

Lady Oscar in Italy.

Lady Oscar was one of the biggest success of Japanese anime in Italy. An entire generation liked the story of the wonderful commander of the Royal Guards, and became found of French history, French revolution and Marie Antoinette's life.

The first time of Lady Oscar on Italian tv was on March, 1982, on Italian network Italia 1, then of Rusconi's editor. The time was 8 p.m., the same of news on Italian Rai, but the success was wonderful: about 5 millions of people watched every evening Lady Oscar, and liked her very much.

In the same time, Italian children magazine *Il Corriere dei Piccoli* begun to publish a comic made in Italy based on Oscar's adventure: it wasn't a nice product, but, in the meantime, the magazine also published a lot of original photos, some beautiful posters, and also two pages devoted to Lady Oscar's mail, in which young people could write to Oscar and ask for her questions about her story and the true facts of the French revolution.

Italia 1 stopped the first airing of Lady Oscar's adventures with the 37th episode, that who finished with Oscar and André, fallen in love each other, went in the direction of Paris, and announced a new season of episodes for the next autumn.

In September 1982 the Italian weekly magazine for young girls *Candy Candy*, that had begun for the first time in Italy to publish Japanese manga, began to translate Oscar's original comic and denounced *Il Corriere dei Piccoli* that had to stop its Oscar comics. In the mean time Panini editore published the stickers album, and Italian fans recognized that there wasn't a second season of episodes and the end was tragic.

When the last episode was airing, on December 1982, a lot of people cried (also me): more before the tragic ending of *Titanic*, also Oscar and Andre's death introduced the tragic and the force of a great love story in our lives.

Fabbri editore published not all Oscar's comic: it stopped more before the Revolution, for the reason to adapt the story to an imaginary public of seven-years old girl. The translation wasn't good, and a lot of things are left away: they had fear of parent's acting if the manga would be too much adult.

In the other way, Italian dubbing was very well. Director was Isa Barzizza, a Fifties beauty became a great theatrical actress, Oscar was dubbed by Cinzia de Carolis, who was starring as a child like Helen Keller in a historical version of *The Miracle Working* and who is today the Italian voice of Madonna and Uma Thurman, André by Massimo Rossi, who debuted as Lucky in Disney's *The 101 Dalmatians* and who was also the voice of Terence in *Candy Candy*, Marie Antoinette was Laura Boccanera, already Candy and today the voice of Jodie Foster, Fersen was Luciano Roffi, a good theatrical and Tv actor, Jarjaves was Romano Malaspina, the voice of Actarus in *Goldrake* (your *Goldorak*) and the voice of Jeff Goldblum.

As mistakes, in two scenes you could hear some words in Japanese, and Marie Antoinette, during the 14th episode, mistake Madame de Polignac's name. The only form of censorship was made in the 10th episode, changing the sense of the scene in which Rosalie offers herself to Oscar.

The song was sung by I Cavalieri del Re, and was very fine: it was like an old ballata, and became one of the most selling records in 1982.

Lady Oscar went back various times in Italy, until 1987. Fabbri editore also published some books, also a sequel, in which Oscar wasn't dead (but André yes, sigh!) and she met Napoleone Bonaparte. But it wasn't a good idea.

Lady Oscar didn't appear on Italian tv until autumn 1990. But the song was changed, currently to the new ideas of children cartoons and was sung by Cristina d'Avena.

In 1991 the VHS publisher Gruppo Logica 2000 published the episodes with the old song, but Fininvest stopped it and put in selling a version with the new song and some cut, cut down for example the first minutes of some episodes that remembered the previous episode.

Now there are a lot of years that Oscar doesn't return on our television: Granata Press published the entire manga in 1994-1995, and Oscar is liked and celebrated on a lot of magazines and fanzines, but the new ideas about cartoons are very dangerous. In a country where a doctor said that Sailor Moon is dangerous because it's a story of a group of strong girls that could make the boys gays (!!!!!), the story of a girl grow up as a boy it would be too much dangerous.

It's a pity, also because *Lady Oscar* is considered one of the best anime ever seen on Italian television.