



PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2015

This Year's Special Animation Program: **Mobile Suit Gundam**

The First-Ever Major Screening Occasion to Showcase the Monumental Works!

Following the last year's special screenings of "The World of Hideaki Anno" which gained huge popularity, this year, the 28th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) will continue to focus on Japanese animation, presenting a **special program of "Mobile Suit Gundam"**, a monumental work of robot animation.

This will be the first-ever major screening occasion to showcase the *Gundam* franchise as well as the first time in TIFF history that the festival will present special screening of animated works specific to a single series.



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It is nearly 35 years since the theatrical version of **Mobile Suit Gundam** was released. Numerous works, whose creators have publicly stated they were influenced by *Gundam*, have been worldwide big hits. One such work, the Guillermo del Toro-directed *Pacific Rim*, remains fresh in audiences' minds, and thus the influence of *Gundam* continues to reverberate throughout the world.

In addition to screening the memorable first theatrical-released film and the legend, **Mobile Suit Gundam** directed by Yoshiyuki TOMINO, the festival plans to screen a few dozen works of TV series episodes, other films released in theaters, and shorts that have very rarely appeared on the big screen. Befitting the first-ever major screening of *Gundam*, the franchise's creators—ranging from those in its early days to those of its latest installments—will appear on stage. Several other special events that would only be possible at this festival will be held.

Recently, creative works that are uniquely Japanese—as well as Japanese culture overall—have been the subject of much attention. *Gundam* is the grandfather of the animated robot genre that Japan is proud to have offered to the world. Through the presentation of this special animation program—which continues to have a profound effect on the way people in Japan perceive the future and outer space—the Tokyo International Film Festival will show the world the diversity that exists within Japanese culture and help to popularize the rich and complex charm of the country worldwide.

The festival has arranged a variety of events to allow as many visitors as possible to attend. These events will transform Tokyo into a place for celebrating film and culture!

The 28th TIFF will be held from October 22 to 31, 2015 at Roppongi Hills and other venues in Tokyo.

<http://www.tiff-jp.net>

The affiliated market, TIFFCOM 2015 (Japan Content Showcase 2015), will be held from October 20 to 22, 2015 at the GRAND PACIFIC LE DAIBA in the Tokyo Bay area.

For further information or inquiries, please contact:

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About: **Gundam**

The first work in the *Gundam* franchise, **Mobile Suit Gundam**, is set in the "Universal Century," when overpopulation has forced part of humanity to immigrate from Earth to Space. During a war for independence declared against the Earth Federation by the nation of space migrants, the "Principality of Zeon," a young boy, Amuro Ray, pilots the Federation's new weapon—the Gundam—and grows up in the heat of battle. The series features numerous characters with unique personalities, including Char of the Zeon army, who goes by the nom de guerre "The Red Comet." The famous lines said by these characters sparked conversations throughout Japan.

This animated TV series began broadcasting in April 1979. The show created a minor sensation, which transformed into a social phenomenon with the 1980 release of "Gunpla"—plastic models based on the franchise—and a trilogy of theatrical films from 1981. The appeal of **Mobile Suit Gundam**—the realistic near-future SF setting; the scenes of the human-piloted, humanoid-shaped "Mobile Suits" fighting; and a layered wartime human drama—enraptured countless fans, turning existing perceptions of animated works about robots on their head.

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Related Information

- ◇ The newest TV series "Mobile Suit Gundam: Blood and Iron Orphans", will be broadcasted on 28 stations MBS/TBS networks across Japan weekly, on Sundays at 5:00 pm from October 4.
- ◇ The newest theatrical OVA series "Mobile Suit Gundam The Origin II: Artesia's Sorrow", will be screened as a limited two-week event in 15 theaters throughout Japan from October 31.
- ◆ "The Art of Gundam," an exhibition on *Mobile Suit Gundam* at the Mori Arts Center Gallery (Event Dates: July 18-September 27, 2015)
- ◆ "Mechanic Designer Okawara Kunio Exhibition" at the Ueno Royal Museum (Event Dates: August 8-September 27, 2015)

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