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The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. The magical girl genre is one of the most popular anime genres in the world, granting multiple generations of anime fans the chance to witness the dramatic transformations, weaving storylines, and complicated relationships that the genre is known for. There are literally hundreds of shows that could be considered magical girl anime. But what makes the best ones stand the test of time? From classics like Sailor Moon to the ongoing multimedia giant that is Pretty Cure, here are my picks for the best magical girl anime series of all time and why they're absolutely worth watching. Trailer for Pretty Cure Pretty Cure (also called PreCure) might not win any awards for being the most groundbreaking magical girl series, but it does offer an astonishing amount of content to watch—more than 850 episodes to dive into. Each season is around 49 episodes long and features a different theme, so you can dip in and out without losing much. The colors in this show pop beautifully off the screen, and they've really nailed the formula that brings this series to life. Want a magical girl anime series that you'll never run out of episodes for? This is the one! Trailer for The Demon Girl Next Door The Demon Girl Next Door is a comedic anime series that lampoons the tropes of the magical girl genre, but does so in such a loving way that it's impossible not to enjoy. Momo is a magical girl who saves the life of Yuuko. But things get complicated because Yuuko is actually destined to become a demon and can only lift that curse... by killing Momo. The tension between their budding friendship and the impending doom that hangs over Yuuko forms the basis of the series, and it's remarkably good at making this simple concept work over multiple seasons. The jokes don't always land, but The Demon Girl Next Door is such a unique take on the genre that I don't mind. Trailer for Pastel Yumi, The Magic Idol Pastel Yumi, The Magic Idol was one of the first ever magical girl animes, and it shows its age in a lot of ways. However, its influence is still felt on every other show on this list, so it deserves its place here. In Pastel Yumi, The Magic Idol, young Yumi is an aspiring artist who wants to grow up and create her own manga. When she's given the power to bring her drawings to life, the ensuing story is consistently beautiful to watch and incredibly wholesome. The stakes may be much lower in this series, but there's a whimsy to every action scene that's undeniably fun and charming. Trailer for My-HiME The relationships between the characters in My-HiME form the backbone of the show, offering plenty of drama, romance, and complexity along with the beautifully animated action scenes. Mai and her classmates feel like real people from start to finish, complete with depth and desires all their own. The plot gets a bit stuck in its complexity at times, but it never fails to offer plenty of fun drama. While everyone is eager to save the world, not everyone here agrees on what that means—and that's compelling to watch. My-HiME is one of the most grown-up magical girl animes out there. Trailer for Puella Magi Madoka Magica In Puella Magi Madoka Magica, several young girls are given extraordinary powers to save the world. While that might be a straightforward task in almost any other magical girl anime series, here it's complicated beyond anything you might expect. Truly nothing is what it seems. Puella Magi Madoka Magica subverts pretty much every trope and cliché you can imagine in the magical girl genre, but it does so with exceptional skill and love. This series explores not only what kind of strength it takes to save the world, but also what kind of sacrifices are required. Trailer for Tokyo Mew Mew Why did it take so long for someone to create a magical cat girl anime? We'll never know! But it was certainly worth the wait. In Tokyo Mew Mew, Ichigo has cat DNA accidentally added to her system, allowing her to transform at will. Now she must assemble a team of other girls who have the same powers—to fight off an alien invasion. This is a weird but wonderful show that has all the fun of a magical girl anime, complete with unique transformations and a rapidly escalating plot. The 2022 reboot, Tokyo Mew Mew New, updates the art and gives a touch more polish to what was already a great show. Trailer for Magic Knight Rayearth In Magic Knight Rayearth, three young friends discover the existence of another world that's filled with magic and princesses—and they are the only ones who can save it from peril. What better way is there to kick off a magical girl anime? Hikaru, Umi, and Fuu must work together to defeat the evil Zagato, who threatens the magical world of Cephiro. Magic Knight Rayearth has stellar artwork and interesting action scenes, especially when the three friends use their unique elemental magic to defeat the forces of Cephiro. But between all of that, the series features some touching moments that highlight the importance of friendships. It's a bright watch with tons of good, wholesome fun from start to finish. Trailer for Cardcaptor Sakura The plot of Cardcaptor Sakura reads like an episode of Yu-Gi-Oh! gone wrong, but the end result is way better than expectations. Elementary school student Sakura accidentally unleashes magical cards into the world and is tasked with tracking them down to prevent them from causing chaos and catastrophe. Cardcaptor Sakura errs firmly on the side of cute—with a younger cast and less danger overall—but that doesn't mean the show is low on stakes. On top of lots of action, there are talking animals and countless cute dresses, which have become staples of the magical girl anime genre. Cardcaptor Sakura doesn't look to reinvent the formula, but it uses the tropes better than almost any other show in existence. Trailer for Revolutionary Girl Utena When Revolutionary Girl Utena first aired in 1997, the magical girl anime genre was already intensely popular and, therefore, ripe for subversion. Revolutionary Girl Utena took what was popular about magical girl shows and gave it a subtle twist: young orphan Utena disguises herself as a boy to join an exclusive dueling school and earn the title of Prince. Along the way, she seeks to earn the hand of the infamous Rose Bride, a young woman who people say will revolutionize the world. The series features lots of drama, action, and romance, with a surprisingly good approach to LGBT+ relationships for the time. Revolutionary Girl Utena has aged wonderfully and still holds up for modern audiences. Trailer for Sailor Moon No other show could possibly top this list. Sailor Moon might not have been the first magical girl anime ever, but it's easily the most popular and influential worldwide. This series introduced the concept of a magical girl squad to millions around the world—and that concept worked so well here that it became the blueprint for nearly every other magical girl anime that followed. From the first time Usagi utters her catchphrase ("In the name of the moon, I will punish you!") to the dramatic moments of the finale, Sailor Moon didn't just help establish the magical girl genre—it forever impacted the entire anime industry. More than 30 years after it was first published, Sailor Moon is still the gold standard of magical girl anime. No matter whether you are a newbie when it comes to the magical girl genre, or a veteran, these are fifteen of the biggest must-see magical girl anime! Art credit: Akimiya With the creation of anime came the creation of the magical girl genre. Sally the Witch is remembered as the very first magical girl anime to ever grace the screens of early anime fans. It premiered in July 1966, and unassumingly would go on to be the catalyst that spawned the magical girl genre that we know and love today. Its plot resembles that of an average magical girl anime - Sally, the witch princess from the magic kingdom, decides she is going to visit the mortal realm. However, she mistakenly teleports herself to Earth, and immediately finds herself in some trouble! She defends two schoolgirls with her magic, and decides to stick around by disguising herself as a Human child. Here, Sally finds happiness and friendship, until she has to go back to her home world in the final episode. With Sally the Witch came the magical girl genre, filled with stars and hearts and frills, along with adventures, friendships, and life lessons. Of course, over the years, there have been a few titles that have stuck out above the rest. Bishoujo Senshi Sailor Moon Sailor Moon was created by Naoko Takeuchi in 1992, and it follows the adventures of a young girl named Usagi Tsukino as she masters the powers she has been given by her new pet companion, Luna. Along the way, they meet new friends and foes that help to make their journey an exciting one. Luna gives the girls (Sailor Moon and the other Sailor Soldiers) their powers in the form of rods, brooches, and lockets, and each of them adopt their new magical girl name. Sailor Moon is one of the core inspirations that other magical girl anime producers use to structure their series. Sailor Moon is out of this world in so many ways! Cardcaptor Sakura Cardcaptor Sakura was created by Clamp in 1996, and serialized as an anime in 1998. It is hands down one of the most well know magical girl series, due in no small part to its adorable characters, exciting, well constructed story, and well known author. It tells the story of Sakura Kinomoto as she opens a book of cards in her basement and unleashes all of the magic of the sorcerer known as Clow Reed. Sakura goes on a journey - having been chosen by the guardian of the cards, Cerberus - to find and retrieve the missing cards that have been lost. It is up to her and the friends she makes along the way to prevent the world from turning to chaos! Mahou Shoujo Madoka★Magica (Puella Magi Madoka Magica) Madoka Kaname was living a normal life before she started having strange dreams about a small, white cat-like creature and a black haired girl. Puella Magi Madoka Magica was created in 2011, and was thought to have been just another cute, frilly title in the genre. However, as the story progressed, anime fans realized that the show was portraying something much darker than they had initially expected. The small, cat-like creature is actually an extraterrestrial incubator named Kyuubey, and came to Earth to take the souls of humans, young women in particular. He lures them in with sweet words and, under the guise of one wish, he turns them into magical girls who have to fight in order to revitalize their soul gems. It's a thriller from beginning to end, and well worth the watch! Mahou Shoujo Lyrical Nanoha (Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha) Premiering in October of 2003, Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha swept across television screens and captured the hearts of viewers. The support it received allowed executives to green-light the creation of movies, adaptations, and several seasons. It showcases the journey of a third grader named Nanoha Takamachi after she stumbles across an injured ferret; a homage to Sailor Moon. This ferret, by the name of Yuuno, gives Nanoha the task of collecting dangerous jewel seeds that have been spread across the Earth. Yuuno gives Nanoha a red jewel, which allows her to transform and use magic to combat monsters and other human foes alike. This magical girl anime is unique in its plot twists and character development, which is why it makes this list! Binan Koukou Chikyuu Bouei-bu LOVE! (Cute High Earth Defense Club Love) While this is definitely a magical girl anime, it's a bit unconventional: the main characters are magical boys! They form a small club at their school called the 'Earth Defense Club'. Initially, they want to be lax and laze around in a nearby bath house, but when a mysterious, pink wombat appears before them one day, he gives them powers to help save the Earth. The wombat forces them to become 'battle lovers' and fight against a villainous group led by a green hedgehog. This anime is wacky and zany, and the characters are positively handsome. Shugo Chara! Shugo Chara! premiered in 2007 and revolves around Amu Hinamori, an elementary schooler. Her peers believe that she has a cool personality, although in reality, she is shy and anxiety ridden. Amu makes a wish one night that she can adopt a new personality, and when she wakes the next day, she finds three colored eggs beneath her pillow. These three eggs hatch into three guardians who are going to help her on her journey of self discovery. Amu joins a group of students at her school who also have their own guardians, and together, these magical girls all try to seal the X-characters who corrupt people's dreams. Princess Tutu In a world of talking cats and crocodiles, Ahiru Arima doesn't feel like an outcast -- she's a duck herself! She was turned human by a strange man named Drosselmeyer and given a magical, egg shaped pendant that turns her into the graceful Princess Tutu. She dances, light and beautiful, which relieves people from the turmoil that is in their hearts. The anime revolves around Ahiru's fight for a 'happily ever after'. Full Moon wo Sagashite (Searching for the Full Moon) Twelve year old Mitsuki Kouyama, with dreams of being a singer, is diagnosed with throat cancer. Her dreams are shattered, until she comes in contact with two apparitions of death (shinigami) who inform her her that she has one year left to live. She decides, with determination, that she is going to do everything she can to make her dreams a reality before it's too late. However, the shinigami try and stop her, and strike a deal with her: if she agrees to die peacefully, they will help her become a singer. They then give her the ability to transform into a sixteen year old, so that she can meet the age requirements of the audition she was trying to attend. She decides to go by the stage name of 'Fullmoon' after she wins over the judges with her voice. Full Moon wo Sagashite is filled with the heartbreaking realization of life and death, and how determination and willpower can help come a long way. Futari Wa Precure (Pretty Cure) Pretty Cure premiered at a time when there was a lack of magical girl anime in Japan. Sailor Moon had recently come to a close, and there weren't many anime that little girls and boys could quite relate to. However, when Pretty Cure debuted on Japanese televisions, children and adults alike fell in love with the characters and the similarities it held to Sailor Moon. Due to its popularity, there have been many sequels and spin offs of the show, which have all been well received. Pretty Cure revolves around two girls by the names of Nagisa Misumi and Honoka Yukishiro. They are both different from each other and live separately from one another - until a strange star shower binds them together. They meet two creatures named Mipple and Mepple, whose homeland has been conquered by the Dark Zone, an evil group that have their sights focused on the Garden of Rainbows. With the help of these two girls, they fight to protect their world from the Dark Zone. Shin Shirayuki-hime Densetsu Prétear (Prétear) Himeno Awayuki suddenly becomes the step daughter of a rich woman, and has been pushed into the life of an outcast. Her stepsisters and friends alike treat her differently now that her father has remarried. It's then that she meets seven men who are Leafe Knights, and she becomes aware of a girl called Pretear. Pretear has the ability to merge with nature and control the powers of the Leafe Knights. It is up to Pretear to save the world from the evil called the Princess of Disaster. Kamichama Karin Kamichama Karin tells the story of a young girl by the name of Karin Hanazono, who doesn't really have much of anything to her name. She lost her parents, her cat, and seems to fail at everything she tries to do. However, she soon realizes that the ring her mother left her in death has the ability to change her into a goddess! She meets another boy with god-like magic and they form a solid team to defend her mother's ring and the boy's cousin from the vile Kirio Karasuma, who desperately wants Karin's ring. Ojamajo Doremi (Magical Doremi) Doremi Harukaze classifies herself as the unluckiest girl in the world. Her life is filled with awkward interactions, fighting, and a sister who only makes fun of her, so she begins to believe that becoming a magical girl would make her life so much better. One day, she encounters a store called Maho-Do and realizes that the manager, Majo Rika, happens to be a witch. Majo Rika turns into a frog as soon as Doremi compromises her witch identity, and starts to train Doremi as a witch apprentice so that Doremi can change her back into a human. However, much like with everything else, she's not a very good at being a witch apprentice, either! Lighthearted and fun, Magical Doremi has adorable animation and a pretty cute cast! Mahou no Princess Minky Momo (Magical Princess Minky Momo) One of the earlier representations of the genre, Magical Princess Minky Momo premiered in 1982. It resembles Magical Angel Creamy Mami, another early magical girl anime, in both animation and style. In fact, both series were placed together in a small movie titled, Mahou no Princess Minky Momo vs. Mahou no Tenshi Creamy Mami, which featured both of the girls fighting one another. Magical Princess Minky Momo is about a small princess from the land of Fenarinarsa, a land of dreams. However, these dreams are losing their meaning on Earth, so Minky Momo goes to Earth to help people regain them. Three of her friends assist her on this journey, and with the help of a magical wand which turns her into an adult, she is determined to make people's dreams come true. Genei wo Kakeru Taiyou (Day Break Illusion) Filled with interesting animation and style, Day Break Illusion is definitely memorable. The character designs are unique and lovable, and the story line itself is a bit different than that of usual magical girl anime. A world ruled by two tarot cards is taken over by monsters called Daemonia, and 12 year old Akari Taiyou is chosen to wield an the elemental tarot card of the sun to fight them off. She joins a band of 22 other girls who all hold different elemental powers from different tarot cards. Together, they battle against the Daemonia and try to defend their world. Tokyo Mew Mew Tokyo Mew Mew is about five girls who are all enveloped in a mysterious light, which allows them to transform into 'Mew Mews'. The main protagonist, Ichigo Momomiya, and the four other girls who were effected, have to save the world from alien intruders. The aliens are releasing parasites which turn animals into monsters, but Mew Ichigo and her friends are adamant that they will save the world! Anime fans love a good Magical Girl anime, especially those of us who grew up looking for TV shows that center the experiences of young women. Young women who happen to have powerful, magical alter-egos, of course. Whether you're looking to revisit that Sailor Moon nostalgia or are curious to get into magical girl anime for the first time, our list of the best ones around is here to help. While many of us immediately think of Sailor Moon when we think magical girls, the genre offers many options to explore. Here are the most consistently loved fan-favorite magical girl anime so you can pick your next watch. Image via Tokyo Movie Shinsha While Magic Knight Rayearth had a relatively short two-season run, the series has nevertheless cultivated a fan following. This magical girl anime follows three eighth-grade girls who are transported from their lives in Japan to a mysterious and magical world called Cephiro. Once there, they learn they've been summoned to help save the world, stepping into the role of Legendary Magic Knights to save the captured Princess. Image via Project 2H With a third season released as recently as 2021, Yuki Yuna is a Hero is a more recent addition to the magical girl anime universe. Set on a fictional island, Yuki Yuna is a Hero centers on the Sanshu Middle School Hero Club. These girls are dedicated to helping out others in need, but didn't quite expect that to mean becoming magical heroes protecting the world from supernatural forces. Image via Seven Arcs Despite its origins as a spinoff series, Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha has become a force in the anime world all its own, with a total of five seasons. Our protagonist is Nanoha Takamachi, an elementary school student who rescues an injured ferret, only to discover he's actually a powerful shapeshifter with magical powers. The mage has come to Earth to collect the dangerous Jewel Seeds. Now that he's injured, the mage recruits his rescuer Nanoha to help collect the seeds, granting her a magical wand that imbues her with powers. Image via Hal Film Maker This ballet-inspired anime has two seasons and a unique storyline to entice fans. In Princess Tutu, a duck is transformed into a mythical ballerina called Princess Tutu. Her mission is to save the shattered heart of a fairytale prince, who she fell in love with. She is granted the ability to transform into a human girl and a magical ballerina and the mission to recover the fragments of Prince Mytho's heart. Image via J.C. Staff Revolutionary Girl Utena was created in part by one of the directors from Sailor Moon, who wanted to make something where he had a bit more creative control. The show has three story arcs and is beloved for its LGBTQ+ themes and avant-garde tone. Our protagonist, Utena, was gifted a signet ring by a visiting prince, which inspired her to want to become a prince herself. As a teenager, she enters a sword dueling tournament and soon discovers others have signet rings just like hers. Soon, she is drawn into a bigger and more dangerous plot. Image via Asahi Production Gushing Over Magical Girls is a more recent addition to the genre, with 13 episodes running at the start of 2024. Introverts who grew up watching magical girl anime will see themselves in the protagonist of Gushing Over Magical Girls, Utena Hiiragi. Utena is offered magical powers, but she soon realizes it's as an evil general, not a savior of the world. She finds herself battling against the magical girls she once idolized but realizes she just might enjoy it. Image via Satelight & Encourage Films This short-running series has only 13 episodes but has garnered a dedicated fanbase nonetheless. As the name suggests, the magical powers in Symphogear are musical ones, specifically in the form of armor imbued with the power of song. Our protagonists are the Symphogear Users, who battle against evil forces who would use the Noise for destruction. Image via Madhouse Studio If you grew up on Saturday morning cartoons, you no doubt remember Cardcaptor Sakura, which ran on US network WB in the early aughts. The show has a total of three seasons, which were heavily edited and censored when dubbed into English. Cardcaptor Sakura (known as Cardcaptors in its US version), follows Sakura, who accidentally releases the magical Clow Cards. Her ability to unlock the seal reveals that she has magical powers, and the book's guardian selects her to track down and retrieve the cards. Before she can seal it, she must battle each card's personification. Image via Shaft Another series with a short run but truly dedicated fans is Puella Magi Madoka Magica, which boasts just 12 episodes. In this anime, a group of middle school students are offered a magical contract that will turn them into magical girls, tasked with fighting evil witches. As any middle schooler would, they accept, but soon learn that the contract isn't as straightforward as they initially believed. Image via Toei Animation Of course, who can forget the most famous magical girl anime of them all? Sailor Moon is one of the most well-known magical girl anime, often cited as an example to explain the genre. As such, it simply must earn the top spot on our list. Sailor Moon has many iterations, with several anime series and movies to its name in addition to the original manga. In each, the Sailor Guardians / Pretty Guardians must battle evil forces to protect the world and secure the future of the Moon Kingdom. The Escapist is supported by our audience. When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn a small affiliate commission. Learn more about our Affiliate Policy Beautiful girls who can kick evil's butt have been empowering young girls since time immemorial. Or at least since the past few decades. This is why mahou shoujo is one of the most popular anime genres of all time. Whether you're a young girl looking for a new role model, or an anime lover looking for a new icon to support, here are my picks for the absolute best magical girl animes you have to check out. 20. Revolutionary Girl Utena Hailed as a better version of "Evangelion", Revolutionary Girl Utena deserves a spot on this list simply because of its complex plot and symbolisms. This means that no matter how many times you watch it, you'll find different easter eggs each and every time. If you don't know anything about this series, well let me enlighten you. The anime is about Utena, a girl who gets inspired to be a prince after encountering one royalty as a child. She then meets a damsel who needs saving named Anthy, and vows to protect her. Not your typical princess charming, am I right? From transforming ducks to humans transforming into cat-like creatures, this genre has definitely gone above and beyond the definition of magical girl anime! And who would have thought that a radioactive spider isn't the craziest Human DNA fusion we'd ever hear about in our lifetime? Tokyo Mew Mew is about 5 school girls who got caught up in an earthquake and find themselves bathed in a mysterious light, which makes them turn into Mew mews or heroic cat girls. To be honest. you might notice that this series is more about science than sorcery. And for those of you looking for a sequel, it's only available in manga called Tokyo Mew Mew ala Mode — where they introduce new mew mews and strangely enough, a bunny character! If you're itching for a hybrid anime with all the best parts of a magical girl, idol and mecha anime… well then you should really watch Symphogear! I admit, it could have been a better series (in terms of production quality and plot later on). But the transformations are pretty awesome! My reservations aside, I still recommend this anime for anyone who enjoyed JoJo's Bizarre Adventure and wants to up their ante with singing teenagers and bombastic rocket launchers. Don't dismiss this classic magical girl anime because of the old cartoon style. There's a reason why the adorable Minky Momo remains a big bop to young anime fans. Even though it first saw the light of day way back in the '80s. In fact, even if you remember watching this as a kid, a rewatch may still be in order! You'd be surprised to realize how much of the jokes and puns you missed when you didn't know any better. *wink* There's nothing more satisfying than seeing a girl who's constantly bullied get some dope responsibility to save the world. If you look at the posters and nothing else, Pretear appears to be your typical bishounen harem. But really, it's not! The Knights are not all in love with the heroine Awayuki Himeno. Some of them think of her as an elder sister, while others think of her as an equal. It is a breath of fresh air with just the right mix of drama, action, comedy, and romance. A bit of everything for everyone. Unorthodox title aside, there is nothing remotely generic about Fate/kaleid liner Prisma Illya. It may start off like that. But after a few arcs you get subjected to unwitting philosophy lessons around evey corner. You'd be questioning what makes a person, and you'll watch as characters face tough decisions like whether or not they'd be able to destroy all of humanity just for one person. This is one anime series that will definitely keep you up all night. Space. Aliens. Magic. Throw all these elements in a huge pot and let it boil– that's what Houkago no Pleiades is all about. If you love mystery and guessing games, then this show will hook you right in. For most of it you'll be wondering what the story is all about– but that's exactly the charm of this magical girl anime. While most shows would make great effort to "explain" what's happening, the makers of Houkago no Pleiades will throw you right in the middle of it all. So you'll feel like a wallflower just tagging along into God knows what. When you finally realize what's happening though, you'll surely come to the conclusion that the entire journey was worth it. Black Rock Shooter gets a lot of bad press. But I sincerely think it deserves better. Granted, CG animation is really not for everyone. But if you look past that you'll find an intricate storyline revolving around our black-haired heroine with the mysterious blue eyes and cannons that can shoot rocks (hence the title). It's all sorts of weird and crazy, which is exactly why you have to give it a try! This 90s anime is much like a good wine that has aged quite well over the years. Sure, so many series right now probably have a much more expensive and colorful animation style. But Magic Knight Rayearth has its own charm: injecting realism to the world of magical anime. And by realism I mean suffering, adversity, and blood. I t is not a gory anime. But the magical knights do bleed, lose, and suffer. Plus there's an interesting reveal going on in terms of the villain in the story and the series' damsel in distress. Better to just watch the series and see it all for yourself. There's something irresistible about a rookie, clumsy witch who hasn't quite discovered the limits of her powers yet. Yes, the best part about Little Witch Academia is how lovable all of its characters are. Every single witch has her own standalone character development and I love that about this show. Even if the show is mostly silly and sometimes funny, you'll find yourself feeling deeply for each of the witches, cheering on their successes and crying when they get their knees bruised. With over 600 episodes to its name, what kind of otaku doesn't know Pretty Cure? Well, I can forgive you if you're a newbie. So here's the premise: Japanese school girls are given the power to become warriors known as Precure. It sounds kinda generic but it has gone in many different ways since its conception in 2004. What's your favorite season? I recommend starting with either HeartCatch, Smile!, or Go! Princess Precure. You wouldn't expect anything deep from an anime that's set in what appears to be a world full of cotton candy, right? And that's exactly why Sugar Sugar Rune will catch you off-guard. Kids nowadays have movies like 'Inside Out' to help them sort through different emotions. When I was a kid, I had Sugar Sugar Rune. It was my introductory course to the complexity of human emotions. The storyline is surprisingly consistent, and before you know it you'll be swept away, investing a whole lot of emotions into the journey of two witches who are out there collecting hearts. Fun, lighthearted, and endearing, Ojamaji Doremi deserves to be ranked so high because of its fresh takes on witches. Witches seem to always have these great quests and adventures to go on. But the ones in Ojamaju Doremi are sometimes seen doing mundane stuff, safe and carefree in their own little world. In effect, there's not a lot of fighting. It's basically a slice-of-life for mahou sojou fans who are just so tired of girls having to save the world. After all, sometimes girls just want to have fun right? Princess Tutu puts a literal spin on the magical girl genre as the protagonist Ahiru is not your typical clumsy girl. Nope she's not a hero. But she is definitely a magical being. Much like the story of the ugly duckling who turns into a pretty swan, Princess Tutu is actually about a duck who transforms into a talented prima ballerina, who helps people through her awesome dance moves! And of course, Princess Tutu has a mission: to collect her beloved's heart. Innocent, fun, and a perfect mix of comedy, action, and romance. Princess Tutu is a good watch for anyone who wants to enjoy a classic anime tale. Cards on the table, the story line of Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi Pitch (and what about that title, huh) is messy. The goal is to unite the seven sea princesses, but for most of the show it's just the three main girls Lucia, Hanon, and Rina fighting villains with their high-pitched voices. In this anime, the singing is the fighting. It's chaotic, scattered, and unapologetically cheesy. But I'm willing to ignore all of that to rank it high up here because of its incredible entertainment factor. Prepare to sing along to some of the catchiest songs to have ever been written for an anime and buckle up for an exciting journey underwater. The last time I watched an episode was 11 years ago, but I still have all the words memorized. This is the unparalleled influence of Mermaid Melody: Pichi Pichi Pitch. Shugo Chara is a prime example of a weird magical girl anime that does not rely on traditional outfits and transformation sequences. But it certainly deserves a spot on this list for its interesting plot. It's all about a girl named Amu who meets her Guardian Characters. Together they help Amu understand her would-be self and gives her the courage to reach her full potential. This series will help anyone who wants to explore their true selves on the path of improvement and growing up. Nanoha's adventure begins when she finds an injured ferret named Yuuno one day after school… who happens to be an archaeologist from another world! Yuuno gives Nanoha a red jewel that enables her to transform and use magic. Then this creature tells her to collect the rest of the jewels scattered across the world. (Something tells me I heard of this before… in terms of cards?) Although Nanoha's story starts off like a typical magical anime, it eventually evolves into a much darker, complicated story full of plot twists and side characters you'll grow to love. While this anime appeals mostly to an older audience, no one is stopping younger kids from enjoying the series. Unlike Puella Magi Madoka Magica! Speaking of the devil… If you're tired of the cutesy transformations and the child-friendly plot of a lot of magical girl anime, then maybe it's best to turn your attention here to Puella Magi Madoka Magica. This specific series challenges every preconceived notion you may have of what a magical girl is. Yeah, it still has that cheerful character design and that usual premise. But after a few episodes of Madoka, you will come to learn that it isn't anything like that. So if you're looking for something to watch with your younger siblings, maybe check out the next choice on my list. However if you're up for truth bombs and the darker side of magic then this is a must-watch. CardCaptor Sakura is one of the most popular and successful series that has managed to retain its popularity across generations. The story follows the typical life of 10-year-old Sakura Kinomoto with a crush on her brother's friend. But everything changes when Sakura accidentally releases magical and powerful Clow Cards. After that, she was of course obligated to return them all back. Thus being a "Card Captor". This is a beginner-friendly series that will introduce you to the genre and all its craziness: transformations, classical elements, and magical sidekicks like Keroberos. I cannot recommend this highly enough for anyone who loves the magical girl vibe. Believe me, I wanted to be all unique with this ranking. So I thought long and hard about any other magical girl anime that could top Sailor Moon. But it's impossible. As one of the pioneers of the genre itself, Sailor Moon set such a high standard for what a magical anime should be about. The original 'Sailor Moon' franchise ran for about 200 episodes and had three movies, several specials, plus a live-action TV series to boot! For those of you who might be too young to know about this show, Sailor Moon revolves around the story of ordinary school girls who transform into magical heroes destined to ward off evil. Wearing nothing less than cute schoolgirl outfits. It's magnificent, in every sense of that word. And if you're into the genre then you have to check out the Sailor Moon fandom(assuming you haven't already!) Everyone gets bored by always watching the Male MCs performing magic and saving the world. It's kind of a perpetual concept in most of the magic anime. But in Mahou Shoujo, we have got some amazing cuties and adorable girls with magical powers who can kick the butt of demons and devils. So, We at MyAnimeGuru bring you an article on the 17+ Best Magical Girl Anime of All Time (Ranked). Mostly the core of these animes was depicted as girls going to schools and balancing their daily activities but in the meantime, they go shenanigans with friends. Don't get too obsessed with them because they know magic! they could make you suffer as well as happy. So without wasting time let's see the list. Let's see the list of 17+ Best Magical Girl Anime of All Time (Ranked). Episodes: 35 | Year: (1995-1996) How about this world is saved by a candy striper? Yeah in this anime a girl named Ririka was chosen by a celestial and determined to be the legendary nurse angel and protect this world from an evil organization called Dark Joker. This organization has already destroyed another universe and is ready to destroy the earth. Ririka can transform into an adult form, I swear she is cute and charming in the form. Can she able to protect this world? One of the old and most popular anime series which gained popularity by its amazing storytelling and engaging characters. Maybe this anime is not popular internationally but it has a separate fanbase in Japan. Episodes: 52 | Year: (2002-2003) Most anime fans are addicted to hot-looking cat girls, if you are then, this anime is for you. Our cutie cat girl in this anime is Ichigo who got that power by implanting the DNA of the Iriomote wildcat. After that, she can transform into a "Mew Mew" and can use advanced agility. She was not solo, she got a team named Tokyo Mew Mew. In that team, each member has different implanted DNAs and they were in charge fight against the alien race called "Cyniclons". This anime is known for its adorable and cute-looking character designs which are blended with action and adventure making it the best magic anime to watch. Related: 14+ Best Magic Anime To Watch (Ranked) Episodes: 96 | Year: (2004-2006) What if the Power Rangers series got an anime edition? Yeah, I know most of the fans were obsessed with the Power Rangers in our childhood if you are then, this anime is for you. This anime has a core of ordinary girls turning into warriors with the help of angles. This anime has no specific protag because each series provides unique characters but the concept is the same in each of the stories. This is one of the biggest franchises not only in Japan but also internationally, by providing toys, games, and other merchandise they still got a great fanbase and also stand as the best magic anime with a girl MC. Episodes: 72; Movie: 1 | Year: (2005-2010) What if someone said you are not alive? In this anime, Sakai Yuji is a young boy whose life is normal until he enters high school. On his way home he feels something strange after seeing the people frozen in a strange fire he got speechless. The monster, Yuji was about to be killed, at that moment a large sword appears nowhere and cuts the monster in half a girl got appeared and he called her Shana. She told him the desolate truth that he is doesn't exist anymore in this world and he was replaced by a torch. What happened to Yuji? Why was he replaced as a torch? and Who is that mysterious girl? Like this a lot of mysteries in this anime if you got time you need to check out this best magic anime! Episodes: 127 | Year: (2007-2009) How it would be if you got some small guardians from some mysterious eggs? Yeah the MC of this anime Amu receives three mysteries that hatch into Samll Guardian Characters which represent each personality trait of Amu. With the help of her guardians, she could see her bad personality and overcome it. She becomes social and began to meet students with her Guardian Characters. She heard about the dangerous guys called "Embryo Hunters" who are in search of a mythical egg called Embryo which grants any wish. Will she be able to stop them by finding the Embryo? Yeah, I think she will, because if it falls into the wrong hands it would be a danger to the world. Overall the themes of friendship and cute character designs and story make it the best magic to watch. Episodes: 51; Movie: 1 | Year: (1999-2000) If you want to learn magic then you need to watch anime, just kidding! but in this anime, a girl named Doremi Harukaze is a charming 3rd-grade attendee, she is the unluckiest pretty girl worldwide. While visiting a mysterious shop she met a witch named Rika Some kinda curse triggered on Rika by human exposure and she turned into a frog. A Frog? We know that witches turn someone into a frog, but someone turning a witch into a frog it is unheard of, right? So she teaches Doremi the magic skills to transform back. Doremi recruits her two friends in her journey to turn the witch back, will they? Overall this magic anime has a unique storyline moreover it is a vintage anime but has some decent animation in that time. Episodes: 37; Movie: 1 | Year: 2014 In school days, how do you feel when you are in the cool hero club? Bewitching right? Here we got our MC as a young schoolgirl named Yuuna Yuki, she was selected to be a hero to protect the world from the creatures called Vertexes. With the help of our schoolgirl heroes will she be able to protect the world from the creatures? Find it in this magic anime. But unfortunately, after the end of each war, at least one hero got killed. With the elements of friendship and heroism of girls, this anime is marked as the best magic anime to watch with a female MC Episodes: 26 | Year: (2004-2005) Hot beautiful girls summoning demons, Damn cool right? Yeah, Mai and her younger brother were transferred to a new school where students were taught to become HiMe. What is HiME? A HiME is a Highly advanced Matreilalizing Equipment which is called a child that can be summoned by its wielders. The HiME was trained to awaken the powerful child in them. With the help of HiME will they be able to stop an evil organization called SEARRS Foundation? Can be the best magic amine with girl MC because of its story and character designs and the emotional sequences made this one a masterpiece. Episodes: 52; Movies: 4; OVA: 4 | Year: (2004-2007) Nanoha Takamachi becomes intertwined with a magical ferret, Yuuno Scryawho is responsible for the spreading of magical seeds in this anime the Jewel Seeds are the potent magical seeds that have been dispersed throughout the planet, and is capable of summoning monsters in the world. By receiving the Raising Heart device, Nanoha can now transform and wield powerful magic spells. With the help of Yunno will Nanoha can able to collect all the Jewel seeds around the world? Episodes: 52 | Year: (2002-2003) A good chill and heartwarming series which depicts the dream of a girl to become a singer. A 12-year-old girl named Mitsuki is a talented singer and has a great passion for signing. But her fate turned black when she was diagnosed with Throat Tumor and lost the ability to sing. But her passion and her promise to his friend to become the best singer refuse to give up on her dreams. Suddenly she encounters two shinigami which helped her by changing her as a 16-year-old girl while singing which make her win more audition and competitions. With the help of Shinganmi, can she able to fulfill her dream and promise? The best heart-touching magic anime with a girl working hard to achieve her dream. Episodes: 24 | Year: (2019-2022) How a savior can be a friend of the destroyer? Yuuko Yoshida is a newly growing demon who was tasked to defeat a magical girl to retain the glory of her demon family. By a twist of fate, she was supposed to be the friend of the magical girl named Momo. She helps and trains Yuuko to become a more powerful demon and fulfill her duties. Their humorous and heart-touching friendship of them makes the best part of the series. This anime good theme of friendship between a demon and a magic girl, in usual these two races can't be together but in this anime, they balanced their friendship in an amazing manner which makes this the best magic anime with two girls as MCs. Episodes: 49; OVA: 3 | Year: (1994-1995) On a field trip, how do you when you got teleported to another world and asked to save that world? Amazing right? Our three ordinary girls went on a field trip in the school to Tokyo Tower are suddenly teleported to a magical world called Cephiro. The world is protected by a princess named Emeraude who has been captured and the entire world is in danger. In the while our three girls were crowned as the legendary magic knights. The amazing concept for a magic anime with three MCs, can they able to protect that world? Duration: 2 hrs, 14 mins | Year: 1997 The only movie in this list which deserved to be the best magical girl anime. This film portrays Ashitaka's journey as a young prince from the Emishi tribe, he defended his community against a devilish boar god, but was subsequently cursed and now seeks a cure to save himself. He reaches the modernized Iron Town on his journey and lived in the woods, suddenly he encounters a wolf goddess Moro who is a half-turned-wolf San who is responsible to protect nature from humans. Will they both together able to protect nature? An amazing movie with breathtaking animation that can be ASMR for the viewers and the concept of storytelling and rich detail makes this the best magic anime. Episodes: 39; Movie: 1 | Year: 1997 Our childhood influence has a great impact on our life. In this anime, our MC Utena Tenjou was deeply influenced by a prince in her childhood. She was sent to a prestigious academy where she give headaches to every teacher because of her inspired behaviors by the prince. The school conducts a completion of dueling for an amazing artifact called Rose Bride. Utena was not much interested but unfortunately, she got involved while her friend got bullied by the students. Can she win that Rose Bride? which gives enormous power to revolutionize the world, see in this magic anime! Episodes: 39; Movies: 2 | Year: (1995- 1996) How about an anime with hot super girls with the names and powers of the planets? Amazing right? Usagi is a clumsy crybaby in her middle school and she discovers that she is the reincarnation of the moon princess. How it can be possible? A cat named Luna reveals the truth and awakens her superheroine Sailor Moon powers. Later she forms a team with other sailor guardians like Sailor Mercury, Sailor Mars, etc… With the help of her team can she was tasked to the earth from many evil organizations, can she? See it in this best magic anime known for its themes of friendship, love, and the power of feminity with combined action and comedy. Episodes: 37;