



AVAILABLE: 26 May

LABEL: Manga
Entertainment

CERTIFICATE: 12

NO. OF DISCS: 3 Discs

RETAIL PRICE: £24.99

RUNNING TIME: 300 mins



Series 3, Part 2

Naruto Unleashed

The latest instalment in the on-going journey of Naruto Uzumaki continues to get even darker as Sasuke find himself in a fight to the death against the creepy ninja Gaara. Like in the previous instalments, *Naruto* excels simply because it takes its time. There are certainly enough episodes for it to do this, as the series long ago exceeded the accepted 24 episode per series format due to its success.

Focusing on one event over of a period of several episodes gives the series a sense of seriousness, and also gives Gaara, who, like Naruto, was also used to seal a demon, plenty of screen time. This young ninja has the power to manipulate sand and is very much Naruto's dark reflection, demonstrating what could have happened to him had his good heart not won out.

This volume shifts away from Naruto though, focusing more on Sasuke and

Sakura as well as Gaara, making a nice change. The animation continues to look gorgeous (although does suffer during the fast-action fight scenes) and the voice acting in Japanese is superb. Unfortunately, the English language dub remains annoying, but the storyline is such that you won't notice it too much.

This is a fantastic conclusion to the third series, but it might be hard for newcomers to get into the series this late on. That said, this shouldn't deter folks too much, and *Naruto* remains a stellar anime – the perfect mix of action and adventure, with a fantastic cast of likeable characters to boot.

LESLEY SMITH

Darker and dangerous, *Naruto* is the perfect mix of action and adventure – but at its own pace.

FILM ★★★★★ EXTRAS ★★★★★

DVD EXTRAS

Aside from the usual dubs, there are no extras, just trailers for other Manga Entertainment releases.