



HELLO KITTY'S ANIMATION THEATER 1

8 episodes, 12 minutes each, 100 minutes total. Suggested for TV Y, (ADV Kids)

THE ADVENTURES OF HELLO KITTY AND FRIENDS

Hello Kitty is one of the most well known cartoon characters worldwide, along with her friends that are part of the the popular Sanrio merchandise line featuring Hello Kitty (a white cat with a red bow on her head), Pochacco (a white dog), Badtz-Maru (a badboy penguin), Hangyodon (a sea creature), My Melody (a bunny) and many, many more.

I have always wondered if there was any story about these characters, so it was a blast for me to review this DVD.

Along with my little toddler, we kicked back and watch the first volume of "Hello Kitty's Animation Theater 1" which features 8 complete episodes.

Many of the episodes based on popular childhood stories: "Hello Kitty in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", "Hello Kitty and Mimmy in King Midas' Donkey Ears", "Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel in Hansel & Gretel", "Hello Kitty in the Bamboo

Princess", "Bad Badtz-Maru in The Boy Who Cried Wolf", "Pochacco in Jack and the Beanstalk", "My Melody in Little Red Riding Hood" and "Hangyodon in the Emperor's New Clothes".

Each episode is around 15 minutes long and after watching the first volume, I can say that I definitely recommend this children's animation series to your kids.

There are a few episodes on this DVD that I have to give a word of caution to protective parents.

A good example is "Hello Kitty in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" which features an evil step mother who wants to kill Snow White (Hello Kitty) and asks the hunter to kill her and bring back the arrow with Snow White's blood.

For parents familiar with these children stories, I'll let you know right now that none of the characters get killed.

For example, in "Little Red Riding Hood", My Melody and grandmother

get eaten by the wolf, but fortunately help arrives and with a pair of scissors, the wolf's stomach was opened and the two were rescued. Of course, the wolf didn't suffer.

Nevertheless, these type of instances made me pause a bit but all-in-all, all episodes are happy endings that teach a valuable lesson.

As for the animation, the target is children and I'm not sure how old the actual animation is (I am guessing it's from the late 80's thru the 90's) but I think it's cute and children will not mind. The aspect ratio is 4:3.

As for the audio, I will be the first to say that ADV Kids did a great job on the English dubbing of this animation.

I usually watch Japanese animation in Japanese but I was very impressed by the English vocal talent for this children series, especially the singing vocals in English are very well done. Excellent!

As for special features, included are the the clean opening and closing animations.

"Hello Kitty" is a good children's animated series that I do recommend for children.

Knowing the details of older children's tales, parents should know that although it does follow those tales but manages to keep things happy and fun. But again, although the series features cute Sanrio characters, if you are very protective of what your young children are watching, there are segments that you may or may not want your children to see or hear.

"Hello Kitty's Animation Theater" is a cute and joyful animation with positive outcomes and kids will learn a lesson or two from the Sanrio characters.

Definitely a fun series that Sanrio fans should pick up!

— DENNIS A. AMITH

REVIEW GRADE

A