



FANTASY ISLAND GONE CRAZY!

PAPUWA Vol 1: Wild Things

5 episodes, 125 minutes, ADV Films

Ahh... the return back to Papuwa Island. A place to rest and relax and... Well, maybe not.

To tell you the truth, Papuwa Island is not that type of island. In fact, imagine a tropical paradise filled with a large transvestite fish with legs wearing fishnet stockings and its partner, an oversized snail?

How about a poisonous mushroom that tries to get people to eat him or to spread his flakes and put people in an induced state.

Don't forget to throw in the inhabitants of the island that are just loads of trouble and may even want to eat you.

This is the craziness of Papuwa Island, a TV series aired back in 2003 and derived from the popular 1992 hit "Nangoku Shounen Papuwa-kun" (Southern Country Boy Papuwa-kun).

In the original TV series, the

show was about a young boy named Papuwa, who lives with his dog Chappi.

A guy named Shintaro goes to the island to escape gangsters who are chasing after him and they are after a special jewel. Well, it seems that Chappi steals the blue jewel and immediately what was supposed to be peaceful ends up becoming war between the owners of the blue and red jewel.

In the first episode of the latest Papuwa series, the show dedicates several minutes to introduce the viewer of what happened in the old series and the explanation that Papuwa Island is a new island (the last island was obliterated in the first television series).

This time around, a young spoiled boy named Kotaro ends up in the island after a long slumber and is under the care of Papuwa and his maid, Liquid.

He has no recollection of his past and why he's there.

Kotaro who is used to getting everything he wants is surprised that inhabitants of the island really don't cater to him but the truth is that they do know of Kotaro and his past and do whatever they can not to make him remember who he is.

Unfortunately, the Ganma army has sent assassins to retrieve Kotaro.

Fortunately, Papuwa's maid Liquid happens to be a former member of an elite division from the Ganma Army and does all he can to protect him.

I have only watched the three preview episodes, so I can't comment too much on the whole episode arc for volume 1. But I can tell you that the series is fun and on the same vane (but not pervertedness) of "Ping Pong Club" or even the bizarre and enjoyable "Cromartie High School", "PAPUWA" is a very crazy anime with wacky characters that will just make you feel that there is a lot of potential with this anime.

Too bad that the first anime series was never released in America but again, fortunately, the first episode keeps you up-to-date on what is happening with the anime.

The DVD features will include 5 complete episodes, translator notes, character art gallery and the clean opening and closing theme.

All in all, from the three episodes that I have seen, I can say that its quite bizarre and wacky and the fact that you get really over-the-top characters makes it even more enjoyable.

- DENNIS A. AMITH