

**METREON HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ANIME  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11**

***Metreon celebrates Japanese animation at third annual festival; events to include unveiling of expanded Bandai Shop and appearance by Astro Boy***

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 22, 2003) – Metreon—A Sony Entertainment Center presents the 3rd Annual Metreon Festival of Anime on **Saturday, October 11 from 10am-11pm**. The festival will offer an exciting line-up of the latest anime films, a preview of the newest products in Bandai America's expanded shop, panel discussions, and costume and model building contests.

This year's Metreon Festival of Anime features screenings from anime authority, Bandai Entertainment, like "Cowboy Bebop: The Movie" and "s-CRY-ed," and culminates with the haunting debut of "Witch Hunter Robin," which fans will experience in 4-D rumble seats. Festival goers can take part in activities hosted by Bandai Shop, including a Q&A panel and autograph session with Kari Wahlgren, the voice of 'Robin Sena' from "Witch Hunter Robin". The Festival will include a "Gundam" model building contest, and "Jagun Fighters" game demos, a new toy line that combines action figures with intricately crafted game pieces called Power Eye Stones. Chronicle Books will host a presentation by Academy Award-winning artist Doug Chiang, creator of "Robota."

Astro Boy - the classic icon of Japanese animation - will be making a special appearance to give a sneak peek at his new series coming to the Kids' WB! in early 2004. Astro Boy is the story of a robot boy in Metro City, a futuristic town inhabited by humans and robots alike. Astro is a reluctant hero, fighting for peace and justice for all the city's inhabitants against those seeking their destruction. The series is produced by Sony Pictures Entertainment Japan and Tezuka Productions, and distributed in the U.S. by Sony Pictures Television.

Just in time for the Festival, Bandai America and Bandai Entertainment will unveil their newly expanded store on Level Two of Metreon. The Bandai Shop is increasing its offering of anime DVD titles, like "Cowboy Bebop" and "Escaflowne", model kits, toys and collectibles from Gundam, the company's 24-year-old Japanese saga, as well as other favorite Bandai America properties, including Superior Defender, Power Rangers, and Strawberry Shortcake.

Tickets to Metreon Festival of Anime are \$15 and can be purchased online at [www.acteva.com/go/metreon](http://www.acteva.com/go/metreon). Price of admission includes entry to all film screenings in Action Theatre, workshops, guest appearances and tournaments, Metreon Festival of Anime lunch specials at In the Night Kitchen, a 1200-point gaming passport to Portal 1, \$2 drink specials and \$1 Pepsi products at the Metreon Festival of Anime after-party in Portal 1, and a Goodie Bag. The first 100 attendees will receive a "Witch Hunter Robin" theatrical poster.

For full event information, movie screening times and updates, visit [www.metreon.com/events](http://www.metreon.com/events).

**Metreon-A Sony Entertainment Center**

Metreon is the first-of-its-kind entertainment center located at Fourth and Mission streets in the heart of downtown San Francisco. This 350,000 square-foot "house that Sony built" features an eclectic mix of the Bay Area's best restaurants, shopping venues, theatres, and attractions, including the West Coast's largest IMAX theatre. Metreon is a business unit of Sony Corporation of America. For information about Metreon, please call (415) 369-6000 or visit [www.metreon.com](http://www.metreon.com).

Media Contact: Julia Konstantinovsky, Metreon  
(415) 369-6027  
[juliak@metreon.com](mailto:juliak@metreon.com)