

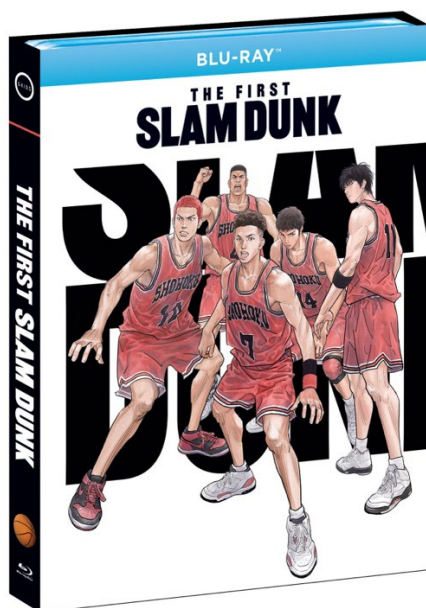


GKIDS Presents

"A one-of-a-kind sports drama... *The First Slam Dunk* understands what's great about basketball" – Calum Marsh, New York Times

The First Slam Dunk

**Acclaimed Animated Sports Thriller Makes North American Debut
on Blu-ray June 25, 2024**



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The critically acclaimed box-office phenomenon *The First Slam Dunk* will make its North American home entertainment debut on Blu-ray from GKIDS, with distribution by Shout! Studios, on June 25, 2024. *The First Slam Dunk* opened domestically in Japan in December 2022, and went on to break box office records in a number of countries during its international release. Written and created by Takehiko Inoue, “Slam Dunk” is a beloved manga which was serialized from 1990-1996. The original manga is one of the best-selling manga series of all time, with over 185 million copies sold globally, and has been adapted to various media and video games, including the hit anime series that ran from 1993-1996. *The First Slam Dunk* marks the first new feature-length film from the globally cherished franchise in over 26 years, as well as

original manga creator Takehiko Inoue's directorial debut. The film went on to be awarded the 2023 Japan Academy Prize for Best Animation of the Year – marking the first nomination and win for Inoue. Winner of the Japan Academy Film Prize for Best Animation in 2023 and the highest grossing domestic film in Japan in 2023, *The First Slam Dunk* is a high-octane sports thriller that captures the emotional and suspenseful journey of a player in one of the world's most popular sports.

The initial run of the release includes a limited-edition sticker sheet featuring Shohoku team uniforms. The release also offers a number of bonus features including an interview with director Takehiko Inoue, *Behind the Starting Line-up* an English dub featurette, audio commentary with the English dub team, and trailers for the film.

The film will also be available as a Collector's Edition later this year, with details to be announced as a future date.

About The First Slam Dunk

Shohoku's "speedster" and point guard, Ryota Miyagi, always plays with brains and lightning speed, running circles around his opponents while feigning composure. Born and raised in Okinawa, Ryota had a brother who was three years older. Following in the footsteps of his older brother, who was a famous local player from a young age, Ryota also became addicted to basketball.

In his second year of high school, Ryota plays with the Shohoku High School basketball team along with Sakuragi, Rukawa, Akagi, and Mitsui as they take the stage at the Inter-High School National Championship. And now, they are on the brink of challenging the reigning champions, Sannoh Kogyo High School.

The First Slam Dunk bonus features

- Interview with the Director Takehiko Inoue
- Behind the Starting Line-up: English dub featurette
- Color commentary with the English dub team
- Trailers & Teasers

About GKIDS

GKIDS is the Academy Award-winning producer and distributor of artist-driven and award-winning animation from around the world. After an astounding 13 Best Animated Feature nominations, the company took home the Oscar in 2024 for Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli's acclaimed feature, *The Boy and the Heron*. The company's previous nominations include *The Secret of Kells* in 2010, *A Cat in Paris* and *Chico & Rita* in 2012, *Ernest & Celestine* in 2014, *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya* and *Song of the Sea* in 2015, *Boy and the World* and *When Marnie Was There* in 2016, *My Life as a Zucchini* in 2017, *The Breadwinner* in 2018, *Mirai* in 2019, *Wolfwalkers* in 2021, and *The Boy and the Heron* in 2024. For more than a decade, GKIDS' influence on cinema has redefined the perception of animation as an artistic medium on par with live-action film through its stewardship of the Studio Ghibli catalog and by introducing American audiences to the critically-acclaimed films of other master filmmakers from around the world such as Mamoru Hosoda (*Mirai*, *Belle*), Tomm Moore (*The Secret of Kells*, *Wolfwalkers*), Benjamin Renner (*Ernest & Celestine*), Makoto Shinkai (*Weathering With You*), Nora Twomey (*The Breadwinner*), Alberto Vázquez (*Unicorn Wars*) and Masaaki Yuasa (*Inu-Oh*, *The Night is Short, Walk on Girl*), among countless others. Also, GKIDS is the founder and host of ANIMATION IS

FILM, the annual LA-based film festival which embraces the highest aspirations of animation as a cinematic art form, and is a vocal advocate for filmmakers who push the boundaries of the medium to its fullest range of artistic expressions. www.gkids.com
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About Shout! Studios

Launched in 2003, Shout! Studios is a multiplatform media company specializing in film and TV distribution, development, and production. The company has evolved with the changing entertainment landscape to excel in all forms of content distribution, including theatrical, digital streaming, broadcast and in-flight licensing, physical media, and more. Shout! Studios owns and manages a large portfolio of contemporary and classic feature films, series, animation, and documentaries. The company's creative acquisition mandate has established it as a leading independent distributor, with partners and properties including Aardman Animations, ALF, The Carol Burnett Show, Stephen J. Cannell Productions, The Johnny Carson Show, the Roger Corman New Horizons Pictures Library, GKIDS, ITV Studios, LAIKA Studios, Mystery Science Theater 3000 (in partnership with creator Joel Hodgson), and Sesame Street, alongside many others. Shout! Kids focuses on live-action and animated kids and family properties including anime, and the company releases genre and horror films and television shows under the Scream Factory imprint. Shout! Studios also produces, acquires, and distributes new films, and operates the acclaimed streaming service Shout! TV and its family of FAST channels. Shout! Studios is based in Los Angeles, California. For more on Shout! Studios, visit ShoutStudios.com

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