nyan-Nyan Chinese restaurant.

After dealing with the first wave of fighter pods, Major Fokker radioes "Skull Leader to Gunsight One." Gunsight, besides being the tactical codename for the bridge of the SDF-1 Macross, also happens to be the fanzine title of the Gundam fan club that creator Kawamori Shoji, character designer Mikimoto Haruhiko, and writer Oonogi Hiroshi (Member #1, #2, and #3) founded while at Keio University.

When Macross debuted in October of 1982 in Tokyo's Kanto region, the first two episodes were broadcast as a one-hour "Macross Special." That debut broadcast had a unique eyecatch commercial bumper and ending animation of Hikaru's fanracer that are not used in later episodes.

This DVD release contains the final version of the first two episodes, which includes the episode 2 preview that didn't air in the debut broadcast.

Kawamori Shoji says that, compared to the first episode, the second episode's focus is the first meeting between Hikaru and Minmay. In this almost random encounter, the creators wanted to show that Minmay is an typical girl -- just without a typical mindset.

Episode 3 - "Space Fold" (February 7, 2009)

The standard ending animation first debuted with this episode in 1982, although it is used for all episodes after the first broadcast as well as in this DVD release. Mikimoto drew the characters in Minmay's photo album by hand, and the creators composited them with photographs Mikimoto and Kawamori snapped all over Shinjuku and Harajuku in Tokyo. The helmet is an antique American Navy helmet the Studio Nue creators owned, while the entire live-action footage was shot in Artland's courtyard. (In case you were wondering, the page-turning hand was courtesy of a Tatsunoko Production employee.)

Kawamori Shoji notes this episode sets up the city that will be built aboard the Macross.

Episode 4 - "Lynn Minmay" (February 2009)

The song that Minmay hums while showering was not made for Macross itself, but was written and composed by Minmay's voice actress herself. "Marin" can be found on Rosé, Iijima Mari's debut solo album.

The first song Minmay ever sings (while she and Hikaru are resting for the "night") is "Cinderella" -- also written and composed by Iijima Mari herself. In fact, this is one of the songs that reportedly won Iijima Mari her casting audition in a real-life parallel (for she was the only Minmay candidate that not only sang but wrote her own songs).

Kawamori Shoji says Hikaru and Minmay are presented as the main leads in this episode. The creators also wanted to present episodes with no battles.

“Makurosu” (Macross)

Performed by Fujiwara Makoto

Music / Arrangement: Haneda Kentarou

Lyrics: Asa Akane

Piercing through the mighty sky,
A thunderbolt strikes the Earth.
To awaken us, the young mankind,
So struck the Light.

Makuro no sora wo tsuranuite
Chikyuu wo utta ikazuchi wa
Warera osanai jinrui ni
Mezametekureto hanatareta

Macross! Macross!

Makurosu Makurosu

The brave youths who arise
Fight to protect their loved ones

Ooshiku tatta wakamono wa
Aisuru hito wo kabaitsustu

All through the days of their voyage
As the war rages on.

Tabidatsu hibi wo
Tatakai hiraku

“Will you love me tomorrow?”

“Will You Love Me Tomorrow?”

Slashing through the Darkness,
Their destination is
The blue planet, shining in the distance.

Yami wo kirisaki
Tobiyuku saki wa
Tooku kagayaku aoi hoshi

Macross! Macross...! Macross!

Makurosu Makurosu Makurosu

To the Darkness far beyond the stars,
Taking along the children of the universe,
The Arrow of Fate shoots off
To seek an end to the timeless war.

Uchuu no ko ra wo hikitsurete
Hoshi no kanata no yami no naka
Mansen ni tsuzuku tatakai wo
Mezashite tonda sadame no ya

Macross! Macross!

Makurosu Makurosu

Vermillion rays of sunlight and lullabies...
The sleeping newborn and mother's breast...
Heroes fight to protect their loved ones.

Awai hizashi to komoriuta
Akago no nemuri haha no mune
Ai suru hibi wo tatakaimamoru

“Will you love me tomorrow?”

“Will You Love Me Tomorrow?”

Slashing through the Darkness,
the beam of light extends.
Will there be a day when it will fade away?

Yami wo kirisaki
nobi yuku hikari
Kagayakimichiru hi wa itsu ka

Macross! Macross...!
Macross!

Makurosu Makurosu
Makurosu

Ending Song: “Runner”

Lyrics: Asa Akane

Music/Arrangement: Haneda Kentarou

Performed by: Fujiwara Makoto, Iijima Mari (Episode 36 and Wedding Version)

I won't follow where you go anymore,
as you run away casting your shadow.
We all keep on running 'til the end;
until we reach the goal.

Boku wa mou oikake wa shinai
Kimi no hashiru kage no ato
Hito wa dare mo hashiritsuzukeru
Goal wa mada mienai

What lies there for me after today?
What lies there for me after tomorrow?

Kyou no tsugi ni nani ga aru
Asu no saki ni nani ga aru

I will keep on running
towards the light that shines far in the distance.

Haruka kanata no hikari ni mukete
Boku wa ima mo hashiritsuzukeru

I won't be lost anymore,
as I've chosen to walk my own path.
We all keep on running 'til the end
even if the goal is far away.

Boku wa mou mayoi wa shinai
Jibun no michi wo ayumudake
Hito wa dare mo hashiritsuzukeru
Goal wa tooi keredo

Among the days that leave today behind,
I'll be glad if tomorrow comes.
I will keep on running
towards the light that shines far in the distance.

Kyou wo sugisaru hibi no naka
Asu to iu hi ga kureba ii
Haruka kanata no hikari ni mukete
Boku wa ima mo hashiritsuzukeru

I won't stop running anymore,
as we'll one day meet again.
We all keep on running 'til the end
even if the goal is not in sight.

Boku wa mou tomari wa shinai
Itsuka deau toki mo aru
Hito wa daremo hashiritsuzukeru
Goal wa mienakedo

The bright future shines
in the hopeful day that is tomorrow.
I will keep on running
towards the light that shines far in the distance.

Asu to iu na no kibou no hi
Mirai to iu na no kagayaki ga
Haruka kanata no hikari ni mukete
Boku wa ima mo hashiritsuzukeru