



**Released by:**  
Eclectic DVD

**Year of Release:**  
2000

**Running time:**  
74 min.

**Rating:**  
UR

**Color format:**  
Color

**Audio / Subtitles:**  
English and Japanese  
Mix, Dolby Digital  
Stereo

**Region Code:**  
0, NTSC

**Aspect Ratio:**  
Widescreen

**16:9 enhanced?**  
No

**Special Features\*:**  
Deleted Scenes,  
"Making of" featurette,  
glossary

**Trailer online:**  
No

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## DVD REVIEW

**I. K. U.** (2000)

Directed by Shu Lea Cheang

Review by David Carter



Each genre of cinema has innovators and followers. However, nowhere is the gap between the two more evident than within the porn genre. As a general rule, the vast majority of the genre is mundane; made cheaply and methodically to maximize profits and generate product faster. There are some, though, that take full

advantage of the carte blanche afforded by the porn industry. When a genre already exists on the outskirts of acceptability, it is easier for a brave filmmaker to push those boundaries even farther. Such is the case with the Japanese "pink" (alternatively "pinku"; their term for porn film) film **I. K. U.**

In the near future, the GENOM Corporation has successfully found a way to synthesize sexual ecstasy, which they then sell in vending machines. To capture this "data", the company employees a variety of sex robots placed throughout the city. Reiko, the film's main character, is a shape shifting robot known as a "coder," basically a walking hard drive that retrieves data from the other robots by having sex with them. The viewers follow a Reiko model on a typical night as she tracks down and retrieves data from a wide variety of male and female robots.



**I. K. U.** is not like any porn film you've seen before. It has more in common with **BLADE RUNNER** or a David Lynch film than what you'd expect to see in the "adults only" isle of your video store. Director Cheang (a female, another rarity in porn) has created a visual feast. She uses digital technology to create surreal landscapes and to show us the action from the Reiko's point of view. Occasionally important information will come across the screen, as if in a computer menu. Aside from the digital images, Cheang uses some unconventional techniques with the camera. Sharp, quick turns and spins give the film a kinetic energy that seemingly keeps the film in constant motion.

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(\* We do not consider trailers, bios or chapter stops to be special features!)



There are no subtitles in the film due to the fact the characters speak a mix of English and Japanese. Those viewers who are unfamiliar with Japanese porn will be surprised to see some pixilation or blurring in some scenes. Graphic depictions of penetration are illegal in Japan, hence the optical fogging in some scenes.

Despite this, the film remains a XXX feature, with graphic depictions of straight and homosexual sex.

**I. K. U.** is not only an innovative porn film, but also a high-quality experimental film in general. Unfortunately some won't be interested in the film due to its graphic scenes, but I'd strongly recommend this film to any one interested in challenging, brave cinema. Not for everyone by any means, but **I. K. U.** is a film that deserves to be seen if you're up for the experience.

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