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The Sex, Drugs, and Techno of British Youth are Alive and Well in "The Simon Rumley Trilogy" Review

by Lex Walker

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When Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* debuted in 1996, with its comical commentary on clubbing and drugging in Scotland, it was (and in some ways, still is) considered the start of a new age in British filmmaking. One of the artists clearly inspired by Boyle's style is Director Simon Rumley who went on to create a trilogy of films steeped in London youth culture and varied form between documentary, intimate drama, and a loose flowing comedy. His films *Strong Language*, *The Truth Game*, and *Club Le Monde* are all now available on DVD, and today two out of three of the films stand up to the test of time as prime examples of low-budget British cinema.

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The best of Rumley's three films is his first, *Strong Language*, which has 16 British youths in varying stages of employment, romance, and life discussing similar stories that all blend together and feed off of one another in a surprisingly cohesive mix. It's a testament to Rumley's editing and narrative skills that the stories link together as well as they do, and

it makes you eager to discover more about each subject. Coming in a close second is *Club Le Monde*, which takes place in the span of a single evening at the titular club, as broken lovers clash, druggies dance, and a couple of young boys do their best to have an experience they're not really old enough for. The story skips about between four or five different stories and they all manage to hold enough substance to make them interesting. The odd man out is *The Truth Game*, the story of a dinner party that explodes with conflict but which amounts to little more than tiresome melodrama.

Two out of three films isn't bad though, and Simon Rumley's style will leave you curious to discover more work he's done.

DVD Bonus Features

A variety of commentaries, deleted scenes, and additional footage are available for each film.

"The Simon Rumley Trilogy" is on sale August 20, 2013 and is not rated. Comedy, Documentary, Drama. Written and directed by Simon Rumley. Starring Tania Emery, Danny Nussbaum, Wendy Wason.

Lex Walker • Editor

He's a TV junkie with a penchant for watching the same movie six times in one sitting. If you *really* want to understand him you need to have grown up on *Sgt. Bilko*, *Alien*, *Jurassic Park* and *Five Easy Pieces* playing in an infinite loop. Recommend something to him - he'll watch it.

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