

## Background:

The following treatment for a live-action Macross film was recently uncovered from the archives of the late Kevin Seymour, co-founder of US Renditions, and one of the many people responsible for bringing Macross II to the US and worldwide. Written by Macross creator Shoji Kawamori in 1992, this treatment was adapted into a screenplay by Superman screenwriter David Newman in 1994.

This treatment is an early draft and was never intended for public consumption. It is being presented here to offer Macross fans a historical context of what could have been, as well as allowing them to see early concepts of what made Macross a beloved franchise in the years to follow.

- A Macross Fan

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## MACROSS LIVE ACTION MOVIE TREATMENT

By Shoji Kawamori, Studio Nue

November 10, 1992

Regarding live action feature,  
proposal from original *Macross* team

1) BASIC STORY The song by one small girl causes a miracle in a desperate war with giant alien invaders.

### 2) DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OTHER SFX FILMS AND ACTION/ADVENTURE FILMS.

Most of the SFX or Action adventure films that have been made were created from the perspective of the hero and his victory over the enemy. He uses his weaponry as power and the power of "justice" to wage his war. But in *Macross* it is completely different. In Asia, from ancient time, there is a philosophy about not fighting with the enemy; to extinguish the spirits of fighting from your own mind and forget "our side" and "enemy" and merge into one. *Macross* is based on this philosophy. To seize the enemy alien not using weapons, but with the song (music), in a spiritual or cultural way. To decrease the fighting spirit of the enemy and "our side" and try to explain to the audience about the relationships between enemy and our side in order to live together. Of course, we shouldn't describe this philosophy in a very complicated way. But using high quality action which is better than *Star Wars* or *Terminator* with the intellectual theme of *2001: A Space Odyssey* and using the key which is the song (music) We should aim to create entertainment for a new age.

3) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MACROSS: DO YOU REMEMBER LOVE? When we made "REMEMBER LOVE" there had been 9 months of broadcast for the *Macross* television series. Therefore, the audience was aware of the *Macross* world. Therefore, they already knew the backgrounds and situations. However, this time to make a live action feature in the US, we must describe everything within just one feature film. Therefore, we must simplify the situations and background settings compared to the original version. Additionally, it has been over ten years since we developed the original *Macross*. There has been tremendous change in the world society since then. We have to adjust the film toward the taste of current society. Such as:

A) Because there is an environmental movement, we set an area within the MACROSS that is not only the CITY, but "Little Amazon"

for creation of oxygen within the ship. "Little Barrier Reef" for a small ocean on board as well as an area of "Savana" (Africa) where there are many animals. We should describe all the creatures living on the MACROSS. The MACROSS ship should be like a small Earth, or gigantic future "Noah's Ark".

B) Use Virtual Reality techniques or Computer Graphics within cockpit of VALKYRIE and people's life in MACROSS city.

C) We have to add the concept for a "new age" science concept. For example, regarding to the effects of the song, we should describe as not only understanding through the ability to hear, but using effects like "logic of formation" or describe as psychology based on (you-ng) (?????).

D) When the animation film was made in Japan, women's society position was not really guaranteed. So there had been the setting of argument between the pilot Hikaru and the bridge officer Misa relating the different positions of men and women. Also, there was a structure in the background which was the war between men and women (Zentradi [Male] vs. Meltrandi [Female]). However the situation is changed now. Women's position in society is more established, therefore, we have to change the relationship between the characters a lot. Also in order to simplify the story. Don't explore the war between Zentradi vs. Meltrandi (Men vs. Women), should describe just the war between the Macross and the Zentradi.

E) VALKYRIES Need redesign adding elements of stealth such as the F-117, B-2, YF-22, YF-23. And besides the fighting type VALKYRIES we should design new robot weapon fighters (new designs for toy merchandising).

F) ENDING In the original, Zentradi's Bretai was awakened by the Culture which was brought by Minmay's song which ended the war. However, between the war of the Zentradi and Macross, we needed a scene where Hikaru in his VALKYRIE destroys BORG DOLZA in order to create catharses for the space fighting scene. However, this time we should exclude the scene Hikaru attacking and blowing up the ship, and try to create catharses and explain the theme more accurately.

G) STORY CONCEPTS: Put more weight on the female singer (Minmay) than the original animation version did. But higher weight on the relationship between the pilot, singer, and bridge officer. Must

describe each character including their dreams and thoughts. Extensive detail on these three characters. Create high tension of the reality of the first contact with aliens at the *Macross* site (Describe the response of the UN Spacy and naturalists "pasifist"). All those points should have a great deal of weight. In exchange, we should cut all the description of the Zentradis. That way the audience can feel the ominous presence of the aliens. Elements of PROTOCOLTURE and Meltrandis should be cut out. Cut the setting that the Earth had been completely destroyed and the parts where the pilot and operator go back on the Earth by themselves.

H) BACKGROUND: The timesetting is the middle 21st century. Population of the Earth had reached over 10 billion which was the maximum limitation for the Earth. Therefore, UN Spacy government had created gigantic space immigration ships which has a system of transportation known as space fold (warp system). Those ships had been dispatched within the galaxy to search the planets in order to find worlds for humans to immigrate to. However, some of the ships were destroyed by the unknown aliens during their voyage. UN Spacy got information from the people who miracles escaped the alien attacks. The attacking aliens are giants. Therefore, UN Spacy created human type transformable robot weapons called the VALKYRIE. The Valkyrie was loaded on board the immigrant ship in order to defend the vessels from the attacking aliens. MACROSS is one of the space immigrant ships. The size is 4000 meters long (original design was 1200 meters so 3 times bigger). Within the ship there is a city which has a population of 200,000 people. And also thousands of different animals and plants. The cities, ocean, sanvana, amazon were installed in the ship by module construction. If the immigrant ship finds a planet where humans can live, the plan use to remove the city and the plant and animal life using the module to allow them to survive during transplant to the new world. It had been a few years since MACROSS launched from the Earth with about ten defense battleships. The story begins from this point.

(BATTLOID VALKYRIE which was designed to combat enemy force was never used in combat when the film starts).

I) ZENTRADI. In the original animation giants would fight in battle pods. We should redesign the aliens to be grotesque and the Zentradi should be able to fight without any powersuits (bio-weapons). Also the Zentradi space ships should be described as gigantic bees nest, and should not be described as a mechancial ship. Ships should like

they have been grown or organically created. Zentradi shouldn't be described as characters, but just mysterious giants (Setting about protoculture and human being. It is too complicated and I think it is impossible to describe in one feature film. I would prefer to cut it as an element from this script)

J) CHARACTERS I'm really not aware of custom or position of singers or racial relationships in the United States. Therefore, I just set it as outline. The names listed are all tentative. I expect American side people opinion regarding the race of the characters or the name.

Maria (18-19 years old) Female Singer. Very cheerful and active girl. Ran away from home a few year ago because she wanted to be a singer. And joined the space immigrant ship because her dream is to be the number singer of the new world.

Ace (22-26 years old) Male. One of the top pilots of the Valkyrie corps. Excellent pilot technique and gets "hot" really easily (meaning his flying)

Ellen (22-26 years old) Female. One of the Macross bridge operator. Very intelligent, but very serious woman. Character is completely is opposite compared to Ace. However, went to the same high school as Ace and he is her boyfriend. She has a master degree on space biology and active psychology.

Captain Sheradon (Male 50 years old) He commands the Macross as well as being one of the UN Spacy leaders regarding the immigration plan. Excellent fighter and strategist who likes combat.

Mayor Rogers (Male 40s) Mayor of Macross city. Very calm, naturalist and pasifist.

Roy Fokker ( Male 30) Lieutenant of Valkyrie troops. Same character as the original.

Max Jenius (Male, 22) Genius Valkyrie pilot.

Kamujin Lieutenant of Zentradi forces. (Kamujin is the character like Bretai in the original. He is the main Guy at Zentradi who learns about culture. Limit number of Zentradis we know about.

K) STORY IDEA: At this point it is very difficult to describe each character. Therefore, I just notate the main outline. (If I write a further treatment, I can write including the relationship with the sub characters and more culture gaps with the aliens).

There is a space troop voyaging in the galaxy searching for a planet where they can live. Within that troop is the flagship Macross. It contains a city inside and one young lady after her long dream was about to begin a live stage show (She has experience, she has sung on radio) in front of the audience Maria starts to sing. Since the audience is hungry for entertainment, everyone goes crazy for her. At the same time in space (exterior of Macross) Valkyrie pilots were running a test flight. Valkyrie pilot Ace, promise to his girlfriend Ellen that he will get the best results in the test. So please prepare a celebration dinner for him when he gets back (Establishment of relationship between Ace and Ellen for audience. They are already a couple) Due to Fokker's signal all Valkyrie fighters begin the test fight. Ace scores a lot of points. However he realizes his rival Max is doing better than him. Ace tries to defeat Max. All the Valkyrie pilots have never actually engaged in combat, so they were test flying as though they were playing a video game. Suddenly, a couple of Valkyries are destroyed by missile. All of the pilots are shocked. They all get tense, this is only supposed to be a test. They wonder if it is a coup within the UN spacy or an alien attack. Without knowing who is attacking, many more Valkyries are destroyed. Mysterious enemy is not detected on the scanners. However, Ace finally saw the grotesque giant alien with his own eyes. He finds out that the enemy is targeting Macross. He prepares to attack them. Macross receives Ace's report and activates its defense system. However, since alien doesn't show up on radar, many of the Zentradi soldiers easily invade the ship and destroy warehouse or UN Spacy modules. At the same time, Maria's first concert was interrupted by emergency siren. However, Maria keeps singing (Since it's her first concert she couldn't stop singing) People are not used to an alien attack so they did not take the siren seriously. Lt. Kamujin of the Zentradi forces destroys a wall and gets into the city zone. He gets confused about what he sees. He activates the five sensor and research within the ship. He catches the singing voice of Maria. Kamujin gets very confused and proceeds to the place where he hears the songs. He tries to destroy the concert hall in order to get inside. Maria and audience panic to see grotesque giant in front of them. However, Ace just in time arrives at the concert hall and transforms into a Valkyrie. Kamujin doesn't counterattack and instructs everyone to

retreat. Macross is seriously damaged. Since all the giants retreated at once they were able to survive. However, they found out due to the attack of the giants, the fold system has been damaged and will be inoperable for two or three months. Ace was defeated in test fight by Max, however since he found giant and rescued Maria and the crowd, he all of the sudden becomes the hero of Macross city. Maria becomes in love with Ace for rescuing her. So Ace gradually becomes attracted to her. Ace broke his dinner promise with Ellen and goes to see Maria instead of her. However, Ellen was nominated to the project team against the giants. She becomes so busy she cannot see what's happening with Ace even though she suspects about Ace and Maria. UN Spacy starts to analyze the giants scientifically from the film which was shot when they attacked the Macross, and the tissue left on the ship by wounded Zentradi (here audience can know size of Zentradi and approximate figures) They found out that the defense systems and weapons they have are not powerful enough to stop the Zentradi (technology of Zentradi is stronger than the technology of Earth) Captain Sheradon requests to Earth headquarters for more support troops. He wants them to send the closest ships. He finds out that even at maximum warp the ships won't arrive to the Macross for months. Therefore, Captain Sheradon requests permission to use heat nuclear weapon to defend against the enemy (these weapons had been previously banned) Meanwhile, the Mayor of Macross city, leader of the naturalist and pacifists, says the aliens have rights to live and asks the UN Spacy to negotiate a peace settlement with the alien. The civilians of Macross city feel that their life is in danger. In order to forget about the aliens they go to concerts and gamble. Because of this trend, Maria's popularity skyrockets. She becomes very busy doing concerts and singing on television. However, Maria finds time in her schedule to see Ace (date scene of Maria and Ace should be unique with a future sense and very happy). They always go to the observation terrace at the Amazon block because Maria loves flowers. Maria and Ace talk about their dreams. Maria's dream is to become number one on the galaxy charts. Ace says he wants to be the number one fighter.

Meanwhile, Ellen gets irritated by Ace's changed attitude. She knows it's bad, but she puts a homing device into a pendant and gives it to Maria. She tracks her and finds out that Maria is seeing Ace. Ellen gets so upset she confronts them. She tells Maria, "Your songs are the worst I've ever heard. Maybe you're popular, but it's only because the people want anything to distract them from the reality of what's happening." Maria is shocked (Until this point, Maria was

using echo and synthesizer on her voice to look good. All the effects are making her sing well, not her real voice).

*Macross* is again attacked by the Zentradi. However, this time, UN Spacy had already created a new radar using infra red detection. And that was effective against them and they knew when and where the enemy was attacking. However, because of the pasifist movement, the Captain was not allowed to use heat nuclear weapons against the aliens. Therefore, UN Spacy was defeated one by one, and their defense line had been completely destroyed. The *Macross* is in crisis. However, aliens who invaded inside the ship of *Macross*. They are not destroying anything, they are looking for something. Captain Sheradon and the UN Spacy are confused by the Giants purpose. All the the pasifists try to communicate to the giants, sending them a peace message. However, there is no response.

Meanwhile, Maria was recording her new song at the recording studio. However, the new song is very difficult to sing and she cannot really sing well. Ever since Maria was confronted by Ellen because the songs were effected, she is trying to sing without any effects which is probably why she can't sing well. She doesn't hear the emergency siren because they shut off the switch during recording and she keeps singing. All of the sudden the giant Kamujin appears in front of them. Kamujin puts Maria into a cocoon like capsule and takes her away.

All of the sudden all of the giants start to retreat. And no one had realized that the giants kidnapped Maria. At the UN Spacy they are having a meeting about why the giants invaded inside the ship. Many of the commanders are giving their opinions. ("They probably invaded to retrieve the nuclear weapons", etc)

Meanwhile, Ace returns from the defense and tries to find Maria. However, he finds out that she had disappeared from her manager (Within the ship there was so much damage caused by the giants that UN Spacy hadn't paid attention to Maria's disappearance). Ace is really worried about Maria, and Ellen is jealous, "You care about her more than me." Ellen and Ace have a big fight. After the argument, Ace finds out that Ellen gave the pendant that contained the homing system to Maria. Therefore, Ace asks Ellen to use giant homing signal researcher of space to lock onto the pendenant. Ellen denies because they can't use it without authorization of the



management people. Finally, Ellen agrees to cooperate. But they find out that there is no response from anywhere in Macross. And when they power of the sesor to the maximum level. They catch the homing signal in space a few thousand kilometers away.

Ace and Ellen are really surprised about this fact. And they launch Valkyrie without permission in order to find Maria (Ellen thinks Maria is dead and her body is floating in space having been sucked out through a hull breech). However, on the way, they are attacked by giants and captured and have no time to send SOS to Macross.

They are brought inside the enemy ship. They meet Maria inside. Ace and Maria are glad to see that the other is alive. They have no idea about what's going to happen to them. Maria tells Ace and Ellen that the giants put an analyzing device on her to try to find something out. The three of them discuss the purpose of the giants. They are scared that the aliens view humans as pets and just want to play with them. Giants research the three of them (Maybe good idea to include culture shock sequence like the kiss in the original animation episodes) After this research the three of them try to escape using the kiss. Because they are small they barely escape from where they were being held. During the escape, Ellen and Ace are always arguing, however the aruguments facilitate their escape. Maria finds out about the depth of communication between Ellen and Ace. She feels jealous and stops for the moment and giant finds her and is about to capture her. However, not only Ace, but Ellen tries to rescue Maria from the giant. Maria is surprised because she felt Ellen hated her. Ellen smiles and tells her that she did what she is supposed to dob (ie her duty). Ellen mentions to Maria that she is a soldier that belongs to UN Spacy and is sworn to save the people. Maria sees that Ellen is very badly injured. And Maria was moved and shocked to see Ellen hurt. She starts to question herself "Have I sung strongly, like they fight with the people for their lives" She realized that she was still a spoiled child. They finally find the Valkyrie which they came on board with and succeed to escape. They immediately send an SOS signal and report to the Macross about their location and the size of the enemy ship.

On Macross, UN Spacy received the SOS signal from Ellen and decided to use heat nuclear weapon and justify by saying it was done to recover the hostages. Lt. Fokker and Max rescue the Valkyrie where Ace, Maria, and Ellen are. Fokker and Max successfully

capture Kamujin who had been chasing Ace and the other's in his Valkyrie. Macross fires the heat nuclear weapons, and destroys all of the Zentradi alien ships (several ships destroyed). Within the Macross, all of the soldiers or UN Spacy, cheer their victory. However, within the enemy troops, Zentradi flagship escaped using the fold system and proceeded to their main force headquarters.

Ace was not accused for taking the Valkyrie without permission because he did a good job letting Macross know the location of the enemy ship. Ace gets interviewed and becomes a bigger hero (Meanwhile, naturalist/antiwar people criticize Ace) Ace becomes begins to believe his own hype.

Meanwhile, Maria has lost confidence about her singing ability and becomes very depressed. Also Ace loses his interest in Maria because she is depressed (Usually he should be helping her if she's depressed, but since he is now a hero and become a snob, he's forgotten about caring for others).

At Maria's concert to celebrate her return. She tries to sing a new song. However, she sees the seat where Ace is supposed to be is empty. Additionally, she has lost her confidence in her singing ability. She just couldn't start singing.(Ace was invited to the concert but did not show up)

Meanwhile, UN Spacy is analyzing Kamujin (Ellen is on the analyzing team). They found out a surprising result. The size of the left brain is the same size as human brain. Further within the left brain, the section which controls attacking emotion is tremendously big (Result was even though they have grotesque look and uncontrolled fighting spirit, the structure of gene is the surprisingly similar to the human being). At the UN Spacy meeting, Commander is insisting to kill the giants because their will to fight is too strong. All of the anti-war people insist that the aliens have the right to live. Since the aliens didn't kill everybody, the civilians want a peace rather than going ahead with UN Spacy's plan.

Maria failed at the concert and totally lost confidence. She runs away to the observation booth in the Amazon. She is very

lonely, she thinks about her past. Without knowing, she starts to sing.

At the same time, Kamujin who had been sedated by them, suddenly wakes up. And then the computer graphic which shows the brain wave starts to change from fighting spirit emotion to the way friendship and love feeling. Up to this point people felt the Giants hardly had any positive emotions. Ellen observed this on the analyzing machine and observed this reaction. All of the sudden Kamujin breaks from his shackles and escapes. Ellen pushed emergency warning. She was surprised that he had feelings of friendship and then suddenly violently escaped.

Kamujin proceeds to the Amazon block and UN Spacy figures out that he wants to destroy the little Amazon so Macross will loose Oxygen. All the Valkyries dispatch against him. Max finds him and fires. However, Kamujin escapes.

Kamujin breaks the wall of the wall of the module and breaks into the little Amazon. He suddenly appears in front of Maria. Maria felt that it was her time to die. However, the giant is just staring at Maria. She looks up at him slowly and she sees the lonely feeling in his eye. It seems like the giant who is injured all over with a grotesque mask is trying to say something to Maria. She unconsciously starts to sing. And suddenly, there was the smiling eyes on the giants face. Maria starts to feel that maybe the Giant has a feeling as well. Maria start to sing really loud, and giant Kamujin is just listening to Maria's song with a happy face (Since the five senses of the giant are better than a human being that is why Kamujin could detect the song). Maria was moved by the emotional contact with the alien. But all of the sudden, Ace's Valkyrie comes in and kills Kamujin. Maria yells to Ace to not shoot, but Ace's battloid punches Kamujin and throws him into an airlock. Ace tells Maria that he's saved her three times from the Giant. She accuses Ace of being a murderer. Ace can't believe it and tells her that he saved her life.

Maria goes to UN Spacy and insists that Giant listened to her song and has emotions and feelings. However, UN Spacy wants to kill all the giants, they don't trust what Maria says. They think she's gone crazy because she was so tired and scared. They put her in the hospital for people undergoing nervous breakdowns (The reason UN

Spacy but her in psychaitric hospital is because they fear her opinions will reach the antiwar people).

Ellen doesn't confess that she has confirmed the Giant brainwaves was changed to friendship. (Without realizing it herself Maria realized she could get back with Ace while Maria was in the hospital). All of the data about the Giant's brain change had been destroyed).

Maria is so desperate at the hospital because no one belives her. And Ellen comes to see Maria (Ellen feels sorry for her because she didn't reveal what knew about the giants feelings)

Maria doesn't open her mind to Ellen, but just mentions that the Giant listened to her song.

At the same time, about 50 Zentradi ship defold close to the planet which is 2000 kilometers away from Macross. Macross prepares for battle. And then they rescue the troops which they had requested from headquarters a month ago is supposed to be arriving. All the soldiers believe they will win because they are getting more help from headquarters.

All the civilians have been evacuated from the shelter. And Ace had been promoted to Lt. He volunteers to take off first and attack the enemy.

And the battle begins. Ace try to move the away to the spot where the troops from the Earth are supposed to appear. In that Space about a few hundred UN Spacy ships defold. And fire all at once on the Zentradi ships and destroy them all. Everybody has a cheerful reaction on board the Macross. Ace is so happy he does acrobatic flight. However, from the back of the planet, Ace sees millions of Zentradi ships. Everybody at the Macross is shocked about this. There is no way out since the Macross fold system is destroyed. UN Spacy can't fold because they just arrived and need time to reenergize. Desperate war begins.

Maria hears the battle had begun on the radio. She escapes the hospital.

UN Spacy Valkyries had been destroyed one by one.

Ace loses all the pilots who were on his team. He realized his own abilities won't do any good. He gets hit and his Valkyrie is damaged. He barely gets back to the Macross.

Since the situation is so desperate, Ellen thinks they are all going to die. All of the sudden, she flashbacks about Maria's story, remembering that Kamujin listened to her song. Ellen starts to think that maybe to gamble on Maria's song. Maybe their brainwave will change again to the fighting feeling to the emotional feeling of love.

Ellen tells her idea to Ace who just got back from the battle. However, Ace doesn't listen and thinks it is a stupid idea. However, Ellen says "Once you loved me, before you go away, please do me this last thing. Since Ellen was so serious, Ace agreed to try.

Ace tries to find Maria in hospital. He looks for her in the desolate Macross city (everyone has been evacuated to a shelter)

Meanwhile, Ellen sets all the transmission system to the area which can cover where the Zentradi ships are. Ellen does this by herself. She just finish the standby. However, enemy missile hits Macross large antenna. And the large transmission system goes down.

Ace finds Maria at the little Amazon. Ace asks Maria to sing the song one more time. However, she doesn't listen to him at the beginning. Ace tells her gently but strongly that he thought he had power. However, if power is used to fight nothing can be done. All his friends and men were killed. He desperately tries to change her mind. Maria sees Ace is different and is no longer a snob. She decides to sing a song and bet her life.

Ellen tells the fact that all the transmission system has gone out. And ace gets a new idea, to transmit out her song, from the Super Valkyrie E which has a great transmitting system. He takes off into space with Maria.

Maria starts singing in the battle. The song which couldn't sing before at the concert. Slowly but gradually the way she sings gets strong. And her song is transmitted through the Valkyrie system.

Captain Sheradon and people on the bridge realize what Ace and Maria are doing in space and at first think they are crazy. However, gradually, the Zentradi begin to change. Maria continues to sing. Ellen puts Maria's song on many different kind of frequencies (Zentradi's five sense can receive the frequency transmitter because their brain has the capacity to receive frequencies automatically).

All of the sudden the Zentradi stop fighting. Then there was a missile that was exactly launched coming toward the SUPER VALKYRIE E (Since the SVE doesn't load ammunition) Ace and Maria's life is in danger.

But one giant appears in front of the Super Valkyrie and shoots down the missile. The giant was Kamujin. He was heavily injured but survived and went back to his ship. Maria continues to sing and Ace and Ellen and everyone is moved by her song. The giants led by Kamujin protect the SVE and Maria continues to sing.

As Maria's echos throughout the universe each Giants face gradually becomes a kind face. Everybody can't believe the miracle.

Zentradi is not firing anymore. Instead all giants start to sing with Maria in the universe.

#### THE END

This is a fantasy, but I believe this could really happen in real life. I would like to describe that and the story ends at this point. And audience won't know what will happen to the love triangle. This is left to the audiences guess.

In order to set the situation of transmitting Maria's song live, we should think about something like telepathy or new science. Not a music wave signal, but something that can effect the Zentradi mind in specific way.