

# KARATE BUGMEN

**AKA The Kamen Rider Experience**

# WTF IS KAMEN RIDER???

- Kamen Rider is a Tokusatsu (Special Filming) superhero metaseries created in 1971 by Shotaro Ishinomori (Cyborg 009, That one LTTP Manga that was in Nintendo Power, Super Sentai (yeah he did that too))
- Typically involves bug faced heroes (but not always) fighting for justice (most of the time) and riding motorcycles (increasingly rare in the modern era thanks to Japanese road laws.)
- Divided into three distinct Eras, the Showa, Heisei, and Reiwa eras
- Fans further divide Heisei into Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Did I mention there's a strong emphasis on justice?
- This is still a show for families designed to get parents to buy their kids plastic crap though!!!



# THE SHOWA ERA

- Started in 1971 with the release of “Kamen Rider” starring future Segata Sanshiro actor Hiroshi Fujioka (I’m serious.)
- Fujioka broke his legs during filming and had to be replaced temporarily so by the end of the series we have two Kamen Riders.
- Kamen Rider series continued to be made up to 1989, with the release of Kamen Rider Black RX (originally in 1988), then aside from like 3 movies, the franchise goes on Hiatus for the 90s.
- The Showa Era is best characterized by the following scenario: Evil Organization makes Karate Bugman but fails to brainwash him, now Karate Bugman must fight said organization and their army of animal-human cyborg hybrids to protect the world (Amazon is a notable subversion)
- There’s a lot of fucking crossovers meaning the meta-franchise continuity predates the MCU by fucking decades.



# SHOWA ERA CONTINUED

Here's the list of Showa Series by release year

- Kamen Rider - 1971
- Kamen Rider V3 - 1973
- Kamen Rider X - 1974
- Kamen Rider Amazon - 1974 (My favorite Showa rider!)
- Kamen Rider Stronger - 1975
- The New Kamen Rider (AKA Skyrider) - 1979
- Kamen Rider Super-1 - 1980
- Kamen Rider Black - 1987
- Kamen Rider Black RX - 1988

# SHUNSUKE TAKASUGI IS A GARBAGE HUMAN BEING

- This dude is literally an actual fugitive from the law
- He ripped off 50 million yen from fans of Kamen Rider Super-1 between the years of 2003-2012
- His reasoning was that the Super-1 belt had been taken by the fucking Yakuza and he needed the money to buy it back
- He disappeared sometime in 2017 and no one has gotten their money back so maybe he might have actually been in trouble with the Yakuza, idk



# THE SHOWA ERA MOVIES

These movies, despite being made in the 90s (like, the very beginning of the Heisei Era) are, for marketing purposes, Showa Era riders. These movies include

- Shin Kamen Rider: Prologue - 1992
- Kamen Rider ZO - 1993
- Kamen Rider J - 1994

Shin Kamen Rider and Kamen Rider J make some VERY interesting decisions, but ZO is basically just a cinematic version of a Showa era show.

By interesting decisions I mean J turns into an Ultraman and well, Shin gets his own slide.

ALSO NONE OF THESE DUDES HAVE BELTS, WHAT'S A KAMEN RIDER WITHOUT A BELT?????

# THE OBLIGATORY SHIN KAMEN RIDER PROLOGUE SLIDE

- It's Kamen Rider but make it body horror.
- There's boobs in it.
- This was supposed to be a gritty reboot but it didn't really do real well
- This is why we don't talk about Shin Kamen Rider
- Don't confuse it with the Reiwa Era film, Shin Kamen Rider, directed by Hideaki Anno
- This is the only picture I could find of him and it's not even from the movie



# THE HEISEI ERA (PHASE 1)

Okay so Shotaro Ishinomori died in 1998 so literally everything after that point was created without his involvement (Except for Kuuga which actually does have a bit of his involvement and is dedicated to his memory)

The Heisei era starts in 2000 with the release of Kamen Rider Kuuga, which will go on to define the tone of the majority the Phase 1 Heisei releases. (With ONE exception I will get to.)

From here the focus mostly shifts away from Evil organization creates riders to conquer the world, and the series begin to resemble J-Dramas with Rubber suit monster fights

Also, this is when merchandising starts to pick up, Belts, figures, and weapons galore (Buy all our playsets and toys!)

Unlike the Showa Era, Heisei series typically aren't connected to each other





# HEISEI ERA PHASE 1 CONTINUED

Here's a list of Heisei Era Phase 1 series by year

- Kamen Rider Kuuga - 2000
- Kamen Rider Agito - 2001
- Kamen Rider Ryuki - 2002
- Kamen Rider 555 - 2003
- Kamen Rider Blade - 2004
- Kamen Rider Hibiki - 2005
- Kamen Rider Kabuto - 2006
- Kamen Rider Den-O - 2007
- Kamen Rider Kiva - 2008
- Kamen Rider Decade (Anniversary Series) - 2009

# FUCKING DEN-0

Released in 2007, Den-0 is a beacon of comedy in an otherwise very serious decade of Karate Bugmen

Den-0 got so popular that he keeps showing up in movies TO THIS DAY

Seriously, in addition to his series, he got 9 movies and 11 specials, one of which is a crossover with Crayon Shin-Chan

I have no idea how much money this particular series made but it HAD to have been a lot because Den-0 just KEEPS SHOWING UP. ORE SANJOU MOTHERFUCKERS



# THE HEISEI ERA PHASE 2

So after Decade did it's anniversary thing Toei decided to go really off the rails with collectable plastic crap.

However this is also the period of time that has a lot of absolute bangers of series.

Seriously I'm not kidding about the plastic crap, Fourze had 40 Astro Switches to collect.

Phase 2 of the Heisei era lasts up to Kamen Rider Zi-0 and the abdication of Japanese Emperor Akihito

Phase 2 Heisei series typically aren't nearly as dramatic as some of the phase 1 stuff, but there is still some darkness in some of the series.

Phase 2 Movies tend to cross over with upcoming or previous series, and sometimes they cross over with Super Sentai too



# HEISEI ERA PHASE 2 CONTINUED

Anyway here's the Heisei Phase 2 list of series

- Kamen Rider W - 2009
- Kamen Rider 000 - 2010
- Kamen Rider Fourze - 2011
- Kamen Rider Wizard - 2012
- Kamen Rider Gaim - 2013
- Kamen Rider Drive - 2014
- Kamen Rider Ghost - 2015
- Kamen Rider Ex-Aid - 2016
- Kamen Rider Build - 2017
- Kamen Rider Zi-0(Anniversary series, AKA Decade 2) - 2018

# IN CASE YOU THOUGHT I WAS JOKING ABOUT COLLECTIBLE PLASTIC CRAP

Holy shit



# OH FUCK I FORGOT ABOUT AMAZON RIDERS

- Not to be confused with the Showa Era Kamen Rider Amazon (Although the protags share HEAVY design elements from that show)
- Amazon Riders (Or Kamen Rider Amazons in Japan) is two seasons and a movie available on Amazon Prime.
- It is more “Adult” focused in that there’s a lot of blood and gore in it.
- I haven’t watched it.
- Research shows that they say fuck in the subs, jury is still out on if there’s titties or not
- I didn’t include them with the other Heisei era riders because they never had a TV broadcast.
- Still can’t figure out if this is the first official release of a Kamen Rider series in the USA because I don’t know when Generation Kikaida put out their Kamen Rider V3 Subs



# THE REIWA ERA

This is the current era in which Kamen Rider series are being made

There's only been five Reiwa era riders so far and I don't know too much about them

COVID-19 Had a big effect on filming both Kamen Rider and Super Sentai but IDK if it affected the quality of the series.

The Reiwa Era series follow a lot of the conventions of Heisei phase 2



# THE REIWA ERA CONTINUED

Anyway, Reiwa list time

- Kamen Rider Zero-One - 2019
- Kamen Rider Saber - 2020
- Kamen Rider Revice - 2021
- Kamen Rider Geats - 2022
- Kamen Rider Gotchard - 2023



# YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OVER BUT YOU'RE WRONG!

We're gonna talk about

- The future
- Gays
- The Odagiri Effect
- The American Adaptations
- How to watch
- Recommendations



# GAY GAY HOMOSEXUAL GAY

LOTTA GAY TENSION IN KAMEN RIDER (although it's only recently we're seeing LGBT actors in series.)

## GAY TENSION SERIES

- Kamen Rider W
- Kamen Rider OOO
- Kamen Rider Blade
- I think there's lesbians in Revice?
- "Kamen Rider Build will involve heated drama between men" - The Tokusatsu Network

## SERIES WITH ACTUAL LGBT ACTORS

- Kamen Rider Wizard
- Kamen Rider Zero-One
- Kamen Rider Ghost

Also Kamen Rider has a female rider problem which kind of exacerbates the homoerotic tension because MOST OF THE RELEVANT CHARACTERS ARE DUDES (It is getting better as of Revice onwards though)

Also Kamen Rider Blade's Lead actor was in a gay porn before he was in the series



# THE ODAGIRI EFFECT

Okay so Kamen Rider has a lot of pretty dudes right?

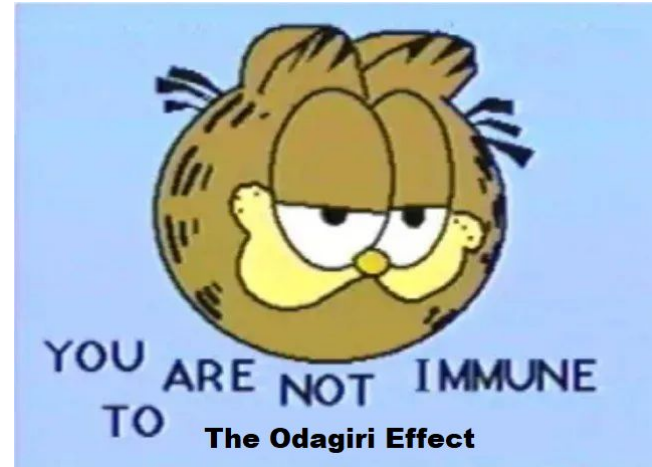
It's this guy's fault

Joe Odagiri was solely responsible for getting 30 year old moms to watch Kamen Rider Kuuga (by being hot) back in 2000

This is why every Kamen Rider protag is a pretty boy

Please come back to Kamen Rider, Joe Odagiri, I miss you.

I swear I'm not thirst watching Kuuga, I just really like Godai Yusuke as a character okay?



# THE AMERICAN ADAPTATIONS

Two different series were adapted for American audiences, those being Black RX (As well as footage from ZX (A special I forgot to mention until now), ZO and J) and Ryuki as Saban's Masked Rider and Dragon Knight respectively

They both have aliens in it.

Neither of them did very well, but Dragon Knight was actually a decent adaptation of Ryuki, and even shot new stunts for the states. It was surprisingly popular when it was exported back to Japan, down to bringing back old actors from Ryuki to dub the characters! Dragon Knight got fucked by the Network and that's why it did bad

Masked Rider has Ferbus and is a family sitcom and that should tell you everything you need to know about Masked Rider. Also the editing is really bad.



# DA FUTURE

- I LITERALLY HAD TO REWRITE THIS SLIDE BECAUSE EVERYTHING I HAD ON IT PREVIOUSLY ALREADY CAME OUT!!!!
- Watch Anno's Shin Kamen Rider though it's got Lotus Juice in it.

# HOW 2 WATCH

Lucky for us, the following series are available to watch legally.

- Kamen Rider (1971) - On Tokushoutsu
- Kamen Rider V3 - Generation Kikaida (Have fun paying 139 bucks for the DVD tho)
- Kamen Rider Kuuga - On Tokushoutsu (And also on Bluray!)
- Kamen Rider Agito - on TOKU, but not recommended, bad subs
- Kamen Rider Ryuki - On Tokushoutsu
- Kamen Rider 555 - on Toku, Not recommended, incomplete release and bad subs
- Kamen Rider Zero-One - On Tokushoutsu
- Amazon Riders - On Amazon Prime
- Fuuto PI - On Crunchyroll
- Kamen Rider Black - Available on Bluray from Discotek Media
- Kamen Rider Black RX - Available on Bluray from Discotek Media
- Kamen Rider Geats - On Tokushoutsu (and Blu Ray!)

Unfortunately, the rest of the series you're going to have to do a little bit of the whole Yarr-harr fiddle dee dee.

Tokushoutsu's subs are really good so please support the official release so we get fan favorite series through them (buy the Zero One DVDs if you like the series, BUT ALSO THE KUUGA BLU RAYS)

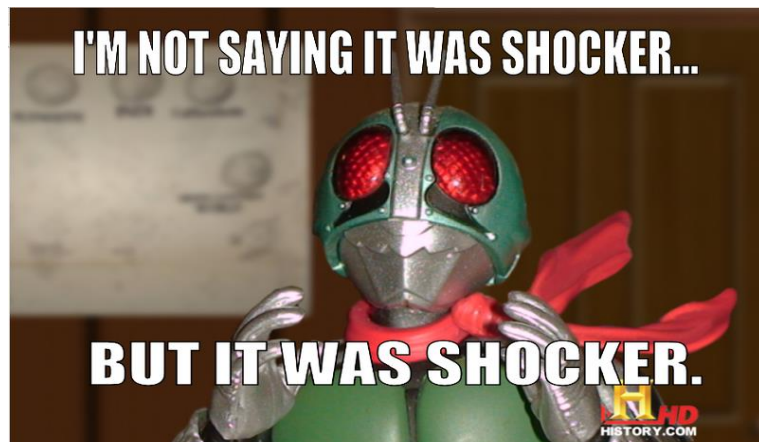
# RECOMMENDATIONS

My personal recommendations of the ones I've watched are Den-O, W, Fourze, Kuuga, and Amazon.

I'd stay away from the anniversary series unless you know what you're getting into. Zi-0 in particular spoils a lot of series that came before it.

Hibiki was victim of some nasty executive meddling so the series changes like at episode 30 so if you watch that first please keep that in mind. Also be mindful of COVID-19's effects on the Reiwa series (Geats and Gotchard seem to have recovered from the pandemic).

Otherwise pick a suit you like and watch that. Don't let anyone tell you that you shouldn't watch a season because general consensus says it sucks, you might end up liking it.



# OK BYE

Thank you for listening to my presentation. Please watch Kamen Rider. This is also the time for questions.

