

Peterborough Arts Cinema

Films that make you think

Thursday 29th November at 7:30 pm

Blade of the Immortal(2017)

Mugen no jūnin Japan
R | 2h 20min

Director, Takashi Miike.

Stars: Takuya Kimura, Hana Sugisaki,
Sota Fukushi

Manji, a highly skilled samurai, becomes cursed with immortality after a legendary battle. Haunted by the brutal murder of his sister, Manji knows that only fighting evil will regain his soul. He promises to help a young girl named Rin avenge her parents, who were killed by a group of master swordsmen led by ruthless warrior Anotsu. The mission will change Manji in ways he could never imagine -
(The 100th film by master director Takashi Miike.)



Five other Films by Takashi Miike
Peterborough SF Club

Blade of the Immortal (2017) marked the one hundredth production that auteur Takashi Miike was involved with. This violent movie, adapted from a manga series, contained many of his signature elements. Here are five other films from his oeuvre.

Audition (1999) this romantic horror movie (adapted from a novel) instantly gained infamy for its visceral depiction of body horror. One of our friends (whose first feature film has just been finished) passed out when he saw this movie.

Ichi the Killer (2001) was banned in several countries (including Norway) due to its violence. Adapted from a manga series it features the eponymous character who is manipulated into killing members of rival yakuza gangs by having false memories implanted into him. At the initial screenings at a couple of film festivals gimmick sick bags were handed out.

Happiness of the Katakuris (2001) is loosely based on a Korean comedy (**The Quiet Family** 1998) and features a family who buy a hotel that the near-by road doesn't yet reach. What guests they do manage to get die, leaving the family to dispose of the bodies. There's animation, musical numbers, an erupting volcano...

13 Assassins (2010) was a re-make of a 1963 black and white film of the same name and loosely based on an historical event. A dozen disgraced samurai and a hunter are tasked to kill the head of a rival clan. The final battle sequence (when the thirteen face a force of two hundred) is spectacularly bloody.

Yakuza Apocalypse (2015) one of the criticisms levelled at Takashi Miike is that sometimes his films are "the work of someone who had seven other films on his mind, not all of which he crams into his current project" (Kim Newman, Sight and Sound) so a combined action fantasy/yakuza/vampire movie shouldn't be that surprising. It featured Indonesian actor Yayan Ruhian who had previously starred in

The Raid (2011).

Do not imagine though that Takashi Miike only makes violent gore-fests. He has also worked on children's films, period pieces, teen drama and character-driven crime movies. He has listed his favourite directors as including Kurosawa, David Lynch, David Cronenberg and Paul Verhoeven (Starship Troopers is apparently his favourite film).

Peterborough SF Club was founded in 1976 to promote sf, fantasy and horror in the city. Previous film notes have been collected in the

Club's fanzine.