

The anime listed below have rough release dates from Spring season 2023 through Winter season 2024, with some minor exceptions. Sequels to series discussed in prior years are listed for reference. Streaming services where the selections can be viewed legally are listed in series descriptions.

Action/Sci-Fi

Mobile Suit Gundam: The Witch From Mercury – 24 Episodes, 1 Prologue – Crunchyroll – The timid Suletta Mercury attends the elite Asticassia School of Technology. There she becomes involved in the school's dueling game for the hand of the icy Miorine. **CW:** Violence, War.

Pluto – 8 Episodes (1 hour apiece) – Netflix – The murder of the beloved robot Montblanc kicks off an investigation, lead by Europol robot inspector Gesicht, into the apparent targeting of the world's 7 greatest robots by a sinister force. An excellent "adaptation of an adaptation" that's deeply compelling. **CW:** Violence, prejudice.

Heavenly Delusion – 13 Episodes – Hulu – After a disaster decimates humanity and leads to the development of horrifying creatures, survivors Maru and Kiruko travel the broken down landscape in search of a place called "Heaven." Fascinating and disturbing. **CW:** Violence, body horror, SA.

ZOM 100: Bucket List of the Dead – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll, Hulu, Netflix – Abused office worker Akira Tendo finds himself with a new lease on life when a zombie apocalypse gives him the chance to live it on his own terms. Funny, action-packed, and deeply perceptive about the effect of abuse. **CW:** violence, abuse, fanservice.

Bullbuster – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Young enthusiastic engineer Okino is transferred to the minor "pest control" company Namidome. There he learns that they're trying to exterminate an abandoned island of giant monsters. But can they do their job while navigating all kinds of red tape? A funny and perceptive look at financial roadblocks in the way of doing good work. **CW:** Violence

Metallic Rouge – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll – On future Mars, humans live alongside androids called Neans. When the Immortal Nine Neans rise up against humanity, a young Nean named Rouge Redstar and investigator Naomi Ortmann track them down one-by-one. The plot can be somewhat impenetrable, but the action and soundtrack make up for it. **CW:** Violence

Scott Pilgrim Takes Off – 8 Episodes – Netflix – Scott Pilgrim meets the woman of his dreams in the enigmatic and cool Ramona Flowers. But things come crashing down when he's forced to fight her 7 Evil Exes in hand-to-hand combat. Yes, I count this as anime, fight me. **CW:** Violence

Sports

Overtake! – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – After suffering harassment for taking a controversial photo, photographer Kyouya Madoka finds his creative spark returning after meeting up-and-coming F4

racer Haruka Asahina and photographing him in a vulnerable emotional moment. Interesting look at an unfamiliar sport, with great character development. **CW:** Sports injury, Tohoku Earthquake

Drama

BanG Dream! It's MyGO!!!!! – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Anon Chihaya transfers schools and finds that almost everyone is in a band, so she follows suit. She meets timid Tomori and invites her to join forces, but she doesn't realize Tomori's traumatic past. This may be a franchise show, but don't be fooled – this is one of the best character dramas of the year. **CW:** Bullying, mental health

Oshi no Ko – 11 Episodes (90 minute premiere) – HIDIVE – Gynecologist Goro Amemiya is a fan of idol Ai Hoshino; he's rightfully shocked when she visits him, pregnant, to deliver her children. When Goro is killed, he finds himself reincarnated as one of Ai's twin children. When Ai is subsequently killed, he makes it his (second) life's work to uncover the culprit. This series is perceptive about the price paid for fame in our society. **CW:** violence/murder, abuse, generally the idol and entertainment industries (yikes)

Ooku: The Inner Chambers – 10 Episodes – Netflix – When a mysterious illness dubbed “red-faced smallpox” due to its primary symptoms, decimates the male population of Edo period Japan, women are forced to fill the power vacuum, including at the level of Shogun. These are the stories of the young male concubines in the “Ooku,” the Shogun's inner chambers. Interesting speculation about what might happen if gendered power dynamics were altered. **CW:** Violence, SA, infant loss

The Apothecary Diaries – 24 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Trained apothecary Maomao is kidnapped and sold into service of the Imperial Court. Soon her talents are recognized and she is elevated to a lady-in-waiting for Gyokuyou, an intelligent woman and the emperor's favorite concubine. There her knowledge is invaluable for solving the royalty's various medical mysteries. This is a great story about smart people being smart, with great character interactions. **CW:** Violence, infant loss, suicide

Romance and Relationships

Skip and Loafer – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll – The ambitious Mitsumi leaves her country town for the urban wilds of Tokyo to attend an elite high school. When her first day is a disaster, she takes comfort in the budding friendship provided by Shima-kun, whose laid-back nature serves as the perfect foil. This is a great, uplifting story about friends-and-possibly-more. **CW:** Brief disordered eating

My Happy Marriage – 12 Episodes – Netflix – Miyo, the daughter of a powerful family who lacks her family's requisite supernatural perception, is sent off to marry Kudou, the head of his family with a reputation for being difficult. However, he turns out to be much different than Miyo expected. Yes, this is a very traditional gendered romance, but it's one of the best. **CW:** Violence, familial abuse

A Sign of Affection – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – College student Yuki Itose has grown up deaf and doesn't interact much outside her small group of friends. When she meets handsome Itsuomi Nagi, a world traveler interested in learning sign language, Yuki finds her world expanding. This beautifully-rendered series features real Japanese sign language. **CW:** Ableism/microaggressions, alcohol use

Cherry Magic! 30 Years of Virginity Can Make You a Wizard?! – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – When sexually-inexperienced office worker Adachi turns 30 years old, he gains the ability to read the minds of people he touches. In doing so, he discovers that Kurosawa, the star salesman at his job, has a crush on him. Being able to hear inner thoughts suddenly makes Adachi's life way more complicated! This romance series is cute and funny. **CW:** Homophobia, alcohol use

A Galaxy Next Door – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Manga author Ichiro Kuga takes care of his siblings after their parents' untimely death. When his manga career is threatened by the possibility of missing a major deadline, he's saved by his new assistant Shiori Goshiki. After a mysterious supernatural occurrence, however, Shiori declares them engaged. This more mature love story gets better with each episode. **CW:** death in family

My Love Story with Yamada-kun at Lv999 – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll – After being dumped by her boyfriend, Akane finds herself diving headfirst into Forest of Savior, an online game. At a meetup, she runs into Yamada, one of her guildmates. Despite their differences, once the two get to know each other better, they find their relationship developing. This is a fun, if unorthodox, relationship story. **CW:** Slight age-gap relationship, alcohol use

Horror/Mystery

Undead Murder Farce – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Aya Shindou is a detective who's lost everything but her head. She partners with half-oni Tsugaru on a quest to find her stolen body (and discover who experimented on his), solving supernatural mysteries along the way. This series brings fun mystery with vampires, werewolves, and other famous characters like Sherlock Holmes and Arsene Lupin. **CW:** Violence

Dark Gathering – 25 Episodes – HIDIVE – Keitaro was cursed as a child and has always dealt with being perceptive of spirits. When hired as a tutor for a creepy young girl (who happens to be his childhood friend's cousin), he gets involved in her quest to collect evil spirits in preparation for a fight for her deceased mother's spirit. This oddball horror series is genuinely scary. **CW:** Violence/gore, suicide, body horror, abuse

Akuma-kun – 12 Episodes – Netflix – Ichiro Umorigi, known as "Akuma-kun," mans the Millennium Research Institute, where he and his friend Mephisto III handle spiritually-related requests. This is an

adaptation of Shigeru Mizuki's *other* story of an oddball supernatural character; the stories all deal with relationships between parents and children. **CW:** Violence

Fantasy/Isekai

Frieren: Beyond Journey's End – 28 Episodes – Crunchyroll – After defeating the demon king, immortal elf Frieren leaves her adventuring party to continue her magical research. She returns 50 years later to find that her human/dwarven companions have all grown old in her absence. Deeply feeling this loss, she undergoes another journey to make amends and understand the fleeting nature of human life. This is a beautiful, bittersweet fantasy story. **CW:** Violence, alcohol use

Delicious in Dungeon – 24 Episodes – Netflix – Knight Laios and his adventuring party have a limited time to find and defeat the red dragon before his sister is digested. To save time, they decide to find food along the way to their destination. With the help of experienced gourmand Senshi, they learn to prepare and eat the flora and fauna of the dungeon. This hilarious series does a good job of speculating on what might be edible in a fantasy world. Also, lots of pretty pictures of food. **CW:** Violence, alcohol use

Reborn as a Vending Machine, I Now Wander the Dungeon – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – A vending machine otaku dies and is reborn as a vending machine in the dungeon of another world. He makes friends and provides supplies, becoming an important member of the community. Extremely silly, but with a lot of heart. **CW:** Violence, fanservice

Solo Leveling – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – After otherworld portals open throughout the world, it's only the hunters, those with magically-given abilities, that can fight the monsters within them. Sung Jin-Woo is one such hunter, but of the weakest class. A terrifying experience that nearly kills him, however, provides him a way to gain power. Extremely violent (and detailed about it) and somewhat "angry man revenge-y," but it pulled me in despite that. **CW:** violence, gore.

Heroes and Magical Girls

Shy – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – One day, people with super powers begin to appear all over the world. Japan's hero, Shy (you know, because she's very shy), lacks in self-confidence, especially after an incident that sends criticism her way. However, her particular brand of empathy and kindness turns out to be a source of power. Surprising hero series; the first season of episodes focuses on two women heroes (Shy and Spirit). **CW:** Violence, character death.

The Power of Hope: Precure Full Bloom – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – When Nozomi was young she helped protect people's hopes and dreams as a Precure. Now an adult, she and her contemporaries

find that adult life can be more complicated than just “believing in yourself.” An interesting look at the complexities of adult life and the challenges we face. **CW:** Violence, alcohol use

Firefighter Daigo: Rescuer in Orange – 23 Episodes – Crunchyroll – The story follows three new recruits into the elite Tokyo Fire Department rescue squad. Each has their reasons for joining the department, and each encounters challenges along the way. This series provides interesting insight into the type of rescues (and rescue tools) that occur. **CW:** Intense situations, rescue operations, death

Comedy/Slice-of-Life

Yuri is my Job – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Hime Shiraki has everyone fooled with her outgoing personality and good looks, but it’s all a façade. When she causes an accident, her fake personality can’t absolve her of responsibility, but it definitely helps her when she takes a job at a yuri-focused café to make up for it. This series is a fun look at classic Yuri tropes and being real about oneself. **CW:** Brief situation with predatory lesbian trope

My New Boss is Goofy – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Momose leaves his job after experiencing abuse from his boss. When he joins a new company he’s afraid of more of the same, but it turns out that Shirosaki, his new manager, is a soft-hearted goofball. This series is balm for the soul. **CW:** Work-related PTSD.

Pokémon Concierge – 4 Episodes – Netflix – Haru leaves her corporate job for literally greener pastures to become a concierge at Pokémon resort. There she helps Pokémon relax while learning to do so herself. This cute stop-motion animated series is fun even if you’re not a Pokémon devotee.

Otaku Elf – 12 Episodes – HIDIVE – The goddess enshrined at Takamimi shrine is none other than Elda, an elf summoned 400 years ago from another world. She’s a bit of an otaku shut-in, something that her current Miko, Koito Koganei, has some issue with. The two work out their relationship (while Elda continues to indulge in her otaku pursuits). This is a wholesome series that’s made more fun with Elda’s historical insights about the Japan of yesteryear.

I Don’t Even Know What to Call This, But it was the Best Thing I Watched This Year

Migi & Dali – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll – After the death of their mother, identical twins Migu and Dali bide their time at an orphanage before being adopted by a kind elderly couple, The Sonoyamas. But the Sonoyamas only wanted one child, so Migu and Dali pose as one child, “Hitori,” while they use their resources to try to solve their mother’s murder. This series is almost indescribable – at times utterly hilarious, while at others twisted and upsetting. It’s not hyperbole to say that you’ll laugh, you’ll

cry, and you'll exclaim "what the hell just happened?!" and be better for the experience. **CW:** Death, emotional abuse, bullying, arson, alcohol use

Sequels (for informational purposes)

Ranking of Kings: The Treasure Chest of Courage – 10 Episodes – Crunchyroll

Birdie Wing: Golf Girls' Story Season 2 – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll

Horimiya: The Missing Pieces – 13 Episodes – Crunchyroll

The Duke of Death and His Maid Season 2 – 12 Episodes – Crunchyroll

The Ancient Magus' Bride Season 2 – 24 Episodes – Crunchyroll

After-School Hanako-kun – 4 Episodes – Crunchyroll – Spinoff of *Toilet-Bound Hanako-kun*.

Links

s1e1.com – occasionally between parenting duties, Jessi still posts here. Check here for panel materials after the convention.

Crunchyroll.com – Most streaming anime ends up here at this point

Hidive.com – A smaller curated selection of series and simulcasts

Animenewsnetwork.com – Leading website for anime news and reviews. The encyclopedia is a great source for information about most series