

The first kiss is the deepest and, by the look on Shuichi's face, a surprise.



Gravitation Volume One

GUITAR-CROSSED LOVERS Rock 'n' roll dreams and a dose of shonen ai are all you need to succeed...

Distributor MVM **Certificate** 12 **Price** £6 **Release Date** Out now

Unashamedly shonen ai and packed to the gills with gorgeous guys and snappy music, Gravitation sits somewhere between Beck and any one of a number of romantic anime series. Except Gravitation has a twist; yes, it's all about boys. Shonen ai is incredibly popular with teenage girls in Japan and can be characterised by beautiful boys and unlikely romances, but it's still quite tame.

Shuichi Shindo is a likeable kid, albeit with the strangest shade of pink hair, who wants nothing more than to be a successful pop idol. Wishing to emulate his idol, pop sensation Ryuichi Sakum, Shuichi forms a band, Bad Luck, with his friend Hiro. Mulling over the latest lyrics one night, Shuichi drops them while walking in a park and they're picked up by an elder man -



later revealed to be novelist Eiri Yuki - who pronounces them worthless and that Shuichi has no talent whatsoever. Crushed, all Shuichi can do is watch the man walk away, but fate has other things in mind. Incensed, Shuichi finishes his song and runs into Eiri again and again, nearly killing himself in the process. These two are destined to be together but that doesn't mean it's going to be easy. Gravitation isn't new; the anime (created by Studio Deen) aired on Japanese TV in 2000 and the age is a little obvious. While the transfer is good, it's clear this isn't a recent show but that's not the point. It's different to other series we've been exposed to but won't be to all tastes (especially if you don't like anime centred on rock bands) but is still worth watching.

RATING

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Ah! My Goddess: Flights of Fancy Vol 2

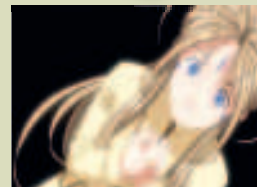
Distributor ADV

Certificate PG

Price £15

Release Date Out now

RATING



Belldandy's adventures living with Keiichi continue. Dialling Heaven yet again (how's that for luck?) Keiichi accidentally summons Peorth, Bell's rival at the Earth Support Office. Peorth immediately starts

causing chaos in the Temple, determined to grant Keiichi's wish by any means - and she really means it.

The series continues to mix beautiful animation with a touching love story. It can feel slow at times, which makes the standalone episodes a welcome diversion. Peorth's introduction also increases the comic relief as well as pushing Belldandy and Keiichi closer together. If you've never seen Ah! My Goddess before, this volume is a perfect introduction and if you've followed the series since day one then it's a much-awaited continuation.



Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicle Vol 5

Distributor Revelation Films

Certificate PG

Price £16

Release Date Out now

RATING



As the series nears its epic conclusion, Syaoran and co are exploring the land of Outo, where demons walk at night. But someone is spying on the group; a mysterious man who knows Syaoran from long ago

who holds something very precious to Sakura.

This beautiful arc exemplifies both the musical and animated masterpiece that is Tsubasa. The sight of a red moon and falling cherry blossoms accentuated by Yuki Kajiura's ethereal score makes this volume one of the best as the plot continues to advance to an inevitable end. The series has had its up and downs but seldom has it had so much packed into four episodes from cameos to incredible revelations: all fans should watch this!