



FIERCE COMPETITION!

Yucie is a 17-year-old in a 10-year old body. And the only way that she can get the body of a woman is to become the Platinum Princess. *by Dennis A. Amith*

PETITE PRINCESS YUCIE

Suggested for 12+, 5 episodes, 125 minutes, 2002

One of the most popular PC video games in Japan was “The Princess Maker” video game series which featured a knight who discovers a mysterious girl on the battlefield.

In the video game, you play the knight who assumes responsibility as the girl’s father and must raise the girl to become a princess.

GAINAX, the producers of that video game and also of the very popular old school anime “Nadia” is back with the anime TV series, “Magical Princess Yucie” (or Puchi Puri Yuushi).

Inspired from the popular

video game, the first episode, like the video game features a knight, who after battle, heads towards a mysterious light and finds a baby.

The anime then shifts towards the 17th birthday of Yucie and you learn that she dreams of getting married but for some unknown reason, her body stopped growing at the age of 10.

It’s not long until Yucie finds out that Queen Ercell is having a contest for women to be a candidate to become a Platinum Princess and will obtain the Tiara of Eternity. A magical tiara that is handed down every 1,000 years and makes one wish come true for that deserving princess.

Yucie wants nothing more but to have the body of a person her

age and marry the prince, so she is determined to become a Platinum Princess candidate.

This sets up the early part of the anime series as Yucie attends a Princess Academy which features many girls who will compete to become the Platinum Princess.

To Yucie’s surprise, she meets a rival named Glenda, princess of the Demon World, like Yucie, is a 17-year-old girl trapped in the body of a 10-year-old.

Through the course of the first five episodes, through odd jobs and meeting new people, Yucie and Glenda must find a way to work together.

I admit that I was hesitant of watching this anime at first because it looks as if the target demographic would appeal to young female teens. Fortunately, after watching the first volume of this anime series, I can say that people of all ages, boy or girl, can enjoy “Petite Princess Yucie”.

The animation is very colorful and vibrant and the dubbing for the anime (both English and Japanese) is top notch that fans of either language will be pleased.

As for the special features on the DVD, featured are the clean opening and closing theme animations. Production sketches and the DVD insert cover is reversible.

“Pretty Princess Yucie” is an anime that fans of “cute girl” anime (like “Akazukin Cha Cha”, “Magical Princess Sammi”, etc.) will enjoy. It’s fun, it’s cute and I recommend the series for those who need a break from action or adventure based anime. **B**