



WITCH HUNTER ROBIN 4

BLACK MAGIC WOMAN



• NOW • BEEZ •
 • 12 • 1 DISC •
 • £19.99 • 100 MINS •

IN ROBIN'S WORLD, a mix of supernatural fantasy and modern technology, Witches who awaken to the Craft fall into two categories: the hunters and the hunted. Robin Sena is one of the former but is about to see how the other half live. She works for a mysterious organisation run by the Catholic Church known as Solomon, which exists

to hunt down witches.

Witches cannot choose to be witches, their powers exist at the genetic level and it is only a matter of time before they awaken. If they use their powers to harm others, Solomon steps in and 'neutralises' them. Unlike its the other branches of Solomon, STN-J captures rogue witches, but what about people genetically disposed to the Craft?

With the series now passed its halfway point, the 'Witch of the Week' stand-alone format has been discarded in favour of an arc focusing on STN-J itself. The first episode on this disc sees an Inquisitor of the church arrive to 'test' a suspected witch named Shiro Masuda using emotional triggers and runes to discover



whether he will succumb to the evil inside or rise above it to become a hunter. This also marks the first time Robin witnesses an Inquisition since her own ordeal.

Still coming to terms with her own Craft, the power of pyrokinesis (cue Prodigy's 'Firestarter'), Robin then finds someone shooting at her, but these are no ordinary bullets – filled with a substance called orbo, they are used to hunt witches. Most witch hunters wear pendants of orbo – the only known protection from another witch – but Robin prefers to rely on her fire-starting abilities, made more accurate when

she wears glasses. But what is this strange substance and why does Robin choose not to use it? This is a storyline that is bound to appeal to fans of darker anime series like *Vampire Princess Miyu*. A great watch.

LESLEY SMITH

DVD Disc Extras

Witch Hunter Robin is presented with the original Japanese opening and ending credits as well as the option of listening to episodes in Japanese, English, German and Italian. Extras-wise there are karaoke and textless versions of the opening and ending as well as two special interviews. The first is with Akino Watanabe, the Japanese voice actress for Robin, while the second is with the composer, Taku Iwasaki, and Bana, the singer for the hauntingly beautiful ending theme 'Half Pain'.

THE REAL WITCH HUNTERS

Witch Hunter Robin's witch hunters and inquisitors have some basis in fact. During the fifteenth century, the Catholic Church began the Inquisition using a handbook called *The Malleus Maleficarum* (*The Witches' Hammer*) as a guide. This left thousands dead by hanging and fire, leading modern-day witches (who are also known as wiccans) to call this period 'The Burning Times'.

ANIME ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★