
Subject: They're _animes_, not cartoons : The Last Exile

Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 23 Jun 2005 03:53:17 GMT

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I return to the anime form every once in a while. After I found it at the local library, I looked up "Last Exile" on IMDb and there was a rave review for it. Not much was mentioned about the Steampunk style of the series (it's a Japanese tv series on dvd) though. Steampunk is a subgenre of Cyberpunk science fiction. Steampunk uses the steam technology of the 19th Century to create its alternate histories. What if atomic power was never discovered-- or buried? Where would culture be today? Steampunk asks these questions. In Last Exile there are flying ships based on some sort of resonant magnetism and 'inertia'. What is extraordinary is the sheer flights of fancy that an alternate technology can create. If you saw the flying aircraft carrier in Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow, you'll get the idea of what is going on here. So it's more than a cartoon. More and the same at the same time. The central characters are definitely in the Japanese style of anime human rendering. But the scenic effects and machines are worth the 'suspension of disbelief.' The Japanese have the only modern and unique art form that is anime. Unique in my experience anyway. One of the finest films ever made is called "Grave Of The Fireflies." Perhaps a library collection near you has that title.
