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The cute one is always the villain..



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Tomokazu Seki at Anime Expo 2004

Posted on Sunday, July 11 @ 20:06:23 2004 by [Staff](#)

[bckat](#) writes "“How are you? I’m happy to see all of you!” said voiceover actor Tomokazu Seki to 800 screaming fans at an Anime Expo 2004 panel. He has played over 75 characters in more than 65 anime titles, including Van Fanel in *Escaflowne*, Chichiri in *Fushigi Yugi*, Ken Hidaka in *Weiss Kreuz*, Kyou Souma in *Fruits Basket*, and Sousuke Sagara in *Full Metal Panic*.



At the start of the panel, he obliged his fans by bringing out Chichiri. Still in character, he said, “Thank you very much!” in English to the crazed audience.

As a child, Seki watched a lot of TV because both his parents worked. His favorite robot anime was *Getter Robo* and voiceover actor Akira Kamiya inspired him to get into the same line of work. In his 6th grade yearbook, Seki wrote that his dream was to become a voiceover actor.

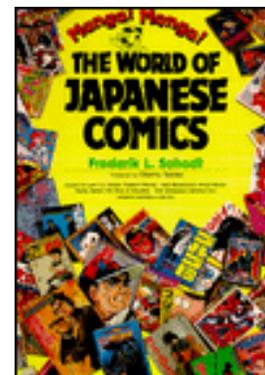
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To maintain his voice, Seki keeps rooms humidified and gargles a lot. Also, he heard that if you rub the area at the bases of the fingers you won't catch a cold. With his friends, he used to go to a park in Shinjuku, in the Tokyo area, to do voice exercises. He would position himself in front of a glass wall with the visualization of shattering the glass. "I'm going to stab you if you don't go away!" growled an unhappy homeless person once and Seki stopped going.

"You can get a voice like mine if you smoke." He smokes "Mild 7" cigarettes. Seki would like to give up smoking but wonders how his voice would change if he did. [ED note: Smoking is one of the worst things you can do to your throat if you are doing voice work.]

Does he have the vocal flexibility to get away with playing female characters? Maybe when he was in his 20s, he said, but not now at age 31.

He produces, directs, writes, and acts in three live-action shows a year in Shinjuku. They are futuristic samurai sci-fi dramas designed to entertain and leave audiences feeling refreshed. He enjoys doing both the shows and voiceovers since the different acting styles keep him balanced.

When he accepts a role, the character's voice emerges as he watches the footage. He doesn't think much about it until then. He bonds with certain aspects of the character, such as romance, strength, or - stupidity, which brought a laugh from the fans.

Seki becomes attached to the roles he plays so he can't pick which character he likes best. It's like being asked who your favorite family member is. He insisted, "But I really DO love every character I've played," and that he wasn't just saying it for the audience's sake.

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The most challenging roles he has done are Ken Hidaka in *Weiss Kreuz* and Chichiri in *Fushigi Yugi*. In *Weiss Kreuz*, it was capturing the nuances; in *Fushigi Yugi*, it was switching between different characters (he played Kouji as well). Sometimes he feels uncomfortable knowing he might not be able to live up to staff expectations. At home after work, he has his own mini-gripe session of what went wrong.

Dream roles would have been Ryo Saeba in *City Hunter* and Suneo Honekawa in *Doraemon*. In general, he prefers darker characters, though he couldn't explain why himself.

Playing Keisuke Takahashi in *Initial D* was the reason he got his driver's license. He attended driving school to understand how his character felt. Seki now owns a blue Nissan and a white El Dorado.

In *Cardcaptor Sakura*, he enjoyed teasing Sakura as her older brother Touya Kinomoto since Seki doesn't have a younger sister.

Before doing Brandon Heat in *Gungrave*, he hadn't played the PlayStation 2 game. It was really, really fun because he could blast everything away.

His favorite character pairing is Natsumi Tsujimoto and Shouji Toukairin in *You're Under Arrest*. Why? Because Sakiko Tamagawa, the voiceover actress who played Natsumi, wrote him a letter saying, "Thank you for a lovely romance."

Seki has done voiceovers for *G Gundam*, *Gundam SEED*, *Gundam Wing*, and *Victory Gundam*. In the *Gundam* series, he doesn't know how long his character will be around. When you get a LOT of dialogue, he laughed, you know your character is about to get killed off.

His favorite song is the theme song he did

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for Animate's self-promotional *Anime Tenchou*. He has done four solo CDs. Will he be releasing a new CD? He said it's much easier to release one if everybody just buys everything that's already out there. While he likes singing, he regards himself, first and foremost, as an actor.

Among his current projects, he is working on a sequel to a title whose name he kept secret. He looks forward to visiting his overseas fans again and the sight of a room filled to capacity made him want to do better work henceforth.

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