

# Mobile Suit Gundam Seed



**AVAILABLE:** 26th May

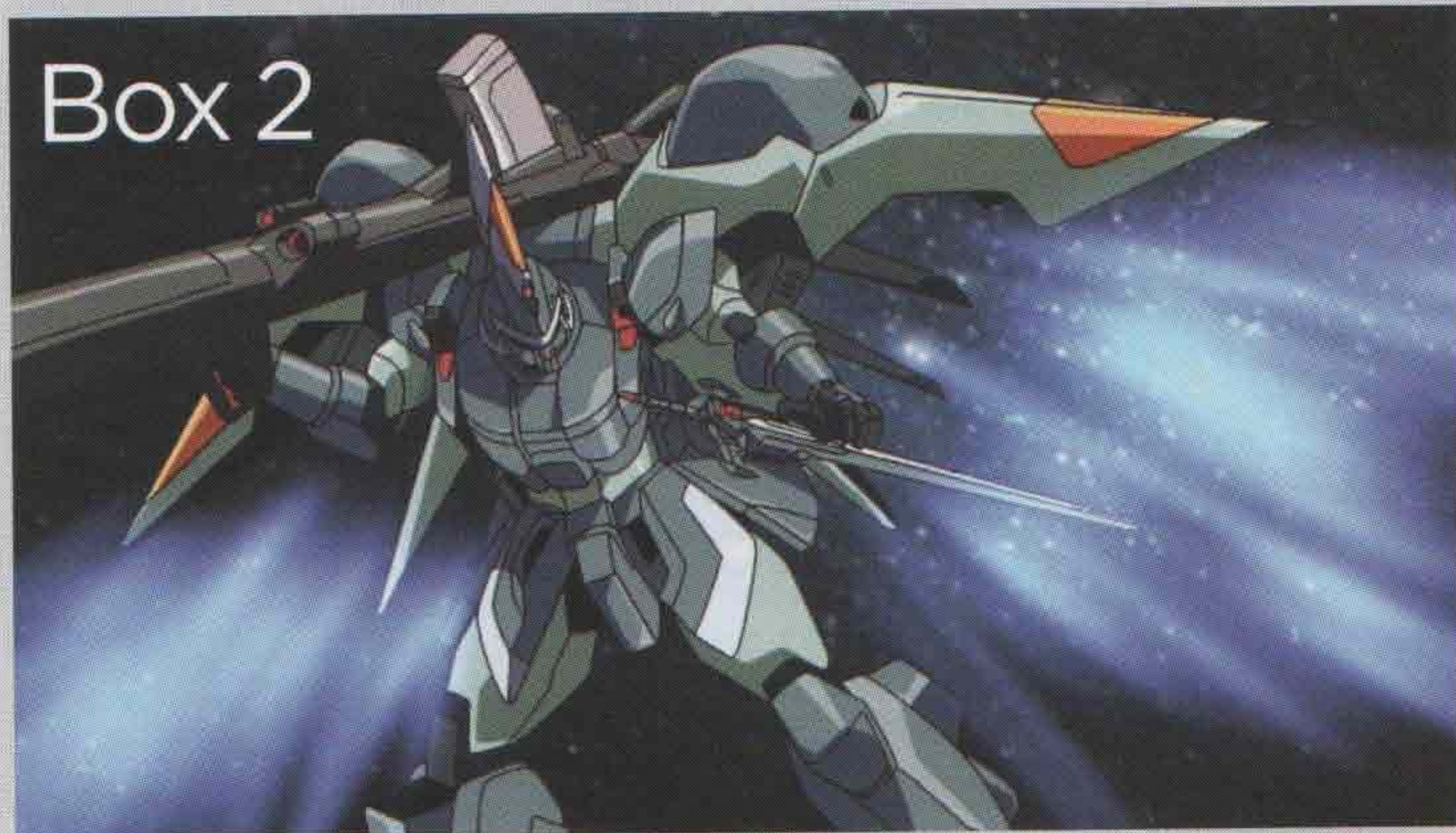
**LABEL:** BEEZ

**CERTIFICATE:** 12

**NO. OF DISCS:** 5 Discs

**RETAIL PRICE:** £69.99

**RUNNING TIME:** 625 mins



## DVD EXTRAS

This is hardly a bare bones release, with the massive box set containing not only booklets detailing information on the series in each DVD case, but also containing on-disc galleries, trailers and production notes - and there's also a board game.

*Gundam* is a massive franchise, and one Beez has decided to do its best to market. There is also the choice of audio tracks in English, Japanese, French and German (as suits a European release) and subtitles for even more languages.

**T**he universe is at war... again. What would *Gundam Seed* be without some kind of galactic conflict? A lengthy monologue explains the backdrop of the series - of which this box set contains the second half - and sees ZAFT and their Gundam pitted against Earth. At its heart, though, the series focuses on two young men - Gundam pilots - who are forced to fight against one another. These pilots are Athrun Zala and Kira Yamato, and it is their collapsing relationship, a friendship which degenerates into hate, which pushes the series onward.

Epic doesn't quite cover *Gundam Seed* and, while the animation isn't top notch, it's nearly there, and there are moments when the character designs scream

"quintessential anime" (the style is echoed in Sunrise's latest series, *Code Geass*). The English dub, however, is inane, and the continuous narration - initially practical - soon becomes annoying. Being that this is the second half of the series, picking up the story should be hard - except for the lengthy opening narration which spreads the entire plotline out in front of you.

The sci-fi setting and abundant use of mecha makes this one for genre fans only, but this certainly is a perfect example of that genre.

LESLEY SMITH

Japan's favourite series returns; it's even more epic, with more mecha, but remains for established fans only.

FILM ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★