

URUSEI YATSURA
DISC 17, EPISODES 63 - 66

Episode 63, Story 86: "Introducing Ryuunosuke - We Love the Sea!"

The training that Ryuunosuke receives from her (his?) father is a parody of the methods used in the famous anime series "Ashita no Joe," the saga of an aspiring boxer, Joe, a loner who is taken under the wing of a grizzled old trainer. Just think of a younger and much more melodramatic version of "Rocky..."

Hamajaya literally means "beachside cafe." It goes without saying that real beachside cafes don't stay open during the winter. Mr. Fujinami is claiming his family invented the concept.

"Cross-Counter Punches" is a reference to a famous "Ashita no Joe" fight. Both Joe and his opponent, Rikishi, landed simultaneous punches with all their strength behind them. Joe was seriously injured, and Rikishi eventually died. This episode was so famous that it has been endlessly copied and parodied by many other shows.

Episode 64, Story 87: "The Season for Goodbyes"

"The sound of the bells of Gion Shouja..." "...carries the haunting tune of impermanence." is a poem from the famous "Tale of Heike." It is a reference to the fact that power and prosperity never last, that they are always destroyed by pride.

"Tomorrow, hurry! Hurry, hurry...! I'm Megane, who has just begun to walk..." is a parody of a famous old song called "Spring, hurry!"

"Who knows what love lurks in the hearts of men?"

The actual line is "Who knows the heart of the water, 100 feet below?" It's weird, untranslatable, and the perfect starting point for a certain pun-obsessed staff member...

Episode 65, Story 88: "Date: Impossible for Ran!"

The title, "Ran-chan no Deeto Daisakusen" is a play on "Spy Daisakusen," better known by its US title, "Mission: Impossible."

"Antonio's Special Destruction Hold" is the special finishing technique of Antonio Inoki, one-time king of Japanese pro-wrestling, and more recently the one and only Diet (the Japanese equivalent of the House of Representatives) member of the Sports Peace Party. During the Gulf War, Inoki flew to Iraq in an attempt to get the hostages freed. He didn't.

"The world is one family... We're all brothers! Prosperity for all! Pray for the national safety!" is a parody of a famous telephone commercial.

Episode 66, Story 89: "Happy Birthday My Darling"

During roll call, the names being called are all those of members of the production staff. Nunokawa, for example, is the president of Kitty Films.

In the scene where Ataru tries to hint that his birthday is coming up, he is reading the film-comic of the first UY movie, "Only You."

Ne-Ne Time: "Ne Ne Shiyoo..." is kid's language. "Ne Ne" is a kids word for sleep; "Ne Ne Shiyoo" means "let's go to sleep." Why is this in the liner notes? Because AnimEigo Chairchild James Ueki (aged 3 at the time these notes were originally written) did a fair Ten-imitation most nights, and his long-suffering parents, in an attempt at long time-delay revenge, wish to embarrass him in a few years when he reads this...

"April 13th." April is the 4th month, and 4 is an unlucky number in Japan because it can be pronounced the same as "death." It goes without saying that Ataru was born on a Friday, but even worse, he was born on "Butsumetsu," the unluckiest day in the Buddhist calendar.

"Laughing Target" is the name of another Rumiko Takahashi story, part of her "Rumic World" series.

Ataru's sniping at the calendar is probably a parody of "Golgo 13."