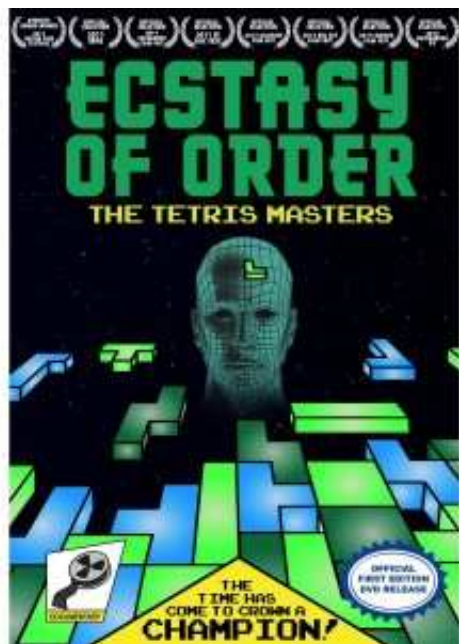


Ecstasy of Order: The Tetris Masters



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/ecstasyoforder.jpg>) **Official Synopsis:**

Tetris. We've all played it, rotating the pieces and dropping them in the perfect place, or despairing as we discover a piece won't fit. You may have even joked about 'mastering' the game. But what about the people who've truly mastered Tetris? Where are the Kasparovs and Fischers, the great champions who've dedicated their minds to solving its deepest puzzles? 'Ecstasy of Order' tracks down just such a group of record-holding Tetris Masters as they prepare to compete in the 2010 Classic Tetris World Championship. Get an up-close look at the Masters as they reveal their secrets, recount their decades-long obsession with the game, and enter the transcendental state required to reach the highest levels known as the 'Ecstasy of Order.'

Our Take:

Not only was I six years old when the original Tetris was released on the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1990, but I was the youngest kid in my area to qualify for the 1990 Nintendo World Championship regionals in New York City which featured Tetris, Super Mario Bros. and Rad Racer. Now that the shameless bragging is out of the way, let me tell you all the reasons why I LOVED **Ecstasy of Order: The Tetris Masters**.

The obvious comparisons will instantly be made with 2007's **King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters**; but while I thoroughly enjoyed that doc, I ended up having a better time with **Ecstasy of Order** more simply because of its friendly nature. I consider **KoK** to be a quite tragic story of two men who had a bitter rivalry for the sake of getting the high score in Donkey Kong. While I really liked it, it always left me with a bitter taste in my mouth because the two rivals in that movie ended up making it a mission of theirs to be the best at seemingly any cost (with Billy Mitchell playing the snide and arrogant character to Steve Wiebe taking so much time away from his family to get the high score). I think it was a movie that I enjoyed more while watching it, but I certainly have felt differently about it after the fact.

With **EoO**, there's a sense of nostalgia surrounding Tetris and Robin Mihara's pursuit of holding the first ever Tetris World Championship. Mihara is a die-hard fan and player of the game and when he gets together with other Tetris Master's, there's a real sense of camaraderie amongst his fellow players. There isn't that same smack-talking and back-stabbing that were the norm in **KoK**. You get the feeling that you're just hanging out with this group of Master's giving encouraging words and really learning from each other.

Special Features:

- Ben's Tetris Song
- Tetris "Roundtable"
- Ben and Mary's Rubik's
- Max-Out!
- Tetris Championship Promo
- Locksmith vs. Asteroids featurette

Conclusion:

Ecstasy of Order is another example of how documentary film making can be entertaining, off-beat, and informative. It gives the unacquainted a walk-through of the game so that you can appreciate what's going on, and it builds a great backstory that begins in 1990 and leads up to present day where Tetris Master's both young and old compete to be the best. And the best part? They don't come up off like total jerks doing it.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Overall Picture:

Movie: **A**

Extra Features: **B+**

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Published on September 13, 2012

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