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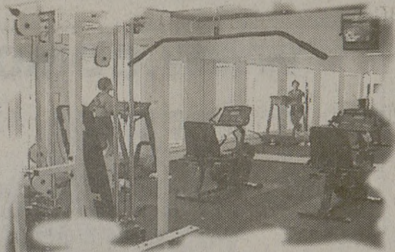
2, 3 or 4  
bedroom  
apartment  
homes

### Play



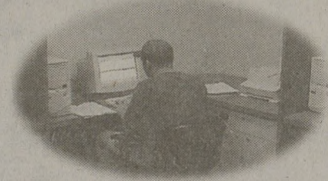
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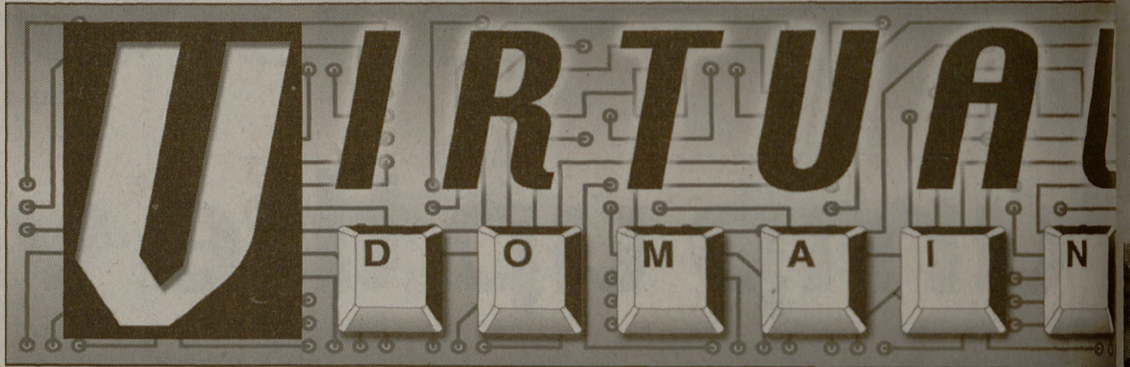
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**Final Fantasy IX**  
System: Playstation  
Genre: RPG  
Developer: Squaresoft

After the disappointing *Final Fantasy VIII*, Squaresoft is back on top with the next installment of the *Final Fantasy* series and the last one to be released for Playstation.

Excellent plot, characters and graphics make up for the boring previous installment that tarnished *Final Fantasy's* name.

*Final Fantasy IX* goes back to traditional fantasy roots, with job classes of characters, a great adventure plot and fun characters. This is an exciting adventure game that never fails to be anything but fun.

The hero is Zidane, a vagabond thief who is involved in a plan to kidnap Princess Garnet. When he finds Garnet, she asks him to kidnap her. During their escape by airship, they are aided by the black mage Vivi, part of an artificial race of mage warriors who are manufactured from Mist.

Along with the princess's bodyguard Steiner, the crew starts an adventure to find the secret of

Mist, the source of the Black Mage Army and the person using the army to destroy the world.

There is no involved love story or cinematic statement, just good old-fashioned adventure and excitement that keeps players wanting more. Almost every aspect of the game is perfect, with the exceptions of sound and battle systems.

The soundtrack is retro, with themes trying to imitate old-school Nintendo and Super Nintendo midi sounds with pseudo-orchestral arrangements. While several themes are good, most fall flat.

The battle system is another problem. Squaresoft sticks to the random battle system, which is as annoying as ever. Even though most of the gaming community criticizes this, Squaresoft will probably never change this style.

The rest of the game, however, is stunning. Cut scenes rival live-action feature films in terms of special-effects quality. The action is fast-paced. Characters are unique, interesting and magical.

The design is probably the most fantastic of all these elements, though. Each nation and village

has a unique style of architecture and culture. From a vertically stacked, industrial city, to the alleys of Trent, to the spooky cheeriness of the Black Mage est, the design is a feat unparalleled on Playstation. Each nation has its own fashion in decoration, design of interior exteriors of neighborhoods, foods, accents, cultural events system of government.

*Final Fantasy IX* combines best elements of the series and is a fitting end to a legacy helped put Playstation on top. *Final Fantasy X* debuts on Playstation 2 later this year, but early signs and plot summary show to be similar to the lame *Final Fantasy VIII*. Considering they share the same design team, this doesn't come as a surprise.

With this poor team helping project and the uninspiring released so far, maybe the *Final Fantasy* film set to come out summer with help fans cope. *Final Fantasy XI* is released.

—Kyle

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Chem 102	Phys 201	Phys 218	Biol 113
Chem 107	Phys 202	Math 151	Bich 410
Chem 227			

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