

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SIMULTANEOUS WORLDWIDE RELEASE OF Blu-ray ANIME TITLES BEGINS
NOVEMBER 2008**

***FREEDOM Blu-ray Disc Box (Limited Edition)*
and
***GUNBUSTER vs DIEBUSTER: Aim for the Top! The GATTAI!! Movie-Blu-ray Disc Box
(Limited Edition)*****

Tokyo, Japan (July 7, 2008) -- **BANDAI VISUAL CO., LTD.** announced ***FREEDOM Blu-ray Disc Box (Limited Edition)*** and ***GUNBUSTER vs DIEBUSTER: Aim for the Top! The GATTAI!! Movie-Blu-ray Disc Box (Limited Edition)*** as the first titles in Bandai Visual's program to introduce premium Blu-ray products simultaneously in Japan and in select international markets.

Bandai Visual Business Strategy Group Director Masayuki Fujikawa says, "We plan to reduce the time-lag that exists between release in Japan and elsewhere. Starting with the releases in November and under our flagship brand HONNEAMISE, we are systematically planning and executing a worldwide, simultaneous release program for our premium Blu-ray titles, in order to get our products to international fans as quickly as possible."

In addition to 1080p High Definition visuals and lossless audio, the first titles will be subtitled in English and French, and multi-lingual dubbing is being decided on a title-by-title basis. The products, to be released in Japan, North America, France and UK, will be identical to domestic Japanese products except that translated notes may be added in some cases.

The local distribution will be handled by Namco Bandai Group companies: **BANDAI VISUAL CO., LTD.** in Japan, **BANDAI ENTERTAINMENT INC.** in North America, and **BEEZ ENTERTAINMENT SAS** in France and UK, respectively.

FREEDOM Blu-ray Disc Box (Limited Edition)

Street Date: November 11, 2008 (Japan, USA); Dec. 2, 2008 (France); Nov. 17, 2008 (UK)
Pricing: 20,000 JPY(Japan); 139.98 USD(USA); 89.99 EUR(France); 69.99 GBP (UK)
Product: Four (4) Blu-ray Disc Box Set/Color/approx. 280 min. / Japanese & English audio tracks / English & French subtitles
Technical: Dolby True HD (5.1ch), Linear PCM (Stereo) / AVC/BD50G x 4 discs / 16:9 <1080p High Definition>
Bonus Tracks: FREEDOM the Hope, Trailers, Prologue, Episode by Episode digest, Talking about FREEDOM, FREEDOM in the USA, etc.
Bonus Item: Booklet containing original FREEDOM manga episode

About *FREEDOM*

FREEDOM is a groundbreaking Sci-fi anime series in which the restless youth of a moon settlement Eden venture outside their strictly controlled society and head towards Earth, a world known to have been destroyed.

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GUNBUSTER vs DIEBUSTER: Aim for the Top! The GATTAI!! Movie-Blu-ray Disc Box (Limited Edition)

Street Date: November 21, 2008 (Japan); Nov. 25 (USA); Dec. 2 (France); Nov. 24 (UK)
Pricing: 14,800 JPY(Japan); 99.98 USD(USA); 64.99 EUR(France); 49.99 GBP (UK)
Product: Three (3) Blu-ray Disc Box Set/COLOR (partly B/W)/approx. 280 min. / Japanese Language/English & French Subtitles
Technical: Disc 1 (***GUNBUSTER The Movie***): Dolby True HD 5.1ch (Linear PCM Stereo) / AVC / BD-50G /4:3, partly 16:9 [1080p Hi-Def]
Disc 2 (***DIEBUSTER The Movie***): Dolby True HD 5.1ch (Linear PCM Stereo) / AVC / BD-50G /16:9 [1080p Hi-Def]
Disc 3 (Bonus Disc): Linear PCM Stereo / AVC / BD-50G /16:9, partly 4:3 [1080p Hi-Def]
Bonus Items: Two (2) Booklets with English/French translation notes.

Also Available*:

GUNBUSTER The Movie

Street Date: November 21, 2008 (Japan); Nov. 25 (USA); Dec. 2 (France); Nov. 24 (UK)
Pricing: 7,000 JPY(Japan), 49.98 USD (USA), 32.49 EUR (France), 24.99 GBP (UK)

DIEBUSTER The Movie

Street Date: November 21, 2008 (Japan); Nov. 25 (USA); Dec. 2 (France); Nov. 24 (UK)
Pricing: 7,000 JPY(Japan), 49.98 USD (USA), 32.49 EUR (France), 24.99 GBP (UK)

*These are individual release versions of the Blu-ray programs that make up ***GUNBUSTER vs DIEBUSTER: Aim for the Top! The GATTAI!! Movie***. ***GUNBUSTER The Movie*** and ***DIEBUSTER The Movie*** are re-edited, feature length versions of the landmark 1988 six-part OVA series, ***GUNBUSTER***, and its 2004 sequel, ***GUNBUSTER 2***, respectively.

About *GUNBUSTER*

The first commercial success from the fan turned pro studio Gainax and the directorial debut of acclaimed creator Hideaki Anno (***Neon Genesis Evangelion***), ***GUNBUSTER*** casts pretty girls and giant robots in a moving tale of interstellar naval war and is a story of a young girl's struggle to pilot the ultimate weapon.

About *DIEBUSTER* (a.k.a. *GUNBUSTER 2*)

The epic sequel directed by Kazuya Tsurumaki (***FLCL***) is set thousands of years after ***GUNBUSTER***, and focuses on a space pilot wannabe named Nono from a lonely snowbound village. Her efforts lead her to join the elite teenage pilot group called Topless in order to defend the Sol System with their superpowers.

About HONNEAMISE

HONNEAMISE (pronounced “Oh-Nee-A-Meese”) refers to a kingdom located in an imaginary planet similar to earth. That kingdom became the setting for the first Bandai Group film production “Royal Space Force: The Wings of Honneamise,” in 1987 and is the name of the premium label for Bandai Visual’s domestic and international releases.

About Bandai Visual Co., Ltd.

Bandai Visual Co., Ltd., founded in August 1983, is a Japanese company that develops, produces and distributes film, TV and home entertainment media. As a pioneer of the Japanese animation scene Bandai Visual continues to lead the market. As part of Namco Bandai Group Bandai Visual hopes to expand and emulate its success in international markets.

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