

# 6 Parody Anime to Watch If You Like Making Fun of Anime

By Victoria Davis | Sep 9th, 2019, 10:50 am | 28 comments



Parody in Japanese anime is nothing new. From eccentric combat moves to overly exaggerated facial expressions, anime has made a name for itself in the humor department, amplifying the human experience to an almost ridiculous level. It's easy to see why the genre has gained a popular following, and equally easy to understand why some find TV shows like *Dragon Ball Z*, *One Piece*, *Fairy Tail*, and *No Game No Life* difficult to take seriously.

That's why there are even anime made for those who like making fun of anime, the shows' comedic humor centering around anime tropes such as characters' brightly colored hair and how one "hand chop" can kill a man.

Though these parody anime skyrocketed in the early 2000s, western watchers might have a hard time finding the diamond in the rough, since many parody anime, such as *Love Star* and *Binan Koukou Chikyuu Bouei-bu LOVE!*, can seem slow-moving or difficult to understand for those who aren't well-versed in older anime, traditional manga styles, or who haven't grown up living in Japan. But, more recently, some anime has begun to surface that knows exactly how to make fun of itself, with humor that is universally understood.



*(image: TV Tokyo)*

### **1. *Monthly Girls' Nozaki-kun***

When it comes to comedy, there are few better landscapes to play with than a romance story.

Preppy high schooler Chiyo Sakura finally gathers up the courage to confess her feelings to tall, quiet, and handsome Umetarou Nozaki, her longtime crush. The problem is that, after Chiyo has tightened her red hair bows and dusted off her skirt, she accidentally blurts out that she's Nozaki's "biggest fan." Greatly misunderstanding her advances, Nozaki gives Chiyo his autograph.

Already mortified, Chiyo is even more surprised to discover that Nozaki is the famous "Miss Nozaki," Chiyo's favorite manga artist. By a strange turn of events, Chiyo becomes Nozaki's illustration assistant, all the while trying to win the heart of the boy who doesn't know virtually anything about romance.

Released in 2014, this 12-episode anime has it all, from flamboyant mood swings to hysterical romantic let-downs. It's tough being 16 years old, and while we feel for Chiyo, her ongoing humiliation—which steers away from typical starry-eyed romance anime—makes for excellent entertainment.



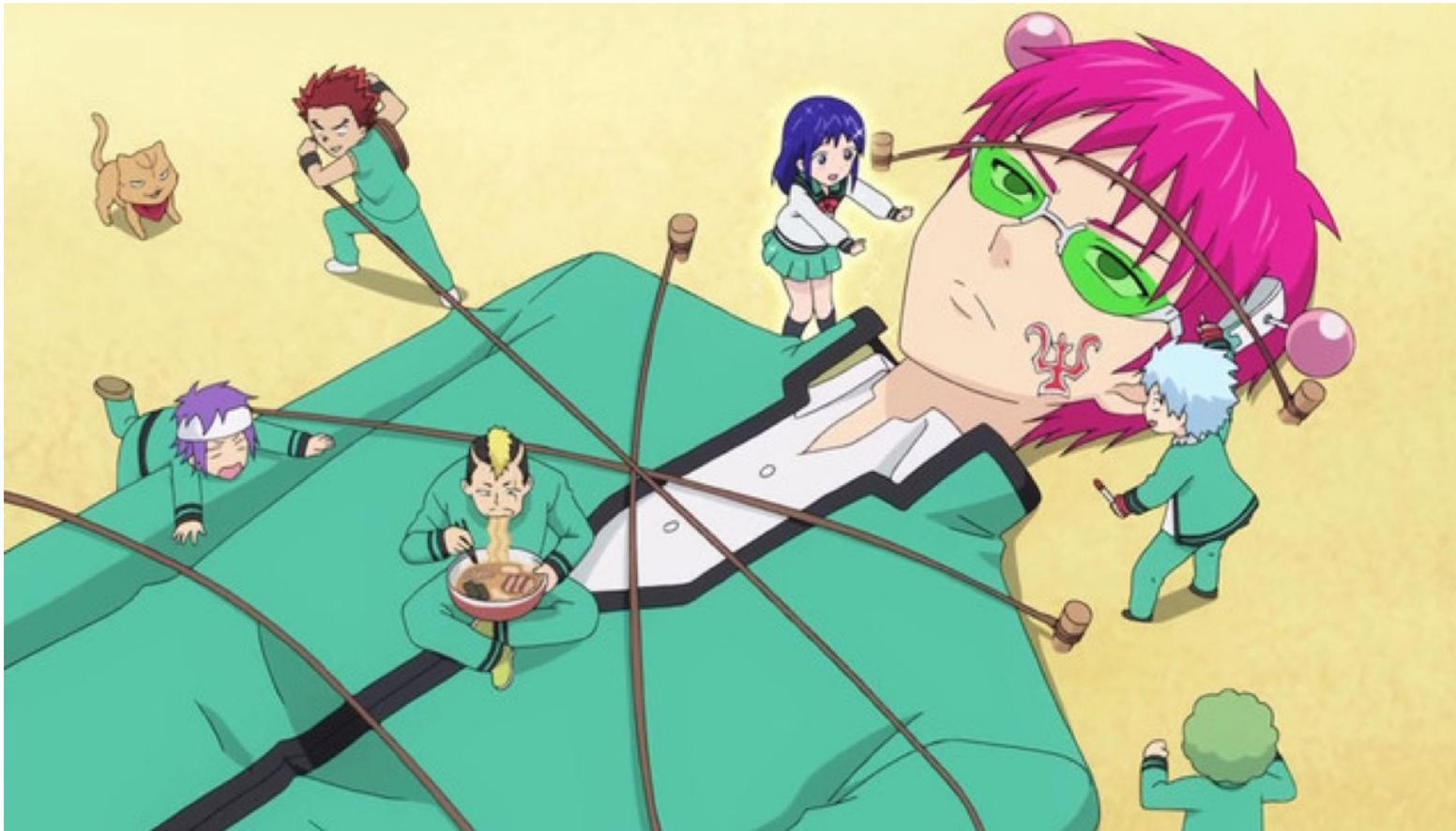
(image: TV Tokyo)

## ***2. The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.***

A pink-haired skeptic of a high-schooler with a plethora of psychic abilities, who has nothing but criticism to give to his fellow classmates, seems like the perfect protagonist for any anime parody. Kuso Saiki was born with telepathy, psychokinesis,

teleportation, and various other superpowers. Most people might find that pretty jaw-dropping, but not in the case of Saiki's sickeningly adoring parents, who seem to have no problem leaving the heavy-lifting chores to their son.

While Saiki has plenty of his sharp wit to spread around at home, his efforts at school are less focused on academics or rolling eyes at his classmates than they are centered around keeping his powers a secret. This proves especially difficult in gym class when Saiki almost accidentally kills two kids playing dodgeball using superhuman strength, or when using his teleportation powers to avoid Kokomi Teruhashi, a self-proclaimed "perfect pretty girl" who has set her sights on Saiki.



(image: TV Tokyo)

With the impossibly quick and sarcastic comebacks, the constant mockery of typical anime tropes, and characters that are convinced they're part of a super secret magical society called "Dark Reunion," it's no surprise that *The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.* has two seasons under its belt. This is a show made for people

who are less interested in romance and more inclined to wonder how one child would use mind control to convince all anime characters they can do things real-life humans can't.



*(image: Tokyo MX)*

### **3. Konosuba**

Fantasy adventures and gamer quests are where it's at for many fans of anime, but while some live for the dramatic sword fighting and the elegant fairyland goddesses, others live for pointing out the ridiculousness of characters whisked away to fight demons in a magical land who become heroes adored by all who cross their path. *Konosuba* rides on the coattails of that hilarity.

After dying of shock attempting to save a girl from a slow-moving tractor, teenage NEET Kazuma Satou is met by the beautiful and condescending goddess Aqua. She gives Kazuma the choice to enter heaven or reincarnate into a gamer's fantasy world paradise. Obviously, Kazuma chooses the latter, kidnapping the goddess on his way as payback for her sarcastic comments.

It turns out, the goddess is completely useless, and the two party members Kazuma attracts aren't much help, either—one obsessed with demolishing the world and the other far too keen on throwing herself on death's door. Between paying living expenses and keeping his teammates from dying, Kazuma has his work cut out for him, much to all viewers' benefit.



(image: TV Tokyo)

#### 4. *Senyu*

*Senyu*, at first, begins like any other hero-quest anime, with the main character, Alba, epically slicing through a menacing, albeit small, jelly monster. About 10 seconds later, his soldier companion, Ross, appears on the scene to make fun of Alba for his

“creepy heavy breathing” and offers no help to Alba as he fights off a yellow giraffe that threatens to crush the hero with its weight.

Apparently, many years ago, a hole randomly appeared in the earth and monsters emerged to terrorize the lands. So, naturally, the king appointed many, many “probable” descendants of a once legendary hero to fight off these monsters and earn an honorable title. There might be numerous holes in the story, but regardless, Alba and Ross set off to fight as many demons as they can, provided that there’s no line for black bean buns and Ross doesn’t jokingly stab Alba on their way to the next adventure.

Unlike most western television today, anime has retained its theme of short and sweet episodes, most maxing out at 25 minutes, but we give *Senyu* even more props for taking its comedy bits and smashing them all together masterfully in 5-minute episodes. Imagine a longer-framed version of an *ASDFmovie* that often breaks the fourth wall.



(image: TV Tokyo)

## 5. *Hayate the Combat Butler*

Of course, there are some older anime parody shows that deserve some recognition. *Hayate the Combat Butler* aired back in 2007, but its comedy, while a little dark and unfortunate, is pretty timeless and earned the show not one, but four seasons.

The anime starts off with a young Hayate Ayasaki being told by Santa Claus that only rich kids get presents on Christmas because one has to work hard to get nice things in this world. For those who think that's a bit of a "yikes," the story continues with Hayate having to go on the run because his parents have spent all their money and left the debt in their underage son's capable working hands. Told by his right-shoulder angel to make the "necessary evil" decision to kidnap rich girl Nagi Sanzenin for ransom money, Nagi misinterprets the encounter and recruits Hayate to be her new butler.

While the first episode might seem to draw a little too much comedy from Hayate's truly heartbreaking misfortunes, the show's witty narrator, totally absurd bicycle action scenes, and lovable-but-bratty heroine makes this unapologetically funny anime 100 percent worth the watch.



(image: TV Tokyo)

## 6. *Gintama*

*Gintama* is the *Fairy Tail* of parody anime, with over 300 episodes to its name, plus a 2015 reboot. Poking fun at the samurai anime genre and about a dozen other anime, *Gintama*

tries to fit as many characters and jokes as possible into each episode.

When he's not busy picking his nose or fleeing from a fight, the show's outlandish main character Gintoki Sakata might remind viewers a little bit of Inuyasha, or Ichigo from *Bleach*. The show's setting is Feudal-era Japan—that is, when it's not futuristic Japan with flying cars and aliens. Despite the ban on swords, Gintoki and his fellow samurai try to make the most of the bipolar society, taking odd jobs like finding stray cats to help pay rent. It looks like there's a little *Noragami* mixed in there too.

Though the show first aired in 2005, *Gintama* clearly knew how to stand the test of time, mocking shounen anime's most classic tropes—such as making fight scenes less complicated, extremely short, and even arguably pathetic to make life a little easier for the anime artist. *Gintama* combines themes from some of the most popular anime (like *Samurai X*), only to turn back around and mercilessly make fun of the ideas they borrowed. It might mostly be fun and games, but *Gintama* also uses its comedy platform to highlight subjects like social equality. There's always room for surprises.

Are there any other parody anime that we may have missed? Let us know if there are any other comedy diamonds in anime we should know about!

(featured image: TV Tokyo)

*Victoria Davis is a freelance journalist for The Mary Sue and other publications across the U.S. such as Isthmus, Capital Times, SDNews and Hidden Remote. An “Otaku” girl through-and-through, Victoria loves all things arts and entertainment. She has a particular affinity for anime and film, spending most of her free time at the movies or with her nose in a manga.*

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**Garrick Schultz** • 3 months ago

I never thought I'd see the day when TMS would talk about Gintama. You just made my morning.

1 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Mria Gz** • 3 months ago

Kill la Kill has satire in it as well. 100/100 recommend

2 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**TheSojourner** → Mria Gz • 3 months ago

I'd classify Kill la Kill as a 'problematic favorite' - as it both celebrates and parodies fanservice. Not for everyone, but for those who get the satire it can be funny as hell.

3 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Lucifer Sam** → TheSojourner • 3 months ago



**Lucifer Sam** · TheSojourner · 3 months ago

I'd also note that Kill la Kill gives up a lot of the humour in the second half in favour of becoming tediously serious and over-obsessed with it's own lore, aka "Evangeliion Syndrome".

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Fhnuzoag** · 3 months ago · edited

Mob Psycho 100 is parody, if you squint....

Daily Lives of High School Boys is also a good pick.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**TheSojourner** · 3 months ago

I'd like to add "Ouron Highschool Host Club" to the list. The show parodies a lot of romance, otome, and harem tropes. And is just plain funny.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Diddy\_Mao** · 3 months ago · edited

I'm not as big a fan of Anime as I used to be. But I used to really like Magical Shopping Arcade Abenobashi. It's only maybe 10 episodes so not much of a time commitment.

It plays around a lot with a Multiverse where each episode is presented as a different genre representing the main characters various nerdy interests.

I recall it being a little fan servicy at times so YMMV depending on your tolerance for that but I don't remember that it was particularly gratuitous.

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**andramus** · 3 months ago

I always struggle with on-going comedy series because I start to get too invested in characters and take them too seriously. I end up wanting character and plot progression but generally comedy isn't well suited to that.

At the moment I'm watching an anime called Machikado Mazoku which is definitely a comedy although I'm

At the moment I'm watching an anime called *Machikado Mazoku* which is definitely a comedy although I'm not sure if it counts as a parody. However I'm struggling because I want the main protagonist to break the curse that her and her family are under. Maybe her ancestors were evil and the curse on her family was necessary to keep them in check but it feels grossly unfair for a family to be cursed to eternal poverty generation after generation. If the main character was actually evil or incompetent evil I could enjoy the comedy of her struggling in vain to break her family's curse but her and her family are so nice it just isn't funny to me. Except perhaps for her little sister who might be a menace if she had any real power.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**GreyLurker** → andramus • 3 months ago

That is such a nice sweet show and Shamiko is such a good kid, even when she is trying so hard to be evil.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**M. Marius** • 3 months ago

As a big fantasy fan, avid anime viewer and someone that is so totally over Isekai stuff... I absolutely adore **Konosuba**

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Fandroid # 27548** → M. Marius • 3 months ago

I'm not into isekai myself but I did see a clip of Kazuma's untimely end as explained by Aqua. That was funny.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**M. Marius** → Fandroid # 27548 • 3 months ago

It basically avoids all of the manifest narrative failures of the general isekai offering:

- 1) Kazuma doesn't instantly become some combination of John Wick, John Woo, and Don Juan
- 2) World-building is at least internally consistent, and follows its own logic
- 3) The setting does not bend-over backwards to accommodate the morality of the protagonist

Just on those points alone it'd be worth a watch; an example of how you can make a hacky over-done genre decent. Then add in some of the legit best character writing in a comedy and it becomes just a fantastic show.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Mark Brown 2.0** • 3 months ago

DamePrince is a send-up of the reverse-harem genre; as a princess of a small border kingdom is faced with a number of princely suitors... Who are all varying levels of blithering inbred idiot.

Anime-Gataris is a meta deconstruction of anime in general, as the new member of a high school anime club realizes that she's *in* an anime (and then the budget runs out).

Re:Creators has elements of this too, as fictional characters (from anime, manga, and games) start appearing in the real world, with all the barely-logical and occasionally creepy plot baggage coming with them and being commented on when they meet their makers.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Fandroid # 27548** → Mark Brown 2.0 • 3 months ago

DamePri sounds pretty silly so I'm looking forward to that one, whenever I get to it.

First I'm hearing of Anime-Gataris and the new girl sounds liked Abed Nadir. I'd watch that one too.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Lisbeth** • 3 months ago

How come "One Punch Man" it's not on this list?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Lucifer Sam** → Lisbeth • 3 months ago

IMO it's because the series gradually gives up being a parody of a shonen action series in favour of just *\*being\** a shonen action series.

That and the presence of some deeply problematic character designs makes it hard to watch at times.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Lisbeth** → Lucifer Sam • 3 months ago

I see your point, and I agree with it.

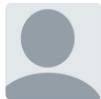
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**SlayerNina Friki** • 3 months ago

Slayers is a parody of Dungeons and Dragons. And ironically, a compelling fantasy magic story with demons

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**kjelfalconer** • 3 months ago

Honestly Im just thrilled Binan Koukou Chikyuu Bouei-bu LOVE!, got a mention at all

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**pocketcamp** • 3 months ago

Shoujo comedy series never get enough seasons. Monthly Girls' Nozaki-kun and Ouran High School Host Club are well loved and yet both only got ONE anime season. They have manga arcs that go well beyond what was covered in the anime.

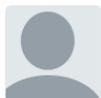
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**Fandroid # 27548** → pocketcamp • 3 months ago

Truly is a shame. Feels like there's a bias towards giving shonen anime more seasons than shoujo genres.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**rocketdave** • 3 months ago

It's a 33 year old movie, so I'm not surprised it doesn't get a mention in this article, but Project A-Ko is the thing that got me into anime in the first place. The tropes and specific anime titles it was parodying went over my head, but I enjoyed it so much that none of that mattered. It remains one of my favorite films.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**M Marius** → rocketdave • 3 months ago • edited



**M. Marius** → rocketdave · 3 months ago · edited

High-Five across time and space!

Way back in the dawn age of the 90s, the Sci-Fi Channel did their own Saturday Morning Cartoon block, except it was just full-blown anime films and OVAs. *Project A-Ko* was thus likewise my introduction to anime (apart from catching a few episodes of Samurai Cyber Squad & Sailor Moon here and there)

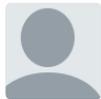
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**rocketdave** → M. Marius · 3 months ago

Cool. The Sci-Fi Channel was where I discovered that movie as well, though I actually caught it late at night instead of Saturday morning. It became the first movie I ever owned on DVD after I won it in a fan art contest (my art is in the special features, but I'm not bragging about that since it's embarrassingly bad). I was also fairly active on this A-Ko fan site that existed around that time.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Keated** · 3 months ago

Excel Saga was my introduction to anime parody. Also, one of the first anime I watched... it made more sense the more of it I saw, lol.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**PJK** → Keated · 3 months ago · edited

Yes, it is the ultimate anime parody as it tackles almost all tropes used in anime (at least the ones that were popular at the time of its release).

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**John Dolan** · 3 months ago

no mention of Cromartie High? Freddie Mercury is ashamed

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Jerro567** · 3 months ago

You're really gonna make a list of parody anime and not include ghost stories smh



You're really gonna make a list of parody anime and not include ghost stories smh

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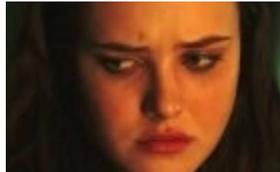
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