



WHO KILLED LIA DE BEAUMONT?

LE CHEVALIER D'EON

4 episodes, 100 minutes, Rated TV 14V Films,
Release Date: February 20, 2007

A man obsessed with his sister's murder. A man possessed by his murdered sister.

Perhaps one of the most ambitious anime series yet, welcome to the anime *Le Chevalier D'Eon*. An anime combining individuals from French history, religion, horror and mystery.

Paris, 1742 and a coffin floats in the

shimmering Seine. Written on the coffin are the words "Psalms" and inside the coffin is Lia de Beaumont.

The story focuses on her brother D'Eon as he tries to find the reason for her mysterious murderer while the shadow of evil rests on the palace of Kings and the dark alleys of Europe.

I have no doubt how difficult this anime may have been to translate and to plan out.

Having the story set in France during the 1700's and to combine real characters during that era, mixing in religion, pos-

sessed zombies, mysticism and horror makes one hell of an anime!

With six volumes planned, the first volume focuses on the first four episodes as D'Eon tries to find out why his sister was murdered but the more he looks into it, he learns about the evil that lurks around him.

To make things even more confusing to the main character, somehow D'Eon when in battle against the evil forces, gets possessed by his murdered sister.

Why this is happening and the secret life that Lia De Beaumont lived is what the first volume focuses on.

Obviously "*Le Chevalier D'Eon*" is an anime that is too difficult for me to even describe.

All I can say is because the anime focuses on the Rococo era, the costumes, the characters, the secret societies, the use of religion, the mysticism and the horror definitely makes this anime stand out.

It's definitely unique.

The character designs for the anime is something that is fresh.

The voice acting for both Japanese and English dubs are done very well.

Special features include commentaries with the ADR Director and one of the voice actors (a commentary that has a lot of profanity), an informative commentary by the translators which really go into detail of the challenges they faced, putting together the 20-page booklet with character info & relationships. Also, including a storyboard analysis, script and creator interview.

I found it very interesting when they talked about the real D'Eon de Beaumont, although not having a sister in real life, nor possessed but in real life believed he was a woman and lived his life as one in his later life.

Special features include historical notes, Japanese promotional video and trailer, clean opening and closing animation and more.

All in all, I feel there is a lot of potential with this anime series.

Obviously, the first volume is more of a set up for more important things to come in the next volume. So, look at the first volume more as introduction to the characters and situations of the series.

I definitely look forward in seeing how this anime progresses.

If you are into dark, horror anime or the Rococo era, definitely check this anime out!

B+ — DENNIS A. AMITH