



Reasonably Priced Fresh Japanese Food

DYUTY AURONEE

Tokyo Express, as the name suggests, is a Japanese eatery. Since its launch in March, the restaurant has created a buzz and has been earning positive reviews in general. The restaurant is located in Banani (because clearly Banani doesn't have *enough* food outlets) and serves delicious Japanese food that is also healthy. Critically speaking, Japanese food *is* healthy in general because the cooking techniques used are mostly limited to blanching, steaming and grilling.

Painted black, the interior is moderately well spaced but could give an impression of dinginess because of

the darkness. The hanging lamps create a light and shadow effect that I found to be elegant. The menu is neat and to the point but with just enough choices for those who are not big fans of traditional sushi or maki rolls.

We ordered the Assorted Sushi Platter that offered a combination of three different key ingredients: salmon, prawn and cuttlefish. Fresh and delicate, the sushi platter was priced at Tk 590. It came with a wasabi dip that goes best with a little light soya sauce. The dish for me is something worth going back to the next time I have a craving for sushi.

Next in line was Beef Yakitori priced at Tk 320. It's basically

grilled skewers made with bite sized pieces of meat and served with salty and tangy gravy. The meat was succulent and the burst of flavours was a welcome change after the sushi.

The Jumbo Prawn Tempura is probably one of their most popular dishes. Served with a sweet and sour sauce in a bright orange cone-shaped bowl, it's priced at Tk 550.

Dessert options were very limited but the Snow Cone seemed to be a modest offering priced at Tk 120. Very much similar to what we know as granita, the flavoured ice left us somewhat disappointed in the end.

Overall, Tokyo Express delivers what it promises. The food is fresh. The pricing is very competitive and far more reasonable compared to other Japanese restaurants in Dhaka. The staff was friendly but seemed to be having a hard time explaining to the customers what each dish was. The place is good to go for casual hangouts or even fine dining. There were regular cutleries too but you can decide to let go of whatever sophistication like me and mess with the chopsticks.

YOLO. <3

The restaurant is in business from 1 pm to 11:30 pm. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ILoveTokyoExpress/timeline>.

Address: House 66, Road 9F, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



HANGOUTS

ANIME REVIEW

MUSHI-SHI 蟲師
THE CURE LIES IN THE CURSE

Between life and death

ANUVA ANANNYA

Mushishi, in one word, is a very rich attempt at the genre of occult detective. It contains largely ambiguous themes, leaving the door open for viewers to present their own interpretations of the stories told. The excellent storytelling of Mushishi is actually what connects the viewers to Ginko, the main protagonist of the series, and makes them a part of his purposeful, and yet unpredictable journey.

Mushishi is an entirely episodic series, following Ginko throughout his travels as a Mushi Master. It has 25 episodes in its first season; and another 20 episodes in its second season – Mushishi: The Next Passage with two additional specials.

Mushishi centers around certain paranormal beings called Mushi and their enigmatic influence on the other forms of life. The Mushi are beings that exist somewhere in between life and death; most often referred to as the very basic form of life itself. Their existence remains a mystery to everyone including the Mushishi (Mushi Masters) themselves. The Mushi Masters' job is to be the passageway between the lives of ordinary human beings and the Mushi. In most cases, the Mushi harm human beings by co-existing with them as parasites. However, Ginko happens to believe that their actions are not deliberate and that they are merely trying to survive.

Ginko is a sagacious Mushi Master who travels around rural Japan to study Mushi

and help those who are affected by them. Due to his love for helping others, he grows a kinship with the people in his journeys. Not much about him is shown, except for the mystery of his past and the reason he came to be the person that he is now. Every episode includes a story from his encounter with Mushi-affected people, that can end both in a tragic or a happy note. Each episode leaves a mark in your mind, bringing up new concepts and facades of life that you will find inexorably thought-provoking.

Mushishi is basically aimed at an adult audience. It is more like a collection of traditional folklore or fables presented in a surrealistic manner. It closely explores diverse topics regarding the interaction between humans and nature and the ways

they affect one another. The artwork, animation and the soundtrack of the anime are top-notch. I'd prefer watching it in subtitles, as it focuses on the people living in the countryside of Japan.

Judging by character developments, some may find it difficult to relate to the characters as a whole new flock of them is introduced in each episode. Also, it definitely is not a show for viewers who prefer fast-paced storylines.

Mushishi is a very out of the ordinary anime; it is slow-paced but is extremely soothing and relaxing. It can be an interesting watch, especially if you're tired of faster paced anime.

The writer, aged 16, is a grade 10 student of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

