

MONDOPOPSICKLE

Helping you avoid the mediocrity of mainstream entertainment

“I.K.U.” is fast becoming a cult classic.

My favorite movie of 2001 happened to be a movie on [Rolling Stone Magazine's](#) “HOT” list. It also happened to be a science fiction porn movie, loosely based on “Blade Runner” and shot on digital video. This movie is “I.K.U.” directed by digital artist [Shu Lea Cheang](#) and not only is it the best adult film I have ever seen, it is one of the coolest movies I have ever seen, and it blurs the line between art and porn more successfully than any effort before it, which was the director's intention.

For adult film lovers who haven't seen it yet and who are starving for something different. “I.K.U.” is the future of adult films and is a hybrid of influences ranging from Japanese Animation to cutting edge science fiction movies and techno music. This movie is pure imagination and unlike any adult movie of recent years, “I.K.U.” single-handedly reminds us why we love adult films. The story is about a cyborg named Reiko, who is an I.K.U. “runner.” Yes, “runner,” as in “Blade Runner,” which Shu Lea Cheang used as inspiration, and a jumping off point for “I.K.U.” Iku is the Japanese word for “I'm coming,” and if you have a hard time following the story it's okay because the main reason to see “I.K.U.” is for the hard work and vision that went into making it a visual feast for the eyes and for the brilliant soundtrack by The Saboten. We follow Reiko through several segments as she encounters other “runners” and quirky, kinky scenarios. There are a lot of computer animated segments between scenes that bridge the story together and a clever way of beating the Japanese censors at their own game with some well placed mosaics. Also of note is the animated sequences depicting penetration from within the vagina, which the director took great pains to develop and refine. Audiences at a special Sundance midnight screening of “I.K.U.” walked out, not really understanding that it was a sex film going in. Nonetheless, the audience members who remained were treated to a movie they raved about, and the film received a lot of positive mainstream critical attention regardless.

Some of my favorite sequences involve a sex scene on a stage between a man and woman at a techno/dance club, and a scene between two stunning Asian women in a giant pink net made with dildos and rope. (The making of this scene was covered in the Region 2 DVD and was fascinating. Let's hope that is included on this disc.) Viewers who love “I.K.U.” will also most likely love the music as well, which is a mix of electronica and lounge music, creating a sort of porn music video for a new era. Sadly, the soundtrack is only available in France and Japan, but can often be heard on American college radio stations, lending further proof that “I.K.U.” is fast becoming a cult classic.

Reiko has the ability to transform into any woman you want her to be, which means several gorgeous Asian woman play her in one state or another. My favorite scene of the movie takes place when Reiko catches up to a van in a tunnel, where a punk rock looking man and woman are engaged in frenzied sex. They pull over and allow Reiko to join them in a sweaty, moaning and groaning celebration of lust. The effects peppered throughout this film are well used and quite wonderfully realized. Shu Lea Cheang, is a director to keep your eye because her sensibilities on display in this movie show us an artist ahead of her time. Perfect for couples, sci-fi geeks and fans of superb erotic motion pictures should rejoice that this film has come.

If you like porn that is unconventional and unique, and sci-fi that's sexy and artistic, I strongly recommend this movie. If you are also tired of seeing the same formulaic garbage from Hollywood, “I.K.U.” may suit you very well. The DVD was previously only available from Japan,

and Italy. The extra features on the Region 2 DVD included an amazing, but brief documentary on the making of "I.K.U." and an interview with Shu Lea Cheang. The version I saw was unfortunately the shorter, pixilated version with very little actual shown sex. (In Japan and other parts of Asia, it is forbidden to show genitalia or penetration, so it will be interesting to see if the U.S. release is more explicit.) Regardless, this is one of the hottest and most compelling adult films ever produced and must be seen to believe. Not only is it my favorite adult film, but it is one of my favorite films period. "I.K.U." is a must own!

Terry
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