

Metro Anime Fall 2011 Survey – Quick Cheat Sheet



❖ **Squid Girl** – Like a monster movie, an angry giant squid emerges from the ocean to wreak havoc on the land and take revenge for centuries of pollution and abuse of the sea. But when it emerges and takes human form, the squid turns out to be a rather naïve young girl, who is quickly distracted from her world-destroying ambitions by two clever sisters running a beachfront diner. Full of sight gags and silly situations, this "squid with a heart of gold" can make tentacles funny, make seafood disturbing, and world-domination refreshingly cute. The tone and ocean-gags feel a lot like Seto no Hanayome (My Bride is a Mermaid), only with fewer gangsters. [12 eps]

❖ **Otome Yōkai Zakuro** – Spirits of nature (yōkai) struggle to survive as Japan radically modernizes, in this cool mix of period romance and mystical action. Half-spirit, half-human Zakuro and her "sisters" act as liaisons between the human and spirit worlds, working alongside human soldiers to keep the peace. But they struggle with their own loyalties as mysteries unfold and relations turn anything but peaceful. [13 eps]



❖ **Kore wa Zombie desu-ka?** – Ayumu's ordinary life comes to an end when he's brutally murdered by a serial killer. Resurrected by a necromancer, his dead "life" becomes more chaotic than his alive "life", when chainsaw-wielding magical girls and vampire ninjas come to kill him, marry him, or join him – or possibly all three. A heady mix of misbegotten magical girl action and warped harem comedy. [13 eps]

❖ **Durarara!!** – Sci-fi and slice-of-life crash together in this ensemble series about life in the "Brooklyn of Tokyo", Ikebukuro ward. Kidnappings, secret experiments, back-alley meetings, and a headless faerie on an iron horse all intersect with the lives of several ordinary Ikebukuro residents. The story unfolds from different perspectives, revealing the characters' treachery, obsession, and so many layers of secrets – all while a jazzy soundtrack, crazy visuals, and tight pacing keep drawing you deeper into the web. [26 eps]



❖ **Princess Jellyfish (Kurage-hime)** – The ladies of Amamizukan Apartments live comfortable home-body otaku lives far from the glare of "the Stylish". When a femme fatale developer wants to tear down their home, they learn to fight back on their own terms, with some help from a very different sort of "femme". Wacky, heartfelt, and often hilarious, this series weaves a sort of girls' "Animal House" story, with a "just-right" mix of offbeat characters and nearly-over-the-top melodrama. [11 eps]

❖ **Tiger & Bunny** – In a cross between X-Men and Bladerunner, super-powered mutants use their abilities to help society, while big corporations exploit them for profit. An old-fashioned hero, "Wild Tiger" Kotetsu wants to help people and make enough to support his daughter, while his intense new partner, Barnaby (aka "Bunny") is driven to avenge his parents. There's mecha action, slapstick comedy, and gratuitous product placement. But the real gem is the characters' development and differing reactions to an increasingly dark understanding of their world. [25 eps]

