



WANDABA STYLE: VOLUME 1

4 Episodes, 100 minutes, Rating TV PG L (ADV Films)

What happens when you put together four ladies to form a music idol group? You get "Mix Juice", a new pop idol group managed by Michael Hanagata. A blonde afro-haired manager that will do anything for success.

The four women who are members of "Mix Juice" are Sakura, a fallen child star; Himawari, a construction worker by day and enka singer by night; Ayame, a ditsy folk singer who believes in male fairies and Yuri, a rock singer who has had her share of troubles.

Each women with different music styles and women who seemingly don't get along.

As Manager Hanagata tries to find ways to make these women noticed by the media after several unsuccessful attempts, he decides to collaborate with 13 year-old scientific genius, Tsukumoto Susumu. A genius who doesn't really believe man has landed on the moon and thus wants to be the first.

Also, a scientist who has had unsuccessful attempts in bringing his satellite android, Kiku #8 to the moon, he needs pilots and for Hanagata, he sees this as an op-

portunity for his girls to be the first musical group to perform in space and on the moon.

"Wandaba Style" is a 12-episode anime TV series that features a fun and humorous storyline and with the first DVD volume, features 4 episodes which feature Tsukumoto's attempt to have his creations land on the moon.

Each episode continues after the previous storyline.

Episode 1 is the introductory storyline that introduces our characters.

Episodes 2-4 features different attempts to bring Mix Juice and Kiku #8 to the moon. Examples of the episodes include the group riding in a vehicle that utilizes carbonation and another that utilizes helium.

The series does feature a little fan service but the enjoyment for "Wandaba Style" is the humor and insane ways of Dr. Tsukumoto's ways of getting the women to the moon and also, the characters of Mix Juice are very interesting, especially since they are very different from each other.

As for the animation, the colors of this TV anime series is quite vibrant and colorful. I enjoyed the character

designs at times, especially the art that is shown at the ending theme.

If there is one thing that I didn't enjoy in this anime, compared to many other anime is that for women, I really dislike when women look like young girls with breasts such as the character Sakura Haruno. A child star who behaves and looks like a child and the oldest of Mix Juice. Definitely not very interested in these type of characters.

As for the sound, ADV Films gave the English dub a 5.1 mix and the Japanese is in 2.0.

I watched both language versions and I really enjoyed watching it in Japanese but the English dubbed version is actually pretty good as well.

As for special features, "Wandaba Style" Vol. 1 comes with a clean opening and closing animation, production sketches, Wandaba factoids and a hilarious ADR out-takes.

Episode 1 also comes with audio commentary by AR director John Sweeney and a few of the English voice actors.

I really enjoyed the first volume of "Wandaba Style".

Although there have been several anime about idol singers and groups, I enjoy the zany antics of "Wandaba Style" because it doesn't focus too much on the sci-fi aspect of the anime but the relationship between the Mix Juice members who have a reason and a passion in making it big as music stars but the craziness of trying to get along with each other and to see them try to cope with going up to space.

If you are in a mood for a fun, light-hearted comedy, "Wandaba Style" is one of those cool anime series that you just don't get bored of.

It's not meant to be taken seriously but meant for you to sit back, watch and enjoy. And I feel that "Wandaba Style" is an anime that many of you will definitely enjoy.
— DENNIS A. AMITH

REVIEW GRADE

B+