

## DVD REVIEW

### THE CULT OF CARTMAN – REVELATIONS

By Reuben Sturman

#### **Specs:**

Discs: Two, in 14mm novelty package, Region 1

Audio: Dolby Digital Stereo

Aspect: Full frame

Running Time: 264min, plus bonus features.

Bonus Features: “Original life lesson introductions by Eric Cartman” (ie. animated menus), Cult of Cartman membership card and sticker.

In the beginning Trey Parker and Matt Stone created South Park.

And Comedy Central was a rough, unshaped cable channel that agreed to broadcast South Park, no matter how rudely scatological, satirical or irreverent it was; and it was.

And Comedy Central wanted money; and there was money.

And there were more episodes and more eyeballs and more money; and it was good.

And much like the Bible, things have worked out pretty well since.

After over 170 episodes, multiple awards, a feature film, and an enormous amount of merchandising, Comedy Central has chronicled 12 Eric Cartman-centered episodes, mostly from the last few seasons, into The Cult of Cartman, a two-disc collection specifically packaged for the surprisingly large and vocal fanbase of a greedy, racist, obscene 4<sup>th</sup> grader. And it's about time.

Packaged like a high-end hotel bible, and containing what every bible should include (a free sticker and membership card), *The Cult of Cartman* is an amusing volume that will look good in both your DVD collection and player. It's transferred with crisp clarity and strong audio, beautifully capturing the show's fake cardboard aesthetic, amusing vocal performances, and hilarious songs. Sweet.

The collection includes unforgettably funny and satirical episodes like "Awesome-O," where Cartman is trapped pretending to be the robot slave of a classmate he hates, "Cartoon Wars Part 1 & 2," Eric's quest to have rival animated sitcom *Family Guy* canceled, and "Up the Down Steroid," that has Cartman pretending to be handicapped in order to win the Special Olympics. Given the religious motif, it's surprising that "Christian Rock Hard," the episode about Cartman's Christian rock group, Faith + 1, was passed over. However it's safe to assume future collections of the same theme will include it. *The Cult of Cartman* is a great set of episodes anyone with a mature sense of humor will enjoy, and a testament to Parker and Stone's abilities.

But that's all.

Other than novelty packaging and a brief animated introduction to each episode by Eric, *The Cult of Cartman* doesn't include a single bonus feature. No commentary. No deleted scenes. No vocal sessions. No trailers. Nothing. Considering the network has gone to the lengths of selling \$24 towels printed with the bloodshot eyes of *South Park*'s crack addicted novelist bath-accessory Towelie, it's amazing that not even an ad for *South Park* merchandise was included. *Lame*.

If you're a fan of *South Park*, but don't already own any full seasons on DVD, or a loyal Cartman cultist who needs to expand their collection, *The Cult of Cartman* is for you. Otherwise you'd best treat this holy tomb like any other piece of religious material offered to you in a shopping mall, ignore it and keep walking.