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## MCN Columnists

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### **Ice: The Movie**

Most of the feature-length anime I've watched in past year has defied easy description. Before the writers and animators begin throwing the proverbial kitchen sink into the works, something resembling a coherent storyline can be discerned. By the time the end credits roll, it's clear that no throughline, supporting character or cool visual was left on the cutting-room floor. In "Ice," Makoto Kobayashi and Yasushi Hirano ("6 Angels") have conjured a vision of the near future in which an environmental disaster has decimated the world's population, sparing 20,000 women and no men. If that weren't a sad enough scenario, the women are themselves divided into warring factions, representing hedonists who couldn't care less about the promulgation of humanity and the Guardians who do. Apparently, the world's supply of frozen sperm has been exhausted or contaminated, as well, because the warring parties both are interested in a substance called Ice, which could substitute for man juice. It gets more complicated, of course, but that's the nuts and bolts of it. Any anime that manages to find distribution outside Japan probably is better than hundreds of others that haven't, so "Ice" should please fans of the genre here. By the way, the year in which the disaster is supposed to occur is 2012.

– Gary Dretzka