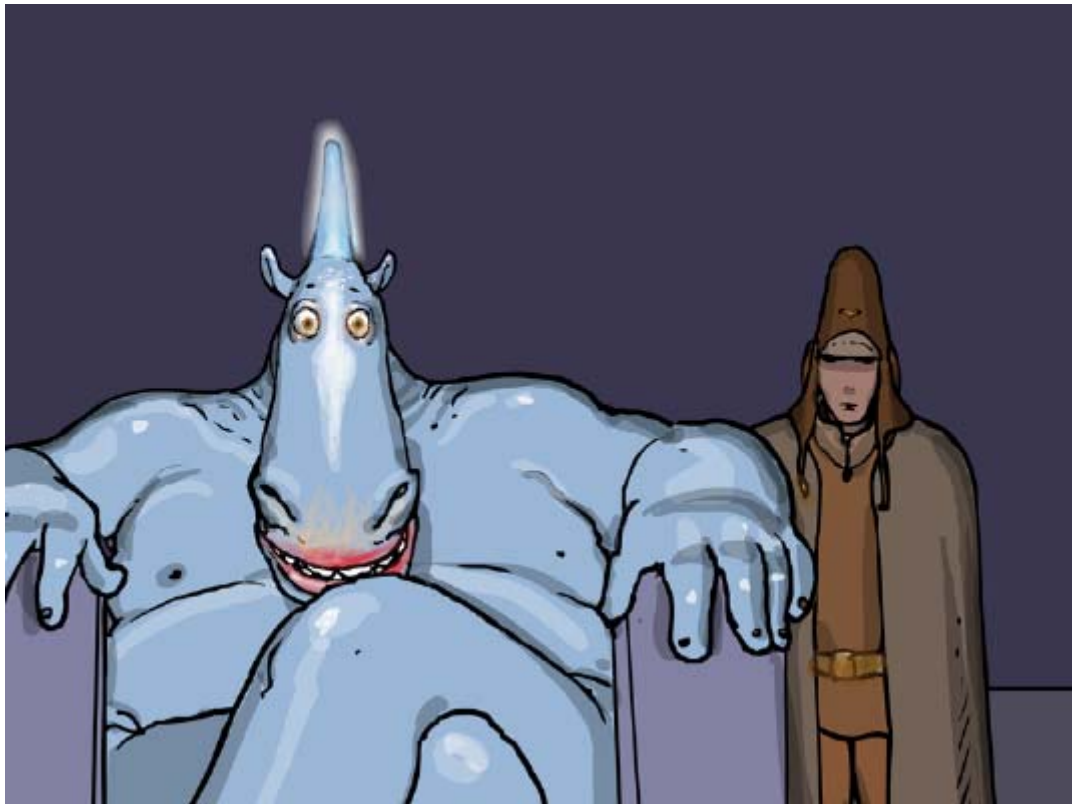


ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA

2700 W Anderson Lane & 409 B Colorado Street - www.drafthouse.com - (512) 476-1520 - (650) 839-7663 fax



ANIME AT THE ALAMO: APRIL/MAY

FEATURING THE REGIONAL PREMIERE OF
MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM: CHAR'S
COUNTERATTACK

and THE THEATRICAL WORLD PREMIERE of JEAN
"MOEBIUS" GIRAUD'S
ARZAK RHAPSODY

A DIFFERENT ANIME EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:45PM
AT THE ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA DOWNTOWN
409 COLORADO ST., AUSTIN, TX

info and tix: www.drafthouse.com

NOTE: BOTH GUNDAM and ARZAK RHAPSODY will start a regular first-run at ALAMO VILLAGE following their respective Premieres at the ALAMO DOWNTOWN

APRIL 6, 9:45pm:

ADV presents

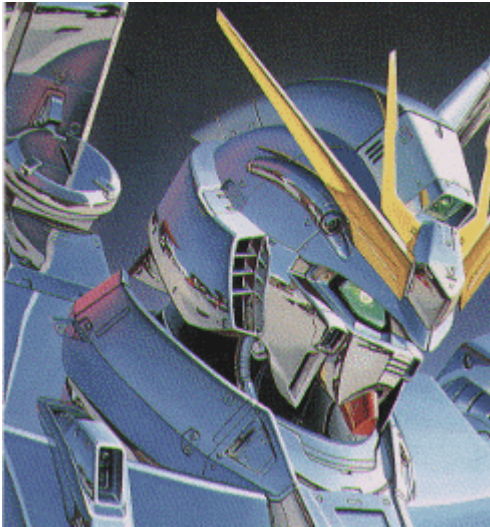
PUNI PUNI POEMI

DVD RELEASE PARTY!

D. Shinichi Watanabe 2001 2 episodes - total runtime 60 min.

In the tradition of *Excel Saga*, and sporting the same crew, this raunchy spinoff follows the adventures of hyperactive Poemi, who transforms into a costumed magical-girl superhero to fight conquering aliens. "As a spin-off of the cult favorite [Excel Saga](#) (Puni Puni Poemi was a fictional television show in the Excel universe), *Puni Puni Poemi* retains much of the same method of madness that was made famous by its predecessor, thanks in large part to the maniacal genius that is director Watanabe Shinichi (Nabeshin to his fans). If you revel in comedy that takes no prisoners and promises to offend the weak-hearted, then this anime is your perfect match." (*Anime Academy*)

A local retailer will be on hand after the show with DVDs for sale in the lobby!



APRIL 13, 9:45pm:

AUSTIN PREMIERE!

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM: CHAR'S COUNTERATTACK

1988, D. Yoshiyuki Tomino, Japanese w/ English Subtitles

IN GLORIOUS 35mm film!!!

Set 13 years after the original MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM, CHAR'S COUNTERATTACK brings the epic rivalry between Char Aznable and Amuro Ray to a close. In UC 0093, a new Zeon army has

gained strength, led by the infamous Char Aznable, and has begun to threaten the Earth once more. Hoping to turn the Earth into a barren wasteland with nuclear weapons, the Neo Zeon army once again faces the Federation and its Nu Gundam mobile suit.

ALSO SCREENS APRIL 16-23 at ALAMO VILLAGE



APRIL 20, 9:45pm
OSEAM

D. Baek-yeob Seong, 2003 Korean w/ English Subtitles

"I've been crying for 77 minutes straight -- one of the most gruelling emotional experiences since GRAVE OF THE FIREFLIES."(online comments)

Based on a fairy tale by Korean writer Jeong Chae-bong, this is a tale about orphan boy Gilson and his blind sister Gami, who are taken care of by Buddhist monks at a temple. The drama unfolds as Gilson follows a monk up to a mountainside temple to learn more about the soul's eye, so he can teach it to his sister so that she can see the world again with her own eyes. Oseam makes its points not through visual extravagance, but through a technique of plot that is almost akin to method acting: where an accumulation of incident and detail, rather than a prefabricated plot, drive what we see. The ending of Oseam, one of the most shattering things I've seen in a movie, is made doubly astonishing by how the rest of the film never seems to be leading up to it.

APRIL 27, 9:45pm:

THEATRICAL WORLD PREMIERE!!!

ARZAK RHAPSODY

The Complete Series

D. Jean Giraud (Moebius) 2003 14 episodes total program length 56 min. Subtitled Unrated

Famous French artist Jean Giraud, better known by the name he adopted in the 60s - Moebius - has been a unique voice in illustration and production design for the last 40 years. A decade after his breakthrough western comic *Blueberry* (recently adapted to film by Jan Kouen, *Doberman*), he and a group of fellow French illustrators (including Philippe Druillet, who did

Jean Rollin's early movie-poster art) founded a magazine that would change comics forever. It was called *Metal Hurlant* - known in the US as *Heavy Metal*. He has since collaborated on comics with Alejandro Jodorowsky (*El Topo*) and done production design for films such as *Alien* and *The Fifth Element*. *Arzak Rhapsody* is a TV series based on his comic character Arzak, who first appeared in the debut issue of *Heavy Metal*. The series is comprised of 14 three-minute episodes that follow Arzak through a parallel world situated on the frontier of dreams and reality - a world that could only be born out of Moebius' fertile imagination. The first episode of *Arzak Rhapsody* premiered on France 2 in December of 2003, and the Alamo Drafthouse is proud to be the place chosen for the exclusive theatrical world premiere of the only animated series written, directed (and voice-acted!) by the legendary Moebius.
ALSO SCREENS APRIL 30-MAY 6 AT ALAMO VILLAGE

MAY 4, 9:45pm

WONDERFUL DAYS

D. Moon Saeng Kim 2003 90 min. Unrated

When the first hints of director Moon-Saeng Kim's *Wonderful Days* appeared earlier this year, I was mesmerized by the combination of CGI and traditional 2D animation. Having finally seen the feature, I can honestly say that the film surpassed even my high expectations. Though the main draw is certainly the film's gorgeous, lush animated visuals, I was surprised to find myself as drawn in by the film's plot and characters as I was by the sumptuous eye-candy. Reportedly the most expensive animated film in Korean history, *Wonderful Days* sets the bar to new heights, both for animation abroad, and in the West, as well.

By the year 2142, the Earth has been devastated by pollution; the once blue sky has been obscured behind thick black clouds. A self-sustaining city, dubbed ECOBAN, is created which draws upon the pollution for fuel. In theory, this should clear up the toxins, but greed takes hold of the city's inhabitants. They turn away masses of immigrants seeking to escape the pollution, who retreat to a city called Marr. The Marrians are put to work keeping ECOBAN in operation. As civil unrest among the Marrians seethes in the cities below, ECOBAN scientists conclude that in order for ECOBAN to survive, it will be necessary for them to perpetuate the toxic stew which provides the city with the energy and resources it needs to thrive. Working alongside the mysterious exiled ECOBAN scientist Dr. Noah, a resistance fighter named Shua breaks into the ECOBAN data core, stealing important data which details ECOBAN's predicament. As fate would have it, Shua encounters a lost childhood love named Jay, who has become a law-enforcement officer for ECOBAN. Jay must choose between her duty to ECOBAN and her feelings for Shua, while Shua struggles to thwart ECOBAN's plans and perhaps restore Earth's former beauty. Breathtaking in scope and emotional impact. (*Destroy All Monsters*)

MAY 11, 9:45pm:

PLEASE TEACHER! -- HOT FOR TEACHER

D. Yasunori Ide 2002 PG-13 100 min.

Witness the unique relationship between an 18-year old high school student, who has not aged in three years due to a coma that stunted his growth and a teacher whose possesses a secret that only this student knows -- she is an alien sent by the Galaxy Federation to observe the Earth. As the sole human being with knowledge of this secret, Kei Kusanagi, must marry this alien, Mizuho Kazami. Homework, dating and a gorgeous alien wife-going to school has never been quite this fun! "This series does something that most won't, it delves into the truths of a young romance and does an excellent job of showing the perceptions and drives of the people involved. My favorite romance-comedy anime." (*Armchair Empire*)

MAY 17, 9:45pm

MY LIFE AS MCDULL

D. Toe Yuen Hong Kong 2001 75min.

"After Chow Yun Fat and Stephen Chow, we are about to witness the arrival of a new icon from Hong Kong." (Pusan Film Festival)

Surprise winner of the FIPRESCI prize at the 26th Hong Kong International Film Festival (2002), the animated feature *My Life As McDull* will soon charm Austin audiences! Based on characters from a successful series of comic books by co-creators Alice Mak and Brian Tse, the film is told in voiceover by the mature McDull, a piglet in a world populated by both cute animals and humans. The narrative is constructed from several intertitled set pieces involving McDull's birth, education, and training as would-be Olympian, with excursions to his mother's TV cooking show, the Maldives, and other bits of whimsy. Musical accompaniment is provided by a series of adorably jovial nonsense songs set to ruminatively elegiac classical piano pieces by Schubert and Schumann. At the same time, McDull is delightfully funny and affectionately satirical. Its surface level "cuteness," however, sweetens a core of acidic bite. Mak is responsible for the original artwork, and the art design is continuously inventive. The photo-realistically animated cityscapes, saturated with remarkable detail, such as jauntily twirling cranes, are dazzling. Perhaps the most moving segment - on the life and death of a turkey - appears to have been simply drawn with pencil on craft paper, which only adds to its effectiveness. What's beautiful in the film, and surprising to discover, is the depth of creativity the filmmakers joyfully deploy in the play of different kinds of images. Moving from fantasy to reality, from a childhood saturated with freely self-deceiving invention to sober self-recognition, McDull's life is, by extension, Hong Kong's. McDull reveals itself to be the coming-of-age story of a little boy and a city that, under pressure from authority, invents identities, only to see them crumble when their contradictions become impossible to hide. The film, however, proposes that the task of maturity is to start anew, and to use disappointment as a springboard to a fresh beginning. For an animated piglet, a person approaching middle age, and a city in crisis, there is always work to be done, and it's never too late to start. (Shelly Kraicer)

Also features a very catchy song about pork buns!

MAY 25, 9:45pm:

SPACE TRAVELLERS

Suburban buddies Fujimoto, Takamura and Nishiyama are obsessed with the anime show "Space Travellers", about a group of heroic interplanetary explorers. Inspired by the program, they decide to rob the Cosmo Bank. But their simple plan turns into a drawn-out affair, when the trio are trapped in the bank overnight with a group of hostages. Slowly the hostages form a bond with the bank robbers, and together they hatch a scheme to dupe the police out of a large 'ransom.' A hilarious film that incorporates anime and incessant otaku references. Co-starring Academy Award-nominee Ken Watanabe.