"Adventurous horror lovers, bored by most of what's now available to them, should consider "Sanguivorous" to be a must-see."



Sanguivorous

Naoki Yoshimoto's truly frightening "Sanguivorous" is like no vampire movie that I, and probably you, have ever seen. It combines the classic mythos with an acting style that draws heavily from the Japanese performance movement, butch. Introduced after World War II, butoh embraces satire, the supernatural, grotesque imagery, bizarre settings and assaults against the status quo. It is performed in white body makeup and uses slow, deliberate movements in the telling of the story. Naoki Yoshimoto's debut film is set in a Japan hundreds of years removed from the arrival of coffin in which a Romanian vampire lies comatose. After a young woman (Ayumi Kakizawa) begins suffering strange hallucinations and unexplainable physical ailments, it's determined that she is the latest descendant in a long line of European vampires and the pains are manifestations of her sexual maturity. For the source vampire to be resurrected, his disciples must conduct a ritual involving virgin sacrifice. For this to happen, the young woman must be retrieved from the overground and delivered to the dwellers of the underground. It's at this point that the ancient rite can begin and her pain alleviated. Most of what happens in "Sanguivorous" is related in multiple exposures and shadows and light, using in-camera effects. Like "Nosferatu," which it resembles, there's virtually no dialogue here but lots of ambient music. It's as if Bram Stoker went to art school and only listened to Nine Inch Nails and Ministry in the studio. Yoshimoto's film first took shape as a multimedia stage presentation, backed by percussionist Tatsuya Nakatani and guitarist Eugene Chadbourne, as well as film sequences and dance. The version released on DVD features a piano score by the director. It also stars the muchcelebrated butoh artist, Yo Murobushi. The DVD arrives with an informative interview with the director. Adventurous horror lovers, bored by most of what's now available to them, should consider "Sanguivorous" to be a must-see.

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