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• WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH •

PIANO BAR WITH STEVE GREEN

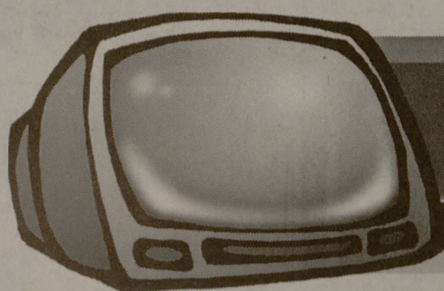
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AGGIELIFE



Batt Bytes

A = instant classic
D = don't buy it

B = a cut above
F = burn in effigy

C = average

Final Fantasy VIII
System: Playstation
Genre: Role-Playing
Developer: Squaresoft

Squaresoft is known for creating the most epic and cutting-edge video games available on the market. Not only are their games a leap ahead technology-wise, but the stories and adventures in Squaresoft games such as *Final Fantasy III*, *Final Fantasy VII* and *Xenogears* have been revolutionary in the genres of science fiction and fantasy.

Squaresoft's games have always been a unique stock. The plots and characters of these games surpass those of many popular fiction novels and feature films and non-stop plot twists and character development can keep a player glued to the video games for hours on end.

The legacy of Squaresoft's incredible and revolutionary games is the downfall of *Final*

Fantasy VIII. The game does not live up to Squaresoft producing years of hit after hit.

The graphics for *Final Fantasy VIII* are mindblowing, the sound and game play top-notch, but the story and characters are flat, unoriginal and uninteresting. The game also drags, with little of the intensity found in previous Squaresoft titles except for a few intense and very well-done action sequences.

Another downfall is the "Junction" system, which replaces past magic and armor systems is a pain to learn. There are no magic points or armor. Spells are simply stolen from enemies and stored. Summon spells can be used many times each fight and are replenished after every fight, taking all strategy out of fighting and making battles nothing but long draw-out animation sequence — some summon-spell animations last up to five minutes.

The largest mistake by Squaresoft was making *Final Fantasy VIII* a love story. Who in their right mind wants to play a 50-hour love story? *Final Fantasy VIII* is a fun game to play



but falls flat in many areas that make a game great. Fans of the series will still play it but they will have to wait for *Final Fantasy* for anything near the quality and the time of *Final Fantasy VII*. (Grade: B+)

— Kyle



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Dawn Nichols 268-3056 (anytime)

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