

GAME REVIEW

by Costantino Oliva

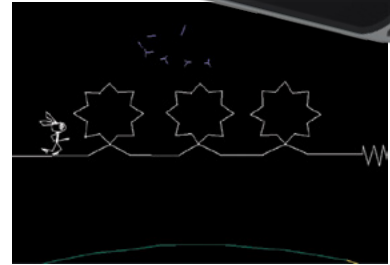
Vib Ribbon

If you're into music-centric games, you're in for a treat. *Vib-Ribbon*, the seminal rhythm game released in 1999 for the original Playstation, is back on contemporary consoles. It's not a new version, but rather a faithful emulation: an important recognition for a title that was never commercially released in North America, but still made its way into the MoMA (Museum of Modern Art, New York) collection.

The gameplay has remained crucially simple and appealing: push the console buttons on time, and the rabbit heroine will jump, spin, and rotate, all to the rhythm of the incredibly well-fitting ultra-pop songs composed by the Japanese

band *Laugh and Peace*. The soundtrack is heavily manipulated with morphing tempos and bass counterpoints in reaction to the player's input: the result is exhilarating. The visual style, somewhat reminiscent of the famous animation *La Linea*, is extremely minimalistic, contributing to the remarkable originality of the game.

It's a shame that the PS Vita version lacks one of the main features: using any kind of music CD to generate potentially infinite levels. Even so, one of the most creative titles to ever appear on the Sony console is back, ready to surprise a new generation of players. ●



Developer:

NanaOn-Sha/Sony Computer Entertainment

Platform:

PS Vita (version tested)/PS3

Game Rating: ★★★★★

FACT or FICTION?

Can humans live on other planets?

by Alexander Hill

Well this is a vast question, yes they can. However, it is not all that simple. Start off with the fact that we don't have the technology to access Earth-like planets we could live on. Over forty planets that could be habitable have already been found.

Reaching the exoplanet might only be half the problem. Will the planet already be suitable for life? Or, will we need to terraform it, manipulate its

environment, so we can mould it into our Mother Earth? Will we be wiped out by some unknown disease we have no resistance to—as happened to the aliens in *War of the Worlds*. Will we be able to adapt to the environment? What about building a colony outside our planet which will be completely independent of Earth? Eventually yes, on a planet with the right conditions, but let's get there first.

Send your questions to think@um.edu.mt and we'll find out if it's the truth or just a fib!