



## THEY MAKE GREAT PETS!

Everyone in "Cyber Team in Akihabara" owns a PataPi but for some magical reason, Hibari's PataPi is quite special. *by Edwin Macaraeg*

### CYBER TEAM IN AKIHABARA

Suggested for 13+, 5 episodes, 125 minutes. Rel. 11/16/04 (ADV Films)

Hibari Hanakoganei is a junior high school student who occasionally dreams of a prince who is waiting for her upon a somewhat familiar hill.

One day on the way home from school, she is mysteriously led to the hill seen in her dream where she receives a PataPi, the latest in mechanical pet fads.

After Hibari receives this mysterious toy (which she names Densuke), she is encountered by a strange woman who wants to take the pet away from her.

Hibari then realizes that Densuke is not the every-day PataPi

that he appears to be.

The strange woman calls forth monsters to attack and while doing so Densuke transforms into a powerful heroine who appears to be a parallel of Hibari herself!

Since this day, Hibari encounters many mysterious villains who all want to take Densuke away from her.

Later in the series, Hibari is joined with a few others who also possess powerful PataPi's as they join together to form the Cyber Team in Akihabara.

As they continue to fight, they are being monitored by the Dark Prince and the Light Prince who have been patiently waiting for this reunion to occur.

The animation designs in "Cy-

ber Team in Akihabara" are very reminiscent of the TV anime shows created in the mid-90's.

The characters are cutesy with large oval shaped eyes while the female villains are overly voluptuous.

Occasionally, there would be computer-generated images reminiscent of the "purikura" style photos taken in Japan.

The music and voice acting are fairly well done in both English and Japanese.

The English voice acting gives that Saturday morning cartoon feeling, while the Japanese language seems to give the heroes more vigor, so personally I recommend the Japanese dialogue.

The music ranges from very happy Japanese pop music to string quartets to jazzy piano and saxophone pieces. The ending theme song "Taiyou no Hana" is a very well written song.

There are only a few extras featured on the DVD. There are original sketches for character designs from "Cyber Team in Akihabara".

There is also a clean opening and clean ending which are the original openings and endings without the subtitled inlayed text.

At a slight glance, "Cyber Team in Akihabara" with its bubble gum pop music and cute character designs would appeal to young audiences, but with its mysterious plot and comedic elements this show has much to offer people of all ages.

For fans who enjoy shows such as "Angelic Layer" or "Sailor Moon" this would be a great recommendation. **B**