

Ahh, the joys of **Bee Train** shows - masters of style over substance and Grade A soundtracks.

Avenger

is their latest show, following on from

Noir

and

.hack

- both of which I loved. So let's see how

Avenger

turns out...

After the first episode, it wasn't fairing too well - there was very little explanation of what was going on & it very much had the feel of those rather dull fight-of-the-week shows. Couldn't fault the soundtrack, though, so at least **Bee Train** were fulfilling *one* of my expectations. I'm nothing if not patient, though, so despite my initial misgivings I moved on to episode 2...

It's Mars, the far future - terraformed into a world where people can live. Protection from sandstorms is provided by domed cities, who fight amongst themselves, a warrior representing each city. Along with Humans are the Dolls (similar idea to **Chobits'** Persocoms), which brings us to our main characters - Layla (warrior), Nei (doll, and a slightly unusual one at that) and Speedy (doll breeder).

After 3 episodes, I'm still none the wiser as to what's going on..

- Why is Layla so attached to Nei when she obviously hates dolls?

- Why do the cities fight between themselves & what's the significance of the Great Tournament?

- Why is Speedy so intent on joining Nei & Laylas' travels?

- and more besides...

There seems to be a wider plot taking shape regarding Volk's role in events & Layla's past, but the pacing of the show is just too slow for my liking. **Ali Project's** soundtrack for the show is excellent, but nothing else really stands out - so-so character designs, the characters themselves aren't particularly endearing, and it's just too slow. Overall: Pass.