



Young alchemist Edward Elric and his brother Al are ripped from their world.

## Fullmetal Alchemist: The Conqueror of Shamballa Special Edition

**BROTHERLY LOVE** Alchemy in Our Parallel World

**Distributor** Revelation Films **Certificate** 12 **Price** £25 **Release Date** Out now

**F**ullmetal Alchemist is up there with *Pokémon*, *One Piece* and a dozen other popular anime series that just keep on going, eventually spawning theatrical adaptations that we don't always get to see. Well, *The Conqueror of Shamballa*, which was originally released in Japan in 2005, has finally made it to UK DVD in a special collector's edition.

Two years prior to events, young alchemist Edward Elric and his younger brother Al were ripped from their world, and dumped into ours at the beginning of the 1920s. Finding himself in Germany in the aftermath of the Great War, Edward tries to find a way home with the help of a German who looks a lot like his brother, even sharing his name. However, the mysterious Thule Society are also seeking his world,



which they believe is the mystical land of Shamballa. Their motivation is much more selfish, however, and places both worlds in danger. For familiarity's sake (and by virtue of parallel worlds), there are plenty of familiar faces for fans missing Alchemist and the principles of alchemy that govern it.

Reuniting the American and Japanese voice actors, this is one of those films anime fans of all ages can enjoy. The crisp animation and the backdrop of real-life events make up the series' setting, and the fantastical slant makes for a refreshing change.

Even if you have never seen the TV series, the semi stand-alone nature

of the film means that it's a perfect introduction to the anime's mythos and could well prompt new and older viewers to return to the first series.

**RATING**

## Also look at...

Malevolent robots make good, and a must-see title from a trilogy boxset



### Vexille

**Distributor** Momentum Pictures

**Certificate** 12

**Price** £20

**Release Date** Out now

**RATING**



After the UN bans robot development for fear that humans may become cyborg weapons, Japan goes into self-imposed isolation to continue development. Ten years later, the UN sends in a team led by

Commander Vexille to investigate a corporation which may pose a global threat. All you need to do to understand all this is watch the lengthy opening monologue, which pretty much explains the entire film.

CGI movies are now ten a penny, and the only thing that really sets this one apart from the others is not the animation, or the plot, but the soundtrack. Comprising of western artists like MIA and Mink, it's genuinely haunting. Sadly though it's not enough to redeem a film which, while anticipated solely due to lack of information, is really just the latest in a sea of similarly themed fan fodder.



### Ghost in the Shell SAC Trilogy Boxset

**Distributor** Manga Entertainment

**Certificate** 15

**Price** £35

**Release Date** Out now

**RATING**



Not seen the Ghost in the Shell TV series yet? Well don't worry, Manga have released a boxset that collects together the Individual Eleven and Laughing Man cases and the must-see movie Solid State Society.

The boxset collects Section Nine's adventures neatly and is really aimed at everyone who didn't pick up on the original releases. The animation is great, although people who saw the full series of Stand Alone Complex will notice where the episodes have been edited together. That aside, it's a cheap way of exploring the alternative future postulated by the series – and getting more screentime with the Major, Batou and the Tachikomas. ●