

## TRINITY BLOOD

FILM★★★★ EXTRAS★

2005 • 100 mins • 15 • £19.99 • Out Now

Director: Tomohiro Hirata Writer: Sunao Yoshida Starring: Hiroki Touchi, Mamiko Noto, Troy Baker, Colleen Clinkenbeard

Humanity has been decimated by war and a virus which has transformed much of the population into vampires. But there is, of course, hope – the clumsy priest named Abel Nightroad.

THE WORLD OF *Trinity Blood* is a depressing if not complex one, not that Abel Nightroad seems to care; he's short on cash, desperately hungry and stuck on an airship headed to Rome. But when vampires known as Methuselah hijack the ship, filling his stomach is the least of his worries. Despite his looks, though, Abel is no normal priest, but a Crusnik – a super-powered vampire – and a member of an obscure order sworn to protect humans.

*Trinity Blood* shows a fantasy edge where telepaths are witches, the diseased have become vampires and society is ruled by a warped version of the Catholic church. However, it's actually set in the far future, where only a few nations have survived.

The first four episodes drip feed nuggets about Abel's world without going into too much information about the man himself, and instead focus on Ax, the Church-founded SWAT team of the future who do battle against Methuselah and a mysterious organisation called Rosen Kreuz. Their ranks include a skilled swordsman, psychics, an invisible man, a holographic nun and the future queen, Sister Esther Blanchett, the 'Star of Albion'.

*Trinity Blood* is yet another series from the Japanese powerhouse GONZO which means only one thing: plush animation, gorgeous visuals



and lots of attention to the look of the characters – with one exception: Abel. The Crusnik priest's animation seems almost plain when compared to the rest of the cast; he is very much the simple priest, but this all changes when Abel activates his Crusnik form. Suddenly the design improves drastically, becoming more striking, cleaner and more like the classical beautiful boy with long flowing hair, sharp eyes and blood red lips. Abel almost becomes a different person; it's quite a nice touch and enhances the series.

Those looking for something different should certainly take a closer look at *Trinity Blood* as it manages to mix fantasy with the future, SF with sorcery and does it extremely well. It's the kind of series that you can easily watch countless times and always glean something new from.

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Trinity Blood* is based on two sets of novels by the late Japanese author Sunao Yoshida, who died shortly after the anime was announced in 2004. Both *Rage Against the Moons* and *Reborn on the Mars* feature beautifully drawn panels sporting Abel and the rest of the cast.

**EXTRAS** A small crop, including digital tarot cards, clean opening and closing animations and trailers for other MVM releases. **Lesley Smith**