



BOOMERS GONE WILD!

With a fantastic storyline and beautiful animation, "Parasite Dolls" is one of the best anime titles on DVD in 2004! *by Dennis A. Amith*

PARASITE DOLLS

Suggested for 17+, 95 minutes, 2002
(ADV Films)

One of the coolest anime series ever created was "Bubblegum Crisis", which depicted a society that was dependent on androids a.k.a. "boomers".

Created by the Genom Corporation, these boomers look and function like humans with jobs as waitresses, construction workers, policeman and many other type of jobs that also extends to the dark underground of city life such as prostitution.

We know through anime series such as "Bubblegum Crisis" and "AD Police" that more and more boomers have gone out of control

and some have gone on killing rampages. So, a special military-like police division called the AD Police was created to stop these renegade boomers.

We also know that the Genom Corporation, the creator of the boomers, may be responsible for creating these renegade boomers.

"Parasite Dolls" is a fantastic anime series which is a side story that takes place in that "Bubblegum Crisis" universe and focuses on "The Branch", a small (and secretive) division within the AD Police that is more or less an investigative division. which operates with no rules

The anime focuses on Branch member Buzz, the lead detective who worked for the AD Police

but through unfortunate circumstances, lost his wife due to a boomer attack. With his feelings towards boomers, he accidentally killed a young girl who he thought was a boomer and since then, has never used firearms.

Other team members include Reiko Michaelson, the tomboyish/gun crazy member who has an interest in Buzz. Kimball, the partner of Buzz who happens to be a boomer. Myers, the computer hacker and other supporting characters like their mysterious division chief, Takahashi and Eliza "Angel" Lynch who helps the team out with important information.

As for the storyline, originally released in Japan as three OAV's, the series has been spliced together as a feature film and has been entered at several film festivals.

The first storyline arc focuses on "Day One", which is more or less an introductory episode to the characters and showing the beginning of renegade boomers.

The second arc takes place a year later in which the team are trying to go after a renegade boomer that is killing prostitute boomers. This arc introduces the viewer to a notion that perhaps there are boomers out there that have emotions.

The third and final arc takes place five years later and is where "Parasite Dolls" truly shines. With beautiful animation and storyline that sets up an explosive finale. A finale that I best not explain but just recommend for you to see. It's that impressive!

One thing that really stood

what are we watching on dvd

out is how unique and different this anime series was compared to the other BGC/ADP storylines.

Although the previous series had the longevity for character development, "Parasite Dolls" shines on its own because although you learn little of the characters, the storyline shows a side towards the boomers that the other series really hasn't focused on.

How people in society feel towards boomers. From hatred, to understanding and perhaps even love.

It was quite a sight to see how perceptions change with certain characters and how they are all faced wondering if boomers are just androids? Are they just tools for society? Are they more than that?

As for the DVD, I watched it in Japanese dialogue and switched from time-to-time on certain scenes to see how the English dubbed dialogue was. I was definitely please by both dialogue and the voice acting is well done.

As for the audio, there was use with the surround sound and for certain scenes, the sound effects were very good with sound coming from different speaker positions.

As for the video, the all, the video transfer from OAV to feature film looks great! Especially when you get to the third arc of the series.

As for special features, there is a music video for the theme song "Get on the Beat". Also, an exclusive promo shown at anime fair 2002, the original Japanese video

promo and production sketches. Included are the character profiles, previews. Also, a mini poster is included in the DVD case.

All in all, there is not much to dislike about "Parasite Dolls".

Anime purists may be disappointed that the DVD is presented not as three OAV episodes but were spliced (only one opening/ending theme) to create one movie and it is understandable if they are wanting a non-modified version of the series.

Personally, I actually liked it as a film version.

This anime is a definite must watch for fans of the Bubblegum Crisis/AD Police series. With a solid storyline and great animation, "Parasite Dolls" is definitely one of the best anime titles I have seen all year. **A**



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