

COYOTE RAGTIME SHOW VOL 3

FILM★★★★ EXTRAS★★

2006 • 100 mins • 12 • £19.99 • Out now

Director: Takuya Nonaka Writer: Yazuyuki Muto Starring: Akio Ohtsuka, Ryou Hirohashi, Atsuko Yuya

The adventures of the ragtag Coyotes is coming to an end; Graceland is about to explode along with King Bruce's fabled treasure. Will the gang snaffle the goods in time?

AS FAST-PACED and enjoyable as *Coyote Ragtime Show* has been, it's hard not to have even higher hopes for this final volume. Happily, these hopes do not go unfulfilled.

Yes, the end is nigh and that's a shame, but it's a rollercoaster ride all the way to the explosive finale. The tension mounts as the Coyote Space Pirates, pursued by 12 robot assassins and the food-addicted detective Angelica Burns, race against time to pull off a big heist on Graceland and steal King Bruce's hoard before the entire planet is blown to smithereens.

Plenty of the questions posed in the series are answered as it comes to its explosive conclusion, though the episodes go so fast it's easy to lose track. Angelica gets more screen time and finally recounts her first meeting with Mister just before he breaks into the universe's biggest bank vault. There's plenty of character development as each of the main players' journeys comes to a close, though that does not take the edge off their characteristic feuding. There's also the chance to see Angelica chatting to a head in a cage. There are no big surprises, but although you just know Mister is



DID YOU KNOW?

Director Takuya Nonaka originally wanted the Coyotes to be a gang of Elvis impersonators, even going so far as to try and get some of the King's songs licensed for the series. Ultimately all that remains of this discarded idea is the name of the planet, Graceland.

going to save the day in the end, the fun is working out how it'll happen.

Let's be honest, *Coyote Ragtime Show* doesn't take itself too seriously. But that's all just part of its charm. Even if you prefer your anime slightly less frothy, *Coyote Ragtime Show* is redeemed

by lots of explosions and, of course, a dozen sexy android sisters with high calibre weaponry. Really, what more could you want from a space opera?

This is a compelling ending to a fun, exciting and beautifully animated series. Anime gold isn't struck too often, but *Coyote Ragtime Show* is certainly a contender for best space show of the year.

Extras: One again, the extras are a little shallow; clean opening and ending themes, next episode previews (which are normally tacked onto the end of the episode anyway), a gallery of production art and the ubiquitous previews for upcoming titles.

Lesley Smith