

what are we watching on dvd?



FULL METAL PANIC? FUMOFFU VOL. 1

3 Episodes, 75 minutes, Rates TV PG V (ADV Films)

In 2002, "Full Metal Panic!" was a popular anime (based on the popular novel) from Gonzo Digimation that wowed animation fans with a unique story of life in high school.

Well, it's not the life that we are used to seeing in Japanese anime. Or life for Kaname Chidori since meeting Sosuke Sagara.

Unbeknownst to Kaname is that Sosuke is not your typical high school student. He's actually an elite soldier and Second Lieutenant of the Mithril special forces posing as a student.

Sosuke is purely all military and will do anything to do his job in protecting Kaname. Think of him as a one man army.

Unfortunately, he's a bit naive when it comes to high school life, romance and things that most high schoolers enjoy.

But for Kaname, this student is going through extremes of trying to help her (she doesn't know why, she thinks he's weird) but at the expense of the high school due to the destruction he causes.

In the "Full Metal Panic!" television series, we watch as Sosuke does whatever to protect Kaname

from terrorists trying to kidnap her.

In 2003, the second television series titled "Full Metal Panic? Fumoffu" came out and it continues the zaniness of Sosuke and Kaname, as he continues to protect Kaname, misunderstand Kaname and cause plenty of damage.

Based on the popular manga series, Fumoffu is a different from the first television series. It continues to be more zany and also more comedy. Also, short episodes.

I watched the first DVD volume for the series and I can say that I enjoyed this anime immensely.

There are a total of 17 episodes and two were not shown in Japan due to sensitive content (child kidnappings) that were ongoing in Japan.

Therefore, viewers of the anime series may have been confused if they missed an episode or two.

Fortunately, for the DVD release, we get to see these two episodes.

In the first episode, a girl likes Sosuke and puts a note in his locker.

Unfortunately, Sosuke thinks that someone broke into his locker and thinks that she maybe a terrorist.

In the second part of this epi-

sode, a group of gang members want revenge on Sosuke, so they kidnap Kaname. But these gangsters have no idea who they are messing with.

In the second episode, Sosuke is causing trouble when he learns how difficult it is to get school lunch. So, in order to make sure he gets some pan (bread), he uses his gun as a way to let the students know that they should move out of the way.

Doing so, students begin rushing for safety and injures the school's bread suppliers. Thus, in order to provide the students their lunch, Sosuke, Kaname and friends have to distribute bread to the students.

Unbeknownst to them, an unsuspecting person will do whatever it takes to sabotage the bread to get Sosuke in trouble.

In the third episode, the group go to beach and Kaname tries to get Sosuke to notice her in a bikini. All Sosuke cares about is protecting her and ends up ruining her bikini by smashing watermelons on her.

Kaname in disgust, meets a rich child who wants to meet her and for Sosuke, he thinks she has been kidnapped.

So, far watching the first four episodes has truly been fun. I really enjoyed "Full Metal Panic? Fumoffu". I enjoyed the Japanese audio track but I have to let people know that the English dub was great!

The DVD is provided in 4:3 with the English track in 5.1 and Japanese track in 2.0.

Special features include a Bonta-kun board game, the mysteries of Fumoffu (an explanation of how they came up with the name), the clean opening and closing themes, the original Japanese TV spots and character artwork.

For fans of "Full Metal Panic!", you can't go wrong with Fumoffu. It's so awesome and definitely worth checking out!

— DENNIS A. AMITH

REVIEW GRADE

A