

PREPARATION FOR THE SCREENING OF BLACK LAGOON

In order to avoid any potential confusion with this series (of the sort similar to that we encountered with *Fullmetal Alchemist*), I've compiled an accompanying sheet of data to assist in preparation for the 12 September 14 Screening of Episode One of *Black Lagoon*. Hopefully this will be of some assistance

Plot Overview

Black Lagoon is a study in contrasts. Early episodes in particular really put the emphasis on investigating the status and position of Japan (as a global economic superpower) and the Japanese (as self-described through the lens of a Japan-produced work of pop culture media) in a broader, transnational context. The series protagonist, Rokuro "**Rock**" Okajima, is our eyes to a series of events that transpire in the city of Roanapur in Southeast Asia. The series is comprised primarily of interrelated story arcs that center around Rock and the other members of the **Lagoon Company**, a ragtag and suprisingly multicultural assortment of shady characters who participate in all manner of quasi-legal activities for parties as diverse as the Chinese Triads, the **Russian Mafia**, the CIA, and other less-than-savory employers.

The first episode focuses on the Lagoon team stealing a certain bit of data from the Japanese company (**Asahi Industries**) that Rock works for at the behest of the Russian Mob. Asahi, in an attempt to destroy the evidence of its activities, hires **mercenaries** to kill the Lagoon crew, and ensure that no one gets that data. Rock, incidentally caught up in the struggle as a potential hostage to ransom, is likewise also written off by the company, who considers his death an acceptable cost to ensure corporate secrecy...

This may sound more like the plot of an 80s-era Hollywood action flick than your standard Dragon Ball/Sailor Moon-style anime, and that's intentional...

{ Characters }

