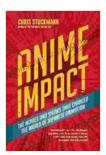
# The Movies and Shows That Changed the World of Japanese Animation

Japanese animation, also known as anime, has become a global phenomenon, captivating audiences of all ages with its stunning visuals, compelling storytelling, and unforgettable characters. But before anime became the cultural juggernaut it is today, there were a handful of groundbreaking films and TV shows that paved the way for its success.



Anime Impact: The Movies and Shows that Changed the World of Japanese Animation by Chris Stuckmann

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In this article, we'll explore some of the most influential Japanese animated films and TV shows that changed the art form and captivated audiences worldwide, from the groundbreaking "Akira" to the critically acclaimed "Spirited Away."

#### Akira (1988)



Directed by Katsuhiro Otomo, "Akira" is a landmark achievement in Japanese animation. Its groundbreaking animation, breathtaking visuals, and complex storytelling set a new standard for the medium and had a profound impact on filmmakers and audiences alike.

Set in a dystopian future, "Akira" follows the story of a group of teenage bikers who become embroiled in a government conspiracy involving

psychic experiments and a mysterious force known as Akira. The film's stunning animation, particularly the iconic motorcycle chase scene, pushed the boundaries of what was possible in anime at the time.

#### Spirited Away (2001)



Written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki, "Spirited Away" is one of the most critically acclaimed and beloved animated films of all time. The film won the

Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and has been praised for its stunning animation, imaginative world-building, and heartwarming story.

Set in a magical world inhabited by spirits and gods, "Spirited Away" follows the journey of Chihiro, a young girl who becomes trapped in a strange and mysterious bathhouse. With the help of a mysterious boy named Haku, Chihiro must navigate the challenges of the spirit world and find her way home.

#### Ghost in the Shell (1995)



Directed by Mamoru Oshii, "Ghost in the Shell" is a groundbreaking cyberpunk anime that explores the complex relationship between humanity and technology. The film's visually stunning animation, philosophical themes, and complex characters have made it a cult classic and a major influence on filmmakers. Set in a futuristic world, "Ghost in the Shell" follows the story of Major Motoko Kusanagi, a cybernetically enhanced police officer who investigates a mysterious hacker known as the Puppet Master. The film's stunning visuals and complex storytelling have made it a landmark achievement in the cyberpunk genre.



**Neon Genesis Evangelion (1995)** 

Directed by Hideaki Anno, "Neon Genesis Evangelion" is a groundbreaking anime series that revolutionized the mecha genre. The series' complex characters, psychological themes, and stunning animation set a new standard for anime and had a profound impact on the industry.

Set in a post-apocalyptic world, "Neon Genesis Evangelion" follows the story of Shinji Ikari, a young boy who is recruited to pilot a giant robot known as an Evangelion to fight against monstrous beings known as Angels. The series' complex characters, psychological themes, and stunning animation have made it a landmark achievement in the mecha genre.

#### Perfect Blue (1997)

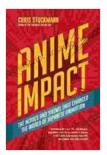


Directed by Satoshi Kon, "Perfect Blue" is a psychological thriller anime that explores the dark side of the entertainment industry. The film's stunning animation, complex characters, and psychological themes have made it a cult classic and a major influence on filmmakers.

Set in the world of Japanese pop music, "Perfect Blue" follows the story of Mima Kirigoe, a young idol who becomes the target of a stalker. The film's

stunning animation, complex characters, and psychological themes have made it a landmark achievement in the psychological thriller genre.

These are just a few of the groundbreaking Japanese animated films and TV shows that have changed the world of anime. From the stunning visuals of "Akira" to the heartwarming story of "Spirited Away," these works have captivated audiences worldwide and left an indelible mark on the history of animation. Whether you're a fan of anime or not, these films and shows are essential viewing for anyone who appreciates the art form.



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