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Videogame Theater (Power League Productions/Uproar/MVD DVD)

Picture: C- Sound: C+
Extras: C- Episodes: C

The premise of **Video Game Theater** is not hard to grasp. The creators took some classic video game characters, turned them into puppets and placed them in odd roles; as if to create an atmosphere of spoof, irony, or satire. The series, however, is problematic off the bat as it sacrifices quality and originality for quick potty humor and sexual innuendos. Each episode casts the classic game characters into odd roles like Pac-Man as a pretentious drug addict or Q-Bert as a mentally handicap James Bond; leaving the reviewer confused and dissatisfied. This reviewer can take a joke as well as the next video game junky, but this show is just a waste of good characters.

The series is one big toilet joke that deserves to be flushed. It overflows with nostalgia with its numerous appearances from the likes of Pac-Man, Mario, Donkey Kong, Joust, Space Invaders, Frogger, Q-Bert, Laura Croft, and more; but besides the fact that the creators used the likeness and perhaps a general connection to the aforementioned character, the skits had little to do with the beloved, classic game series and certainly were not funny. I honestly sat there and starred, waiting for each sketch to get funny; but nothing ever came. It was more exciting to see the likeness of the character than anything; making me realize, why watch this junk when I can just play the game? **Video Game Theater** has used and abused classic game heroes; with the series shooting for humorous satire, but instead delivering stupidity of epic proportions.

The picture and sound on **Video Game Theater** are all over the place and the extras are barley worth watching. The picture is presented in a lackluster 1.33 X 1 full screen that ranges from passable to horrid as the quality comes and goes. The video overall is inconsistent with bland



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colors, weak blacks, and a continuous haze about the image making it seem soft and the strong edge enhancement stand out even more. The sound is only slightly better than the picture as the Dolby 2.0 Stereo does project crisply, but other than that has little to offer and at times even sounds distant.

The extras feature a useless and frustrating German Interview (made for German TV) with the creators of the show that might be a joke, but is certainly not funny and a waste of time. There is also a Photo Slide Show and a brief Behind-the-Scenes look that offer little as far as content and even less as far as holding a viewers’ attention.

In the end, this reviewer thought **Video Game Theater** had great potential, but in the end fell flat. There are a ton of nostalgic moments that may suck fans in, but truly the whole series is a waste of time that is barely humorous and mostly appears to be a BAD **Crank Yankers** knockoff. What is even sadder is that **Crank Yankers** itself is a horrible series! If you need a dose of nostalgia, load up your Nintendo, Sega or Atari; but don’t waste your valuable time on this series. GAME OVER.

- Michael P. Dougherty II



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