

PHOENIX DRIVE

Developer: Trinitron CG

Year of Release: 2006

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 have actually heard about, it's the Ace Attorney series. In the US at least, it's 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 still not exactly mainstream.

Thus, it's kind of hard to wrap one's mind around the fact that the Phoenix Wright games are so huge in Japan that they've practically become a cultural institution. 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 hot in American pop culture 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 with a gigantic dong 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, somehow managed to make its way over to America bearing a translation so laughably terrible that I have to assume that “Mister KAIBARA,” Trinitron CG's apparent lead programmer, translator, artist, designer, producer, CEO, janitor, and pool boy, tackled the translation using a Japanese-to-English dictionary, a blindfold, and a case of cheap beer. Even then, even *he* seems to realize that the game's translation is horrible.

I'll get into more detail about the translation later, but for now let's get into the, uh, “plot.” 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, to the point where even the game's manual isn't really sure how to explain it. In the words of the game's manual;

“My name is **Phoenix Wright**. Maybe Expert **Lawyer**....

Words of '**false accusation**'. A false accusation is the damage that an **innocent** person takes.

....Meaning to explain ? I thought that there were no such words.

The lawyer life is eventful.

Here we go!!”

Did you understand any of that? If you didn't, that's fine since that blurb has *absolutely nothing* to do with the actual plot of the game anyhow.

Try to wrap your head around this one: titular character Phoenix Wright, famed defense attorney, starts out by 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 his 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 trippy, drugged-out trial sequence, Phoenix's mentor, Mia Fey (who has breasts larger than most toddlers and has been granted with 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. 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, and the legal system of the *actual* Ace Attorney games is fairly nonsensical, but I don't really think this counts as a proper legal defense, or even something that 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, since apparently the aforementioned Larry Butz phoned in for a call girl under Phoenix's name(4) and Maya was too stupid to not recognize that the voice on the phone wasn't actually Phoenix's. Whatever the case, she propositions Phoenix for sex 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 Maya's tits get even *larger*(5) and Phoenix fires off more jizz than a sperm whale, we then cut to the b-“plot” of the “game,” in which things simultaneously become even less comprehensible and more creepy. Here, Miles Edgeworth, Phoenix's childhood chum and legal rival, convinces Phoenix to go to the local TV studio for unexplained reasons. Phoenix brings along Pearl Fey(6), Maya's young cousin who, rather coincidentally, happens to be *eight*, and discovers that Wendy Oldbag, an annoying old crone who's a series recurring character, has decided to retool the Pink Princess TV show as hardcore pornography. Also, the only way that Phoenix will be allowed to leave the studio with this information is if he literally *fucks an eight year old girl* while Oldbag watches and videotapes while wearing the costume of the Pink Princess for whatever reason. Now the game attempts to handwave the more disturbing aspects of this scene away by giving Pearl a costume which magically grants her 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 this whole scene amounts to 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 enjoys being raped, and we thus speed off to a Happy Ending in which Maya blabs incoherently about food and it's heavily implied that Miles 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 inducing, given the third bit with Pearl) even if the game's dialogue were professionally translated. However, as I've mentioned several times already, it's really anything but, with lines ranging from the merely awkward (“Chief...May I do onanism...?”), 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(7).

It's a good thing that the game is pretty straightforward in its interface, since the game's manual isn't exactly helpful when it comes to explaining some of the game's intricacies. For example, regarding the game's fairly-obvious “Repeat dialogue” function (in case you couldn't get quite enough of the hilarious Engrish the first time), the manual has this to say:

“**VOICE PEREAT**' and **SCENE PEREAT**' is displayed in the upper part of a message window and sound and Sheen can enjoy it repeatedly when you click an icon.”

Yes, by the way the manual explains things, making the game repeat what it already said involves eating and a particularly perverted Charlie Sheen. The mind just boggles.

Even if the game is easy to play despite the confusing instructions, it's not like the game is sexy in any way (which is *kind* of a big problem for a porn game). First off, the translation destroys what little chance the game had for sexiness right out the gate. When the game's idea of a terrific come-on is “Did Nick cover a very big pecker under clothes every day ?” and the characters constantly make reference to how horrible semen smells and feels(8), you're going to be left wanting for anything even remotely resembling erotic dialogue. That's not even getting into the weird-ass nicknames for semen that repeatedly pop up, with the most weirdly memorable being “Meat milk is energetic... !!” Aside from the constant references to semen as milk and its terrible stench, there's also the fact that the characters seem to have a weird fixation on the main function of sex; reproduction. It's *really* hard to find a game sexy when it's spouting gibberish like “Please Impregnate Me~~~~ !!!” at you constantly.

Of course, it's not like much else about the game is all that sexy either. The character design is off-putting, with everyone having huge, dead eyes and seem to be constructed in a very uncomfortable, haphazard way, and that's with their clothes *on*. Once the clothes are off, you have to deal with nipples that look like mutant pepperoni and mosaiced-out vaginas that look more like the gaping maws of hell. 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 “Mister KAIBARA” learned everything he knows 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 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, squishing sound effects that seem to play during each and every sex scene that sound less like two people having sex and more like somebody playing with a container full of Gak.

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 having the voice actresses actually make gulping and slurping sound effects during some scenes is just distracting and fucking goofy. On the other hand, 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 how 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. I've yet to find anyone who's actually defended this game on any level, which is weird since *everything* has its defenders, no matter how awful. I'll just pretend that this is one of the few things that humanity as a whole can agree upon and just leave my search at that before I find somebody praising how awesome it is to be able to fuck an eight-year-old.

The game also doesn't have a Wikipedia article, which given the sort of shit that apparently *does* merit a Wikipedia article, surprises the hell out of me.

- (1) Note that I won't review the Ace Attorney games for this blog 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) Honestly, if you've actually played the Ace Attorney games, that sounds perfectly, and hilariously, in character for Larry, making it one of the few bright spots in this miserable black hole of a game.
- (5) The explanation behind this one? Maya has the ability to channel the spirits of sleeping girls now, so she just channels the spirit of somebody with bigger tits. Uh-huh.
- (6) Well, technically she's rendered here as "Hami" given that this "game" came out before the second Ace Attorney game was translated/localized into English
- (7) 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.
- (8) Which, granted, while true, just isn't something that's supposed to actually get *acknowledged* in pornography.