



31 MANGA BARCELONA

PRESS KIT

A MAGICAL, GAUDINIAN POSTER FOR AN EDITION FULL OF SURPRISES

The 31st edition of Manga Barcelona once again connects Catalonia and Japan through art, music, and a magical, modernist-inspired poster by Kamome Shirahama.

After the celebration of its 30th anniversary, Manga Barcelona continues to look to the future with enthusiasm, drawing on the strength that has made it a benchmark event for the last three decades. This new edition features exceptional guests, exclusive proposals, and a spectacular poster.

Kamome Shirahama, author of *Atelier of Witch Hat*, was one of last year's special guests. She was enchanted by Manga Barcelona, which is why she wanted to design the poster for this 31st edition. The poster features Coco, the protagonist of her famous manga, accompanied by someone very special: the Manga Barcelona mascot, Onachan! And, as one would expect, Shirahama was inspired by modernist art and Gaudí to create this beautiful poster. Meritxell Puig, the director of Manga Barcelona, said, "We are honored to have an artist of such authenticity and artistic sensitivity illustrate this year's edition. It's a magical poster that once again brings together Catalan culture and Barcelona with manga and Japan."

We are still working on this year's guest list, but we can already announce some of the authors and artists who will be visiting us this edition. The first confirmed guest is the exceptional Gou Tanabe, who is best known for his manga adaptations of the works of American writer H.P. Lovecraft. We will also be joined by Satoru Nii, an author famous for the manga series *Wind Breaker*. For fans of illustrated gastronomy, Mao Momiji will be joining us. He is an artistic genius who can bring the most exquisite dishes to life through his hyper realistic illustrations.

As for anime and music guests, we have a very special combination this year. First, Shinichiro Watanabe will visit us. He is the director and creator of one of the most acclaimed anime series of the last 25 years: *Cowboy Bebop*. Watanabe has also directed gems such as *Samurai Champloo*, and he recently released *Lazarus*, one of the most notable series in recent years.

Cowboy Bebop is also known for having one of the most celebrated opening songs and soundtracks in anime history. Yoko Kanno and the Seatbelts composed the music. Oriol Estrada, content advisor for Manga Barcelona, announced that: “For the first time outside of Japan, the singer and the group will come together to offer a memorable concert, turning Manga Barcelona into the setting for a very special event!” The concert will take place on Friday, December 5, 2025. The band will perform their anthems during the 31st edition of Manga Barcelona in an exclusive concert. To add to the celebration for *Cowboy Bebop* fans, Yoko Kanno and Shinichiro Watanabe will discuss together their collaboration on the legendary soundtrack.

With each edition, the Manga Barcelona auditorium has solidified its reputation as a destination for fans of Japanese animation, consistently drawing larger audiences. For now, we can announce three screenings for this edition. First is one that has become a tradition: the screening of *Detective Conan*, dubbed in Catalan, on Monday afternoon. This year, we will screen *Detective Conan: One-Eyed Flashback*. Next, we have two birthday celebrations. To celebrate Studio Ghibli's 40th anniversary, we will show *Whisper of the Heart* on Sunday. This lesser-known film could be described as a cult classic. Finally, on Saturday, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Memories*, the work of manga and anime genius Katsuhiro Otomo.

Our beloved mascot will be the star of this edition again, this time with a new exhibition: Onachan's Room. This space will allow us to explore their personal space and learn about their passion for otaku culture. Other returning spaces at Manga Barcelona include Takeshita Barcelona St., which will transport you to the iconic Harajuku street, and the Nagomi Area, which will offer the best handmade and original Japanese products.

As a new feature this year, we are introducing additional ticket options. Visitors can purchase an Onachan Fast Pass, which offers preferential access via an exclusive queue, allowing them to move more quickly during the event. Because Manga Barcelona values families and recognizes the generational shift, the Family Pack now includes a children's ticket. This reduced-price ticket aims to make it easier for children to join us and experience these special days.

As the date of the event that fans of Japanese culture look forward to with great anticipation approaches, the time left is dwindling. However, many surprises are still to be revealed. As usual, you will need to keep an eye on social media and upcoming announcements, so you don't miss any details about this edition.

Ticket sales will begin at the end of July. We look forward to seeing you from December 5 to 8, 2025, at Fira de Barcelona Gran Via.

ET MANGA BAR
CEL
ONA

POSTER



Poster author

KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

MANGA BARCELONA



EL MANGA BARCELONA

GUESTS



GOU TANABE

Born in 1975. He made his debut in 2001 with *Sunakichi*, which won the Special Jury Prize at the *Afternoon* Magazine Shiki Awards (jury: Kaiji Kawaguchi). In 2002, his adaptation of *Twenty-six Men and a Girl*, originally by Maksim Gorky, received an honorable mention at the fourth edition of Enterbrain's Entame Awards.

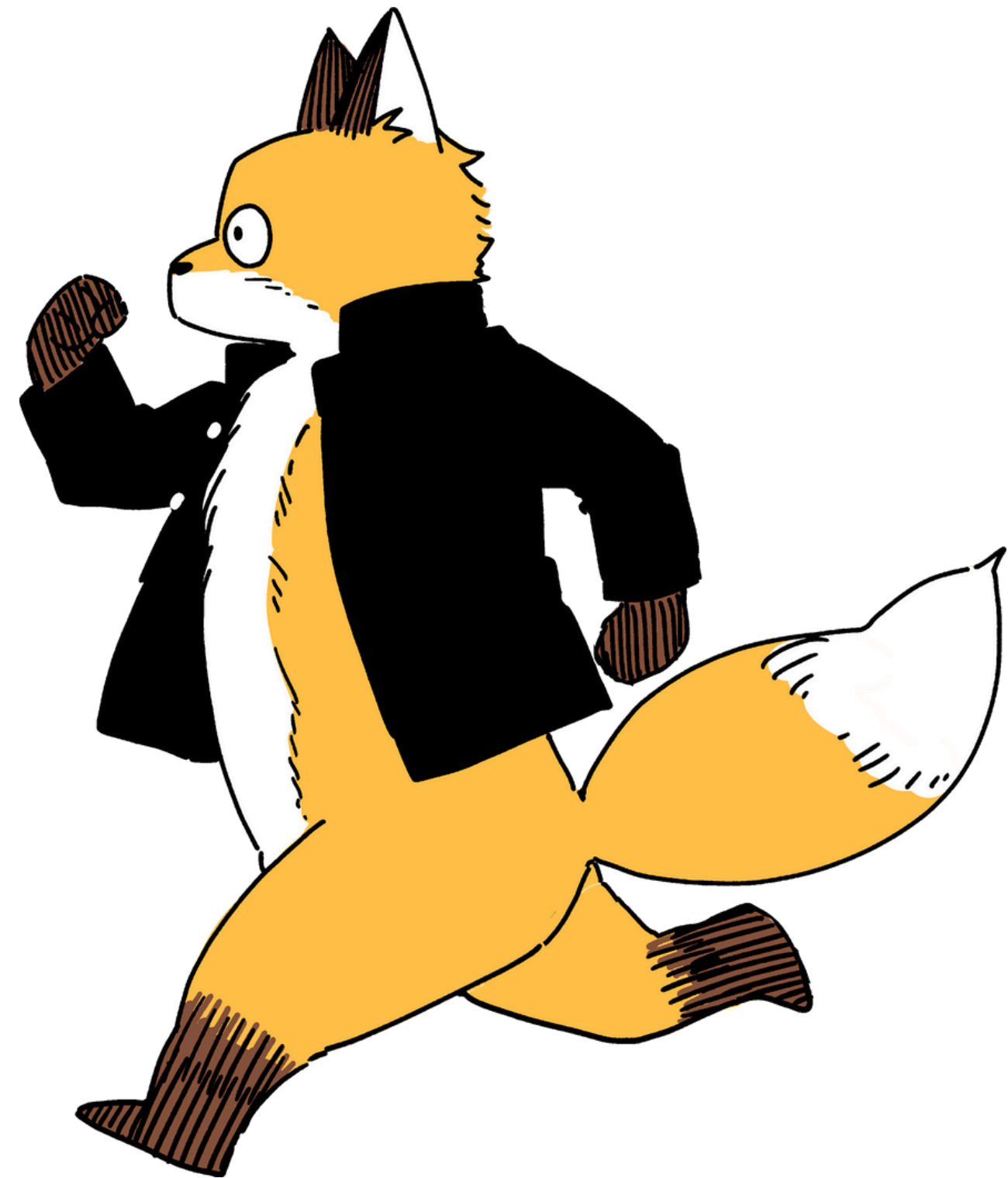
His most notable works include *Saudade* (script by Carib Song) and *Kasane* (based on the novel *Shinkei Kasane-gafuchi* by Enchō San'yūtei and with a script by Hiroaki Takeda). Since adapting *The Outsider* by H. P. Lovecraft in 2004, he has continued to tirelessly and ambitiously adapt the author's works. The artistic quality of his work has earned him widespread recognition around the world.



SATORU NII

In 2016, made manga debut with "Girls Mixed in the Boys' Badminton Club Secret Badminton Club" (Manga Box). Currently, **"WIND BREAKER"** is serialized in Magazine Pocket. The tankobon has been published up to volume 22, and the total circulation has surpassed 8 million copies.

This work has gained attention not only for its TV anime adaptation but also for stage and game adaptations, and a movie adaptation has also been decided.



YOKO KANNO

Yoko Kanno is not just a composer—she's a sonic storyteller, a genre-bending magician, and one of the most influential figures in anime music history. Best known as the mind behind the iconic sounds of **Cowboy Bebop** and **Ghost in the Shell**, she's spent decades creating unforgettable scores that range from jazz and classical to electronica, blues, ambient, and experimental rock. You never know where a Yoko Kanno soundtrack will take you—but it's always somewhere extraordinary. And of course, she leads the enigmatic band **SEATBELTS**, responsible for bringing Cowboy Bebop's unforgettable soundtrack to life.

Her anime legacy is legendary. She first caught attention with the lush, cinematic score of **Macross Plus**, followed by the dreamy, emotional soundscape of **The Vision of Escaflowne**. Then came **Cowboy Bebop**—a genre-defying explosion of jazz, funk, and cool that forever changed how music was used in anime. That was just the beginning.



GUESTS



SEATBELTS

SEATBELTS is a band of technical masters led by legendary composer **Yoko Kanno**, also known as Captain Duckling. They occasionally descend to Earth—and luckily, they’re coming to Europe this December for the first time ever for a show at **MANGA BARCELONA**.

Known for their wild mix of jazz, blues, funk, and experimental sounds, SEATBELTS are the creators of the unforgettable soundtrack to *Cowboy Bebop*, one of the most influential anime series of all time. From the explosive opening theme ***Tank!***, to the soulful ending ***The Real Folk Blues***, the emotional ***Space Lion***, and the energetic ***Rush***, SEATBELTS helped define the show’s unique identity—and left a mark on anime music history.



MAI YAMANE

Mai Yamane is a renowned Japanese singer and lyricist. She began her musical career in 1979 after winning the Yamaha Music Foundation's Cocky Pop. In 1980, Yamane released her first album, ***Tasogare*** (たそがれ), which became a defining work in the city pop genre. Her husky, soulful voice and sophisticated arrangements resonated with the urban Japanese youth of the 1980s.

In the 1990s, Yamane transitioned into anime music, collaborating with composer **Yoko Kanno**. Her most prominent work includes contributions to the acclaimed anime series **Cowboy Bebop**, where her vocals featured in tracks such as ***The Real Folk Blues***, ***Blue***, ***Don't Bother None*** or ***Gotta Knock a Little Harder***.

Beyond Cowboy Bebop, Yamane's anime contributions include songs for **Macross Plus** (*After, in the Dark*), **The Vision of Escaflowne** (*If You*) and **Darker than Black**, among others.



SHINICHIRO WATANABE

Shinichiro Watanabe is one of the most influential figures in global anime—and for good reason. He’s the original creator and director of iconic titles like **Cowboy Bebop** (1998), the space western that became a cult classic and was adapted into a live-action series by Netflix in 2021.

The adventures of Spike and his crew marked the beginning of Watanabe’s remarkable career, which would later bring us **Samurai Champloo** (2004), **Kids on the Slope** (2012), **Terror in Resonance** (2014), **Space Dandy** (2014), and **Carole & Tuesday** (2019)—series in which the Japanese director blends drama, science fiction, and comedy, always with music at the heart of the story. His collaborations with artists like **Yoko Kanno** and the late **Nujabes** are central to his unique audiovisual storytelling.

In 2025, Watanabe returns with **Lazarus**, a sci-fi series set in the year 2052, produced by MAPPA for Adult Swim and streaming on HBO Max.



AiNA THE END

With a voice like no other, **AiNA THE END** has become one of Japan's most exciting artists—and if you need proof, just listen to *On The Way*, the opening theme for Season 2 of **DAN DA DAN**. Since the end of **BiSH**, the legendary idol group she was part of from 2015 to 2023, her solo career has taken off, especially in the anime world. Her songs have featured in major hits like ***Gundam: The Witch from Mercury*** (*Red:birthmark*), ***The Apothecary Diaries*** (*The Spell*), and ***Mononoke: Phantom in the Rain*** (*Love Sick*), whose music video won big at the MTV Video Music Awards Japan.

But AiNA THE END isn't just a voice. She writes her own music, takes bold creative risks, and acts too—she starred in *Kyrie* (2023), a film by acclaimed director Shunji Iwai, and has collaborated with artists like Kenshi Yonezu or Mondo Grosso. With three solo albums since her 2021 debut and a string of sold-out shows—including a headline performance at the Budokan, now streaming on Prime Video—AiNA's only getting started. Her next stop? **MANGA BARCELONA**, marking her first-ever show outside Asia. Don't miss the chance to see Japan's next big star live on stage.



MAO MOMIJI

Mao Momiji is a Japanese foodie artist. In his appetizing illustrations, special attention is put on light and colours. He graduated from the Oil Painting Department of Musashino Art University. In Spring of 2019, he started to upload a new illustration every day to his Instagram account, which now has more than 190 000 followers.

In Autumn of 2020, he held his first solo exhibition, *365 delicious days*, to huge acclaim in Tokyo. He has held exhibitions in other Japanese cities, as well as in Taiwan, New York and Los Angeles. His dream is to exhibit his works in all five continents, and to taste (and draw) all the delicacies that exist in this world. Mao Momiji is the official food designer of the anime *Delicious in Dungeon* (2024). In Japan, the publisher Parco Shuppan released two of his artbooks. In Spain, Ediciones Tomodomo published his first book ***Platos con ¡PINTAZA!***



EL MANGA BARCELONA

SPACES

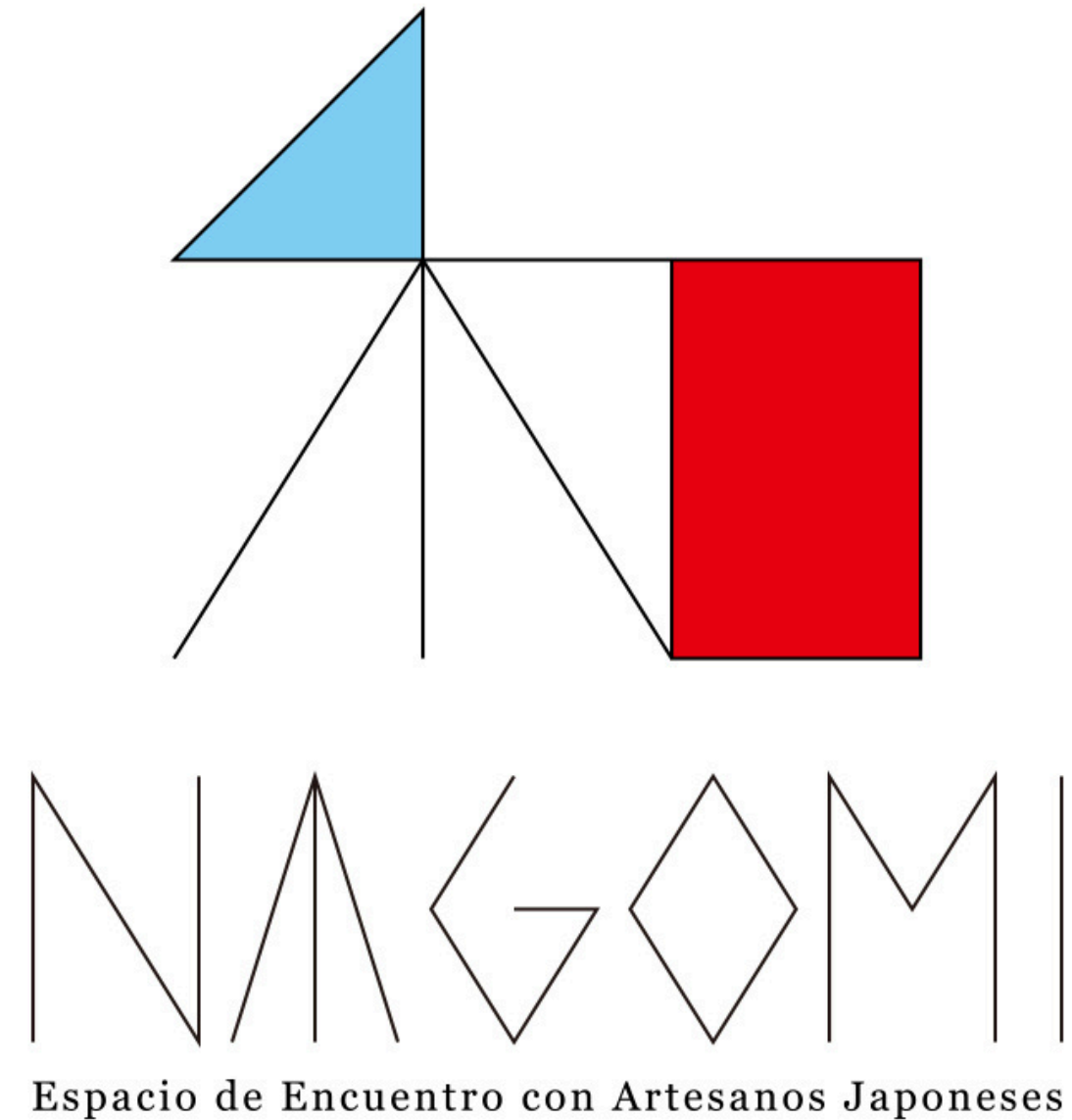


NAGOMI AREA

This year the **Nagomi Area** is back, and with more capacity!

An area that enchanted the most passionate of Japanese crafts and where you can find accessories and everyday items of high quality, along with a wide range of Japanese artists.

In collaboration with *Japan Promotion*



TAKESHITA BARCELONA ST.

Transport yourself back to the Harajuku neighborhood (Tokyo) with our recreation of the iconic Takeshita dori street. Manga Barcelona brings one more year its own version called **“Takeshita Barcelona St.”**.

In this street you will find concentrated all those exhibitors related to Japanese fashion and kawaii culture. An epicenter of trends and a key place for Japanese youth fashion that travels again to 31 Manga Barcelona!



ONACHAN'S CASTLE

Between giant inflatables and challenging tests, there is no time to get bored here. Here, the real heroes don't have capes.... they have comfortable sneakers! Test your agility in all the tests.



MANGA BARCELONA

EXHIBITIONS



EXHIBITIONS



NEW!

ONACHAN'S ROOM

This year, we are hosting a special space at the event where you can get to know our favorite mascot, Onachan, a little better.

Immerse yourself in their world at the **“Onachan's Room”** exhibition, where you will be able to explore the most personal space of the Manga Barcelona protagonist. It is decorated with everything that a good otaku should have.



EXHIBITIONS



NEW!

SEASONS OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN

MANGA KIDS ACADEMY EXPO

The Manga Kids Academy is back this year with more creative activities for children. It is expanding its exhibition and outreach space with a new theme: **the seasons in Japan**. The Japanese have a unique relationship with nature and weather phenomena, including rain, blossoms, and typhoons. What do people eat during each season? How do they dress? What holidays do they celebrate? How do they celebrate them? Discover the basics of the Japanese way of life and how it influences its people.

As always, this is an expo for the whole family. There are visual and interactive elements for children, as well as additional information for adults via QR codes.



EXHIBITIONS



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL MANGA AWARDS

This exhibition gathers the works of Spanish authors who have been awarded in the history of the Japan International Manga Awards. With names like **Ana C. Sánchez**, **Ana Oncina** or **Emma Ríos**.





ACTIVITIES



WHAT TO DO AT MANGA BARCELONA?

The entrance at MANGA BARCELONA is the entrance to lots of activities, so many that it is almost impossible to participate them all! You will find these activities among different areas:

- The **MANGA ACADEMY** is designed to host conferences, round tables and other talks on our favorite topics.
- The **KITSUNE ROOM** is dedicated to editorial presentations and other activities such as Q&A sessions with some of the guests of Manga Barcelona.
- The **COOL JAPAN** you will be able to delve into the most succulent and interesting secrets of Japanese pop culture.
- The **NIHONGO EXPERIENCE** is the space led by DARUMA that offers workshops and activities to bring us closer to Japanese culture.
- The **MANGA WORKSHOP** is the space dedicated to the creative processes of manga such as the narrative and the creation and design of characters.
- The **ANIME WORKSHOP** is dedicated to the animation processes and is open to the public of all ages.
- At **NIHON RYORI** visitors can learn all about Japanese gastronomy.

WHAT TO DO AT MANGA BARCELONA?

- **MANGA SPORT** offers different sports disciplines. Our visitors will be able to show their athletic qualities and have fun while exercising.
- **MANGA KIDS** is the space for the little ones, where we offer all kinds of activities related to manga and anime for everyone to enjoy.
- The **MATSURI STAGE** will liven things up with choreographies and K-Pop songs.
- The **BIG STAGE** is the place where Japanese music will shine, but there will also be space for cosplay, karaoke and idol contests.
- The **MEET&GREET ARTISTS** is the meeting place for guests and their fans.
- The **AUDITORIUM** concentrates the passion for cinema through the most interesting titles of the anime billboard.
- The **MANGA STREAM** is the space open to the public that will host interviews and activities that will be broadcasted live during the four days.

MANGA KIDS

The audience of Manga Barcelona has been rejuvenated in recent years. Although the event is associated with a teenage audience, the truth is that the children's audience has grown a lot, and now there are two generations of otaku who come as a family to enjoy the Manga Barcelona proposals. That is why we continue to strengthen the **space dedicated to children and their families**, with activities throughout the four days and the exhibition on Japanese culture focused on the little ones of the house.

This year, the Manga Kids will have exclusive Onachan cut-outs!



MANGA DIY

Draw and create your own badge of your favorite anime characters.



PINTACARAS

Come and dress up as your favorite characters in our face painting area.



MANGATECA

A library, but of manga!
Here you can drown yourself in comics and manga whenever you want.



MANGA KIDS ACADEMY

A space with the aim of highlighting the lessons learned through manga and anime.

NIHON RYORI: YOU WILL NOT GO HUNGRY



Manga and Japanese haute cuisine come together at the Nihon Ryori space at 31 Manga Barcelona.

The Nihon Ryori space, dedicated to Japanese cooking workshops and activities, returns to 31 Manga Barcelona with an unprecedented program that brings together award-winning chefs, culinary experts, and participatory activities designed for all audiences.

From December 5 to 8, attendees can enjoy workshops, demonstrations, and tastings that explore the richness and diversity of Japanese cuisine.



AUDITORIUM



TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES, THIS IS A MOVIE THEATER!

Sssssh! The room where the revelry of the rest of the area turns to silence and emotion in front of the big screen of the Manga Auditorium. We continue our strong commitment to animation and Japanese cinema. Our Auditorium has already become a meeting point for the otaku film buffs.

Important premieres, some of the biggest hits of the last few months, as well as tributes to some of the most important films and directors are waiting for you.



And remember that the **Manga Barcelona Auditorium Award** is up for grabs, where you can vote for your favorite film!

WHISPER OF THE HEART

Original title: *Mimi wo sumaseba*

Year: 1995

Director: Yoshifumi Kondo

Screenplay: Hayao Miyazaki (based on the original manga by Aoi Hiragi)

Production: Studio Ghibli

Genre: Animation/Romance

Running time: 111 minutes

Original version with Spanish subtitles

SYNOPSIS

Reading the same books from their local library brings two teenagers together: Shizuku, an aspiring writer, and Seiji, a passionate violinist. As they finish high school, both must decide on their future, while their growing feelings bring them closer together. A special antique shop and a “magical cat” help bring this romance to fruition.



Screening: Sunday, December 7

DETECTIU CONAN: ONE-EYED FLASHBACK

Original title: Meitantei Conan: Sekigan no Flashback

Year: 2025

Director: Katsuya Shigehara

Screenplay: Takeharu Sakurai (based on the manga by Gosho Aoyama)

Production: TMS/1st Studio

Genre: Animation/Action-Mystery

Running time: 110 minutes

Original version with Catalan subtitles

SYNOPSIS

The Mori Detective Agency receives a call from Inspector Wani, Kogoro's former colleague, requesting that they investigate Kansuke Yamato's case. Yamato is a police officer from Nagano Prefecture who was shot in the eye during an avalanche in the mountains months ago. He is now investigating a case at the Nobeyama National Astronomical Observatory that may be related to his injury. Conan and Kogoro respond to the call.



Screening: Monday, December 8

MEMORIES

Original title: Memorîzu (Memories)

Year: 1995

Directors: Katsuhiro Otomo, Koji Morimoto, Tensai Okamura

Screenplay: Katsuhiro Otomo, Satoshi Kon

Production: Madhouse y Studio 4°C

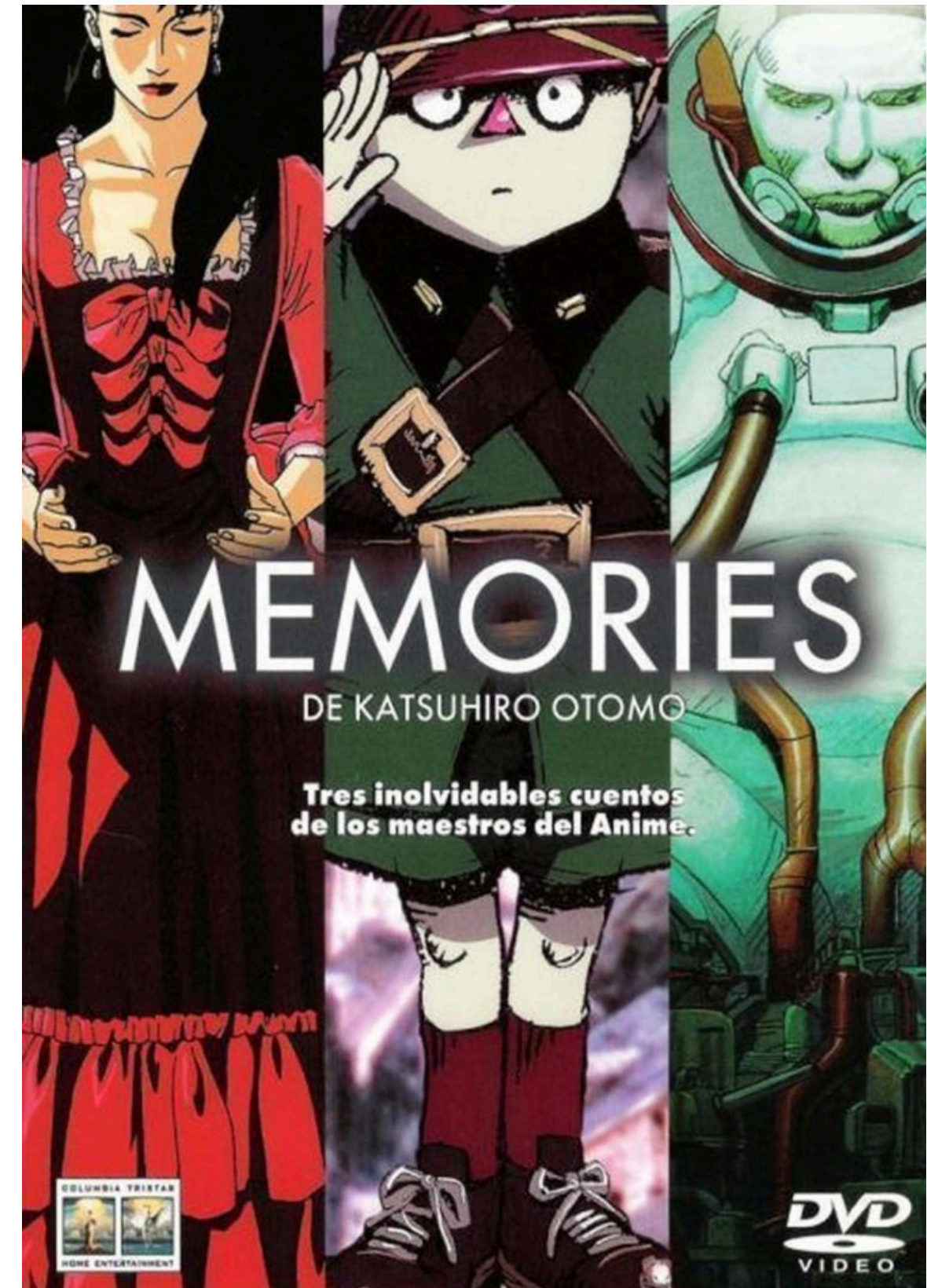
Genre: Animation/Science Fiction

Running time: 113 minutes

Original version with Spanish subtitles

SYNOPSIS

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, this classic anthology will be shown in a restored 4K version. Memories, produced by Katsuhiro Otomo (the “father” of Akira), was released on December 23, 1995. It is an omnibus film consisting of three short films: Magnetic Rose, written by Satoshi Kon and directed by Koji Morimoto; Stink Bomb, written by Katsuhiro Otomo and directed by Tensai Okamura; and Cannon Fodder, written and directed by Katsuhiro Otomo.



Screening: Saturday, December 6



CONTESTS



CONTESTS: MAY THE BEST WIN!



ECG: EXTREME COSPLAY GATHERING

FICOMIC organizes once again the Spanish Preliminary of the Extreme Cosplay Gathering (ECG) within the framework of the 31th Manga Barcelona.

*The contest will take place on **Saturday, 6th December 2025.***



WCS: WORLD COSPLAY SUMMIT

FICOMIC organizes once again the Spanish Preliminary of the World Cosplay Summit (WCS) within the framework of the 31th Manga Barcelona.

*The contest will take place on **Sunday, 7th December 2025.***

CONTESTS: MAY THE BEST WIN!

COSPLAY PARADE

The COSPLAY PARADE returns to the stage at Manga Barcelona. No performances are required for this catwalk show, just style when walking the runway. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, highlighting the best armor, wigs, and characterizations. *Now sissy that walk!*

COSPLAY PERFORMANCE

Want to participate in cosplay contests without feeling the pressure of an international competition? Not all cosplayers aim to travel to Nagoya or Paris! Participate in Cosplay Performance individually or accompanied by your squad.

COSPLAY PETIT

The new generations of cosplayers are coming on strong and deserve their own Cosplay Parade! Talent has no age! Ficomic hosted again the COSPLAY PETIT in the framework of the 31th Manga Barcelona.

COSPLAY SHOOT

Snap, snap! Cosplay Shoot is back, a great opportunity for cosplayers and photographers to come together and showcase their talent through snapshots that reflect the world of cosplay.

DRAW THIS IN YOUR STYLE

FICOMIC is once again organizing the DRAW IT IN YOUR STYLE contest as part of 31 Manga Barcelona.

NEW!

CONCURSO DE MANGA 2025

Ficomic & Shacho Kai are organizing the 2025 Manga Contest as part of the 31st Manga Barcelona. With the chance to win exclusive prizes.

CONTESTS: MAY THE BEST WIN!



K-POP DANCE FIGHT FEST

Manga Barcelona and Vice2Dance are once again organizing the Spanish preliminary round of the KPOP DANCE FIGHT FEST. The competition will select the team that will represent Spain in the European final to be held in 2026.



IDOL CONTEST: *Shine bright like an idol*

Aspiring idols will once again shine on our stage in the IDOL CONTEST: *Shine bright like an idol!*



JUST SING! *PLEASE DON'T STOP THE MUSIC*

FICOMIC is organizing a new edition of the karaoke contest Just sing! *Please don't stop the music*, as part of the 31st Manga Barcelona.



Who will be crowned queen or king of Manga Barcelona? Are you the otaqueen or otaking? To be crowned, you must demonstrate extensive knowledge of manga and anime culture, as well as the history of Manga Barcelona itself.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OPENING TIMES

From Friday, December 5 to Monday, December 8: from 10 am to 8 pm.

There are no ticket offices on site. Tickets will be sold exclusively online on our website as capacity is released throughout the day.

The ticket is valid only for the day indicated on it.

The ticket will be a single-access ticket. Once you have left the site you will not be able to re-enter except for accredited people (exhibitors, press, authors, contest participants...).

The organization may make changes in the programming and location of activities within the enclosure it deems necessary for a better functioning of the event.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Standard ticket Friday: 17€

Tickets can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com. The ticket is only valid for one person and one day.

Standard ticket Saturday/Sunday/Monday: 18€

Tickets can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com. The ticket is only valid for one person and one day.

Discount ticket: 15€

Holders of the Youth Card and FANOC can buy their ticket at the price of 15€. The ticket can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com. The ticket is only valid for one person and for Friday 5th at Manga Barcelona.

This promotion cannot be combined with any other discount.

Discount ticket Saturday/Sunday/Monday: 16€

Holders of the Youth Card and FANOC can buy their ticket at the price of 16€. The ticket can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com. The ticket is only valid for one person and for one of the days of your choice (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) at Manga Barcelona.

This promotion cannot be combined with any other discount.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEW!

Onachan Fast Pass: 26€

Priority entry via an exclusive queue separated from other visitors. It can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com. The ticket is only valid for one person and one day.

NEW!

Onachan 4-Days Fast Pass: 94€

4-day pass priority entry via an exclusive queue separated from other visitors. It can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com.

NEW!

Children ticket: 15€

Since 11 years old, included.

Family pack: 63€

Valid for 2 adults and 2 children (up to 11 years old).

4- day pass: 63€

The 4-day pass for 31 Manga Barcelona can be purchased through the website www.mangabarcelona.com.

Free access for children under 5 years old (from 0 to 4 years old), accompanied by an adult with a ticket. Once you arrive at the venue with your ticket, you must ask for the child's ticket at the entrance. The organization reserves the right to ask for an ID or a family book to prove the age of the child.

HERE, OUR SUPPORTERS: DOMO ARIGATO!



**STAY TUNED TO
OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS
FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

