



## FOUR PLAY

### CARTOON NETWORK ORCHESTRATES QUARTET OF ANIME MOVIE PREMIERES

**H**ate the hassle of smuggling candy into the movie theater? Cartoon Network has the answer. The station is premiering four—count 'em, four—anime films in 2005, including *Metropolis*, the *Cowboy Bebop* movie and two *Inuyasha* films.

"It's an opportunity to get high-level, exciting action into the block," says Sean Akins, creative director of Toonami. "These movies are usually the crown jewel presentations of the franchise."

New Year's Day sees the debut of Osamu Tezuka's masterpiece, *Metropolis*. In the futuristic city-state of Metropolis, life is paradise. But *Metropolis'* perfection comes from total exploitation of the robots and working humans.

Then double your pleasure with not one but two *Inuyasha* movies. It's unknown at this time which two of the four *Inuyasha* movies are scheduled for broadcast, but all signs point to the first two, *Affections Touching Across Time* and *The Castle Beyond the Looking Glass*, both of which will have premiered on DVD. *Affections Touching Across Time* deals with a menacing monster

named Menomaru who threatens the very fabric of life in feudal Japan. In *The Castle Beyond the Looking Glass*, our heroes finally defeat the demon Naraku...but, as with all things in the world of *Inuyasha*, he doesn't stay dead!

Last but not least, check out the critically acclaimed *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie*. After a biochemical attack on Mars leaves hundreds dead, Spike and his crew of bounty hunters are set to take down the culprit—and turn a hefty profit.

Cartoon Network is excited to bring such films to the American audience for the first time. "*Cowboy Bebop* and *Inuyasha* are two of our most popular anime series, and so picking up the movies when they became available was an easy decision," says Kim Manning, production coordinator of Adult Swim. "As for *Metropolis*, we're fans of Osamu Tezuka's designs. It's a beautiful film and a great story, and we like it."

With the exception of *Metropolis*, there are no firm air dates yet for these films, so keep your eyes peeled. And in 2005, forget about

the theater—Cartoon Network's got all the movie action you need! ■ Caitlin Moriarity



**OH BROTHER** Inuyasha's sibling Sesshomaru protects his giant scarf at all costs.



**COWBOY BEBOP**

Inuyasha © Rumiko Takahashi / Shogakukan • Sunrise • Yomiuri TV. Spirited Away © Nibariki / TEIYONDIV

## ODDS ARE...

### WHAT OTHER MOVIE MASTERPIECES MIGHT MAKE IT TO CARTOON NETWORK?

*Anime Insider* accosted Sean Akins, Toonami's creative director, for the odds on the chance of other awesome anime films getting some Cartoon Network airtime.

**1. SPIRITED AWAY AND CASTLE IN THE SKY**

ODDS: 1,000,000,000,000 :1. "Disney has the rights to most of Miyazaki's work locked up tighter than an

otaku's supply of Pocky. Except for..."

**2. CASTLE OF CAGLIOSTRO**

ODDS: 2:1. "Since Cartoon Network has the Lupin rights, there's a good chance we'll be able to air this movie."

**3. GHOST IN THE SHELL**

ODDS: 10:1. "Although this is a classic movie, it's almost 10 years old. But odds are much better—

about even—of CN snatching up the rights to the sequel *Innocence*."

**4. THE ONE PIECE MOVIES**

ODDS: 100:1. "Fox is airing the *One Piece* series, so CN probably couldn't get the rights to it."

**5. YU YU HAKUSHO: POLTERGEIST REPORT**

ODDS: 2:1. "Even odds, given the popularity of the series." ■ CM



**NO WAY** Chihiro and No-Face won't be watching Cartoon Network anytime soon.