

# REVIEW: Air

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**From the producers of Clannad and Kanon comes an even more spiritualist approach to your run-of-the-mill anime – but is it any good? A spoiler-free review.**

Well, to put it bluntly: No, it isn't. Everything that is good about Kanon (2006) and Clannad (2007), was sadly still very much lacking in Kyoto Production's second ever TV adaptation: The theme song 'Tori no Uta'<sup>[1]</sup> disappears into the depths of forgettable mediocrity by trying to cram multiple musical keys into its thankfully less than two minutes, and unsuccessfully wanting to drown out the rhythm with the shrieking of the songstress. The background music which dutifully accompanies the duration of the remainder of each episode grinds on the viewers' nerves more than having to listen to twenty minutes worth of elevator music, as sung by William Hung. The art is nothing noteworthy, and is in fact so generic that it can't rescue the series from its fatal flaws:

The main pillars of Air, its characters, do not possess any depth whatsoever. While this could well be an appropriate foundation for a show which wants to build up its heroes through flashbacks, the back story seems to be added at second thought to stretch out the already meager plot line over another three episodes. Which brings me to the second most annoying

'feature' of Air: Not only does it not take any time to bring the audience closer to the protagonists, it in fact steals its own precious time by using two of just thirteen episodes to recap the plot until that point! While this is unfortunately no rarity in anime anymore, most other studios at least choose the liberal use of fan service above the blatant copying and pasting of old material.

Aside from it having the most MILFy, yet awesomely funny character since Clannad's busily-as-a-bee-baking Sanae Furukawa, there is no reason why you shouldn't miss out this skeleton in Kyoto Animation's closet. My suggestion if you want to watch something as stirring as Air wants to be? Watch Strawberry Panic. There, at least, you are told from the beginning of the first episode that there is no actual plot, only deep and captivating characters – and it works beautifully. ❖

## Links

[1]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMI72VPAZcs>