

PHOENIX DRIVE

Developer: (fill this in later)

Year of Release: (fill this in later)

Premise: Phoenix “Penix” Wright fucks most of the main cast of the Ace Attorney series while speaking in the most hilariously mangled English imaginable

Now if there's one visual novel series that people reading this blog might've actually heard about, it's the Ace Attorney series. In the US at least, a group of cult hit Nintendo DS games in which defense attorneys attempt to defend their clients within the most muddled, fucked up, and just plain weird legal system known to humankind(1). A definite hit among certain audiences, but not exactly mainstream fare.

Thus, it's kind of hard to wrap one's mind around the fact that the Phoenix Wright games are so absolutely huge in Japan that they've practically become a cultural institution at this point. When you even have stage plays based on a video game series popping up(2), that's generally a good sign that it's pretty fucking popular. So I suppose, just as the American porn industry feels the need to pump out parodies of whatever happens to be popular at the time, whatever shadowy cabal is in charge of releasing visual novels in Japan decided it'd be a fun idea to release a version of the Ace Attorney games in which, instead of being a lovable loser, Phoenix is instead an impossibly-fertile sex machine who fucks anything that moves.

Somehow, despite the market for games in which a video game character fucks another video game character via static looping animations and terrible sound effects being essentially non-existent in any country that's not Japan, the brainchild of this premise, Phoenix Drive, managed to make its way over to America somehow bearing a translation so laughably terrible that I have to assume the guy in charge of the translation and localization department over at (company name) was a lone guy with a Japanese to English dictionary and absolutely no prior experience speaking English otherwise.

Just like American porn parodies, the game really makes no attempt to put together a plot beyond simply providing justification for the game's sex scenes, of which there are three. Of course, said plot in and of itself is quite frankly insane. Try to wrap your head around this one: titular character Phoenix Wright, famed defense attorney, starts out telling his female sidekick Maya Fey (who suddenly is wearing a Japanese schoolgirl outfit and has breasts larger than most melons) about a case he recently took in which, while going up against female adversary, prosecutor Franziska von Karma, he seemed poised to lose a case he took at the behest of his best friend, Larry Butz, who was accused of killing his girlfriend or something like that(3). After mostly blowing the trial, Phoenix's mentor, Mia Fey (who has breasts larger than most toddlers and has the ability to jiggle her breasts while sitting perfectly still behind a desk), teaches Phoenix how to stand up against Franziska and her legal prowess via channeling Franziska's spirit so that he can have sex with her, since obviously the key to winning any legal battle is by literally drenching your opponent in about 5 gallons of semen. Thus, Phoenix is able to stand up to Franziska during the last part of the trial and win the case by way of... admitting that he was actually the one who committed the crime while slamming his head against his own desk. Now maybe it's just a byproduct of a terrible translation, but I don't really think that counts as a proper legal defense, or even something a sane, functional member of society would do under any circumstances whatsoever.

Cut back to the present where Phoenix, who despite admitting to murder is not rotting in a jail cell somewhere, where we find out that the reason that Maya is wearing such a slutty outfit all of a sudden is because she's been running a brothel out of Phoenix's law offices for some indeterminate period of

time. Now if committing murder is illegal, I'm sure running a brothel out of a lawyer's office is doubly or possibly triply illegal, not to mention the fact that I would have to think that Phoenix would've noticed random Johns entering his law offices at odd hours asking to be serviced. Regardless, this is all a setup so that Phoenix can suddenly have sex with Maya, via one of the most terrifying-sounding come-ons known to mankind. I know some women like it rough, but *damn*.

After another poorly-animated sex sequence in which Phoenix fires off more jizz than a sperm whale(4), we then cut to the b-“plot” of the “game,” in which things simultaneously become even less comprehensible and more creepy. Here, Wendy Oldbag (an annoying old crone who's a series recurring character), convinces Phoenix to come to the TV studio that she works as a security guard at, along with Pearl Fey, Maya's young cousin who, rather coincidentally, happens to be *eight*. Once they show up, it turns out that it's all a trap and that, in order to get out of the scenario, Phoenix literally has to *fuck an eight year old girl* while Oldbag watches and videotapes while wearing the costume of the Steel Samurai for whatever reason. The game attempts to handwave the more disturbing aspects of this scene away by having Pearl unconsciously channel the body of an older girl so that she merely looks like she's fourteen as opposed to eight, but there's still the fact that what the scene amounts to is raping an underage girl. It's also, rather coincidentally, the point at which the game goes from being “so bad it's utterly hilarious” to “so bad that I feel like an awful human being for thinking that installing this game was ever a good idea.” But, of course, as with all Japanese pornography, Pearl grows to like being raped, and we thus speed off to a Happy Ending in which it's heavily implied that Phoenix's old legal rival Miles Edgeworth gets cornholed by Oldbag while she's wearing a strap-on. Fun for the whole family!

Granted this plot would be completely goddamned nuts (not to mention creepy and guilt-trip inducing, given the third bit with Pearl) even if the game's dialogue were professionally translated. However, as alluded to several times already, it's really anything but, with lines ranging from the merely awkward (“May I perform onanism, chief?”), to the slightly muddled (“His alibi collapses with this evidence product!”), to the frankly bizarre (“I will beat a rod till a tank empties”), to the completely incomprehensible (“My cunt... bubble... bubble...”). The only real fun from this game comes in laughing at just how goddamned ridiculous the various turns of phrase are that the translator came up with, since there's really not anything else that this game has going for it.

For example, the fact that it even qualifies as a “game” is a pretty dubious distinction. I mean, most visual novels, at the very least, have *something* resembling interactivity. The only interactivity that this game has involves hitting the next button over and over again to keep things moving along. You get the distinct impression that the only reason this was even made in the visual novel format in the first place is because it was a lot cheaper than turning it into a straight-up hentai anime or something. Oddly, despite the fact that there are no branching paths, and thus no way to screw up in this game and pick a path you don't want, the game has a save function *anyway*. Perhaps the designers put that in in case you blow your load too early and have to come back later(5).

Which really gets us to the next thing about this game; it's really not all that sexy. Granted, it's kind of hard to find a game sexy when it's spouting insane gibberish like “IMPREGNATE ME~~~!”, but it's not like much else about the game is all that sexy either. The character design is kind of off-putting in a way that I find difficult to explain, exactly, though it's at least in some small part due to the fact that all the characters' nipples look like mutant pepperoni. More problematic is the fact that everything is done via looping animations that are little more than over-glorified animated GIFs. Aside from resulting in real peculiarities such as Maya being extremely jiggly even when mostly standing still, it makes each and every sex scene seem really stiff and awkward, almost as if the game designers learned everything

they know about sex from textbooks.

A hilariously disturbing unintended consequence of these looping animations is that, since everything in this game is looped to hell and back, this means that Phoenix's money shot animations are looped too, meaning that if you don't hit the next button to advance the game over to the next animation in the queue, Phoenix will just keep cumming and cumming until you start to worry that he's going to turn into a shriveled husk. Of course, just letting the animations loop infinitely would be a bit preferable to the aftermath shots; if the awkward, mechanical fucking wasn't enough of a boner kill, the images in which the female characters look like they're coated in a thick layer of Spiderman's web shot should do the trick. This isn't even bringing up the horrible, wet, slapping sound effects that seem to play during each and every sex scene that sound less like two people having sex and more like (come up with appropriate analogy once I get my memory refreshed on what the sound specifically sounds like again).

Everything else about the game is fairly nondescript. The music is a passably lousy imitation of the sort of music found in the Ace Attorney games and is quite frankly the least offensive thing this game has going for it. There's also voice acting for each of the three characters that Phoenix happens to fuck. Sadly, they didn't try to rope some actresses into actually reading the mangled dialogue that resulted from the translation, so it's all in plain old Japanese. And, well, it's Japanese voice acting, it's about what you'd expect. For the most part, it doesn't really get in the way or anything, but hearing the voice actress for the Pearl yell and scream in pain and terror just makes a terrible sequence even worse.

Really, it's almost worth playing this game merely to laugh at horribly slapped together the whole affair is, especially the translation, just as long as you quit playing after the Maya sex scene and pretend that the last part of the game never happens at all, ever. Of course, if you actually get off to roughly fucking eight year olds that are screaming at you to stop before you coat them in a thick layer of ropy white goop, then fuck you for even existing.

What do actual otaku think of this game?

Oddly, this seems to be one of the few visual novels I've come across where even most otaku seem to be in agreement that it's a hilarious pile of garbage. Still, even the most terrible things in life have their defenders (find quotes praising the game later)

- (1) Note that while I'll be reviewing a bunch of visual novels for this blog, I won't ever review the Ace Attorney games on account that they're actually good and have gameplay beyond Choose-Your-Own-Adventure bullshit.
- (2) And not embarrassing shit like the infamous "Super Mario Bros. on Ice" thing, I mean actual, professionally done stage work
- (3) The details are never really made clear, and it's honestly really hard to not just go into a catatonic state during the seizure-inducing courtroom sequences.
- (4) Not to mention an incomprehensible explanation for why Maya's boobs seem to be so huge all of a sudden. It's simply because she's channeling the spirit of somebody with bigger tits. Uh-huh.
- (5) Yes, I am making the perhaps somewhat-sexist assumption that only men would likely want to play this game. Well of course no women would want to play this game; it doesn't have nearly enough scenes where Phoenix and Edgeworth fuck.