

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MAY 10, 2024

<u>Aniplex of America Presents</u> <u>Blue Exorcist, Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba, Fate/Grand Order,</u> <u>Sword Art Online Alternative: Gun Gale Online II,</u> and More at Anime Expo 2024



For images: <u>https://bit.ly/Aniplex-AX2024</u>

SANTA MONICA, CA (MAY 10, 2024) – Aniplex of America announced its star-studded schedule of special events and guests at Anime Expo 2024 happening at the Los Angeles Convention Center from July 4 to July 7, 2024. To see the full schedule of Aniplex of America events and special guests at Anime Expo 2024, visit: <u>https://aniplexusa.com/ax2024/</u>

The first day of Anime Expo will feature industry panels from Aniplex of America as well as celebrated animation studios, A-1 Pictures and CloverWorks, with special guest Akira Shimizu, president of A-1 Pictures Inc. and CloverWorks Inc., on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Streaming live from Petree Hall, Aniplex of America and A-1 Pictures team up for the ultimate industry panel at 12:30 PM with the *Aniplex of America x A-1 Pictures Industry Panel*. Fans will get the opportunity to learn about Aniplex's upcoming anime line-up, followed by a special presentation from the prestigious A-1 Pictures studio highlighting the smash hit series, *MASHLE: MAGIC AND MUSCLES*, with special guests Director Tomonari Tanaka and Director of Photography Akihito Suzuki.

Later in the day, the *CloverWorks Industry Panel* takes over the JW-Diamond at 7 PM to introduce CloverWorks' new titles, *The Elusive Samurai* and *FURERU*. The panel will also feature a special spotlight on the latest anime sensation, *WIND BREAKER*, with Executive Officer and Animation Producer Yuichi Fukushima, General Manager of Production and Animation Producer Toshikazu Tsuji, and *WIND BREAKER* Character Designer Taishi Kawakami as they discuss what went into creating the show and their careers at the prolific studio.

On Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, Aniplex of America presents the *Blue Exorcist Special Event* streaming live from Petree Hall and welcomes Nobuhiko Okamoto, the Japanese voice actor of main character Rin Okumura. Blue Exorcist fans will also get to learn more about the next chapter of the anime series, *-Beyond the Snow Saga-*, and get an exclusive sneak peek at the new game, *Alterna Vvelt -Blue Exorcist Another Story-*.

Ahead of the highly anticipated new season, the *Sword Art Online Alternative: Gun Gale Online II* at Anime Expo event will be streaming live on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in Petree Hall. The special event brings Tomori Kusunoki, the voice actor of the main character, LLENN, and Producer Wataru Hashimoto to discuss the return of the iconic series with special guest host Gigguk!

One of the most highly sought-after events at Anime Expo each year, the *FGO 7th Anniversary x TYPE-MOON Projects,* will be streaming live from Petree Hall on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Hosted by Aniplex of America's Albert Kao (Localization Producer of *Fate/Grand Order* English version), the event will feature special guests Ayako Kawasumi (Altria Pendragon), Nobunaga Shimazaki (Arjuna), Rumi Okubo (Astolfo), and Part 2 Director of *Fate/Grand Order,* KANOU YOSHIKI, to talk *Fate/Grand Order* and other TYPE-MOON projects.

Closing out Aniplex of America's events at Anime Expo will be the *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba* Fifth Anniversary Special Event at Main Events on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. The celebration welcomes voice actors Natsuki Hanae (Tanjiro Kamado) and Takahiro Sakurai (Giyu Tomioka), as well as Aniplex Producer, Yuma Takahashi.

Attendees can look forward to stopping by Aniplex of America's 9,300 square foot booth at the Exhibit Hall in booth space #1920. Fans will have an opportunity to shop for exclusive merchandise and get their hands on free giveaways including the coveted Aniplex of America calendar. The space will also house the Aniplex of America mini-stage with programming throughout the four-day convention with appearances by the kigurumi mascots, cosplay gatherings, and more!

## Thursday, July 4

- Aniplex of America x A-1 Pictures Industry Panel
  - Time: 12:30 PM PDT
  - Room: Petree Hall
  - Special Guests: Akira Shimizu, Tomonari Tanaka, and Akihito Suzuki
- CloverWorks Industry Panel
  - Time: 7 PM PDT
  - Room: JW-Diamond
  - Special Guests: Akira Shimizu, Yuichi Fukushima, Taishi Kawakami, and Toshikazu Tsuji

## Friday, July 5

- Blue Exorcist Special Event
  - Time: 3:30 PM PDT
  - Room: Petree Hall
  - Special Guest: Nobuhiko Okamoto
- Sword Art Online Alternative: Gun Gale Online II at Anime Expo
  - Time: 7:30 PM PDT
  - Room: Petree Hall
  - Special Guests: Tomori Kusunoki, Wataru Hashimoto, and Gigguk (Guest Host)

## Saturday, July 6

- FG0 7th Anniversary x TYPE-MOON Projects
  - Time: 10:30 AM PDT
  - Room: Petree Hall
  - Special Guests: Ayako Kawasumi, Nobunaga Shimazaki, Rumi Okubo, KANOU YOSHIKI, and Albert Kao (Host)
- Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Fifth Anniversary Special Event
  - Time: 4 PM PDT
  - Room: Main Events
  - Special Guests: Natsuki Hanae, Takahiro Sakurai, and Yuma Takahashi

## About Aniplex of America Inc.

Aniplex of America, Inc. (Santa Monica, California) is a subsidiary of Aniplex, Inc. (headquartered in Tokyo, Japan), a division of Sony Music Entertainment (Japan), Inc., and a leading provider of anime content and music production and distribution in Japan. The company's ever-growing lineup of shows includes: *Sword Art Online, FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST: BROTHERHOOD, Fate/stay night [Unlimited Blade Works], Fate/Zero, KILL la KILL, GURREN LAGANN, MONOGATARI series, anohana -The Flower We Saw That Day-, Kaguya-sama: Love Is War, Lycoris Recoil, MASHLE: MAGIC AND MUSCLES, Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba*, and many more. The company released the English version of the popular mobile game, *Fate/Grand Order*, in 2017, as well as the critically acclaimed mobile JRPG *Disney Twisted-Wonderland* in 2022.

Website: <u>https://aniplexusa.com/</u> Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/AniplexUSA</u> Facebook: <u>https://facebook.com/AniplexUSA</u> Instagram: <u>https://instagram.com/AniplexUSA</u>

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