

STARTING POINT: 1979–1996

Shuppatsuten 1979–1996
(Starting Point: 1979–1996)
By Hayao Miyazaki
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First published in Japan by Studio Ghibli Inc.

Unedited English translation © 2009 Beth Cary and Frederik L. Schodt
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Published by
VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

www.viz.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Miyazaki, Hayao, 1941–
[Shuppatsuten: 1979–1996. English]
Starting Point: 1979–1996 / by Hayao Miyazaki ; translated by Frederik
L. Schodt and Beth Cary.
p. cm.

Originally published: Shuppatsu Ten, 1979–1996. Japan : Tokuma
Shoten Co., Ltd., 1996.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4215-0594-7 (alk. paper)

1. Miyazaki, Hayao, 1941– 2. Animation (Cinematography)—Japan.

I. Title. II. Title: Starting Point: 1979–1996.

PN1998.3.M577M5913 2009

791.4302'33092—dc22

[B]

2009012560

Printed in Canada
First paperback printing, April 2014
Seventh printing, January 2021

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► FOREWORD

The Cat Bus and Pure Cinematic Magic

John Lasseter talks about Hayao Miyazaki

I first met Hayao Miyazaki-san about twenty years ago in Los Angeles. He had just completed *Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro*. I didn't have the opportunity to see the whole movie; I just saw a small reel of clips. But from the little I did see, I was taken with the characters. I was also impressed with the energy and cleverness of the animation. I still think it contains one of the best car chases ever seen on film. The imagination invested in the movie really inspired me. I could tell someone who knew and loved animation had made it. *The Castle of Cagliostro* is so much more than taking a live-action film and making it animation. It took the medium and really used it to its fullest potential. That's what always inspired me about every Miyazaki-san film I've seen. It's like, "Wow! This is someone who really loves animation as much as I do." That totally excites me.

I remember taking the clips to Walt Disney Studios and showing them to various people. This was probably back in the early 1980s. I had some friends on the organizing committee of the Los Angeles International Film Exposition and we worked together to get *Castle of Cagliostro* shown at Filmex [a predecessor of the American Film Institute's International Film Festival in L.A.—Ed.]. I was thrilled to finally see it on the big screen, with a live audience. People just loved it.

I next met Miyazaki-san during my first trip to Tokyo in 1987, and I