

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# RIGHT STUF'S NOZOMI ENTERTAINMENT to Release **MARIA WATCHES OVER US (*Maria-sama ga Miteru*)** First "season box set" scheduled for Summer 2008

GRIMES, IA, March 6, 2008 – Anime producer and distributor **Right Stuf, Inc.** and **Nozomi Entertainment** are pleased to announce the licensing of **MARIA WATCHES OVER US (*Maria-sama ga Miteru*)**. The series, often referred to by fans as "*Marimite*," will be released on DVD as "season box sets," with **Japanese audio and English-language subtitles**, starting **Summer 2008**.

A character-driven, coming of age tale set in Tokyo, Japan, **Maria Watches Over Us** follows the lives of several teenage girls who attend the prestigious Lillian Girls' Academy. As an institution steeped in tradition, one of Lillian's most enduring customs is its "*sœur*" (French for "sister") system: Older, established students mentor and befriend younger students at the all-girls school. The story is set in motion when Yumi, a new, first-year student, inadvertently captures the attention of the "Yamayuri Council," Lillian's student council, whose members are also the most admired, idolized and respected students on campus.

The **Maria Watches Over Us** anime is based upon an ongoing series of light novels – written by **Oyuki Konno** and illustrated by **Reine Hibiki** – that began in 1998 and currently spans 32 volumes. Short stories related to the series have been published in the *shoujo* (girls') magazine *Cobalt*, and a manga adaptation is serialized in the anthology magazine *Margaret*. The series' publisher, Shueisha, also produced 14 drama CDs (with radio-style plays).

The anime adaptation of *Maria-sama ga Miteru* encompasses two, 13-episode TV seasons, a 5-episode OVA (original video animation) as its third season, and a fourth season, currently in production in Japan.

The first three seasons of **Maria Watches Over Us** feature animation by **Studio DEEN** (*Fruits Basket*, *Gravitation*, *Rurouni Kenshin*), direction by **Yukihiko Matsushita** (*Blue Dragon*, *Sugar Sugar Rune*), and scripting by **Reiko Yoshida** (*Aria*, *Boys Over Flowers*, *Story of Saiunkoku*).

Each of the DVD box sets for **Maria Watches Over Us** will include the "specials" – comedic shorts that depict the series' characters in "chibi" form – for its respective season.

Visit [maria-sama.rightstuf.com](http://maria-sama.rightstuf.com) for more information about **Maria Watches Over Us (*Maria-sama ga Miteru*)** and to pre-order the box sets now.

### ABOUT RIGHT STUF, INC.

Founded in 1987, **Right Stuf, Inc.** was one of the first players in the U.S. Japanese Animation ("anime") industry, as both an anime producer/distributor and a retailer. Right Stuf works to promote knowledge of its own products, as well as the anime and manga industry, in general, through its online storefront at [RightStuf.com](http://RightStuf.com) and a variety of media including podcasts and special publications.

**Nozomi Entertainment**, Right Stuf's production division, is dedicated to the highest quality releases. True to the Japanese word that inspired its name, Nozomi's focus is on "*what fans want*." By focusing on a limited number of anime properties each year, the Nozomi production team ensures each release receives the care and attention to detail it deserves.

From anime classics like *Astro Boy*, *Kimba* and *Gigantor* to modern comedies, dramas and favorites such as *The Irresponsible Captain Tylor*, *His and Her Circumstances*, *Gravitation*, *Shingu: Secret of the Stellar Wars*, *Ninja Nonsense*, *To Heart* and *The Third: The Girl With the Blue Eye*, Right Stuf and Nozomi Entertainment produce quality programming for fans of all ages and interests. For more information, visit [www.rightstuf.com](http://www.rightstuf.com) and [www.nozomient.com](http://www.nozomient.com).