



Movie Review

Danielle Mammano, Junior

Ichi The Killer

Never before have I ever seen a movie so brilliantly chilling. Originally filmed in Japan and aired on IFC with subtitles, I was eager to watch it from the start simply because I love the imaginations of Asian filmmakers. Personally, I prefer subtitles over dubbing because with subtitles you may not be able to understand what they are saying and end up having to read the movie, but you get all the original emotion intended. Dubbed over, you don't know if that was how a certain line was supposed to be said or not. This movie is rated R for strong violence and various other unsettling things, so if you're of weak stomach or simply aren't allowed to see R rated films, please don't let this be the first film your parents let you see, or they will never let you watch another R rated movie again.

With a torture scene that completely demolishes that shown in Quentin Tarantino's **Reservoir Dogs**, **Ichi the Killer** is definitely not for the faint of heart. It is about a young boy named Ichi, who had a traumatizing experience as a child that makes him feel the need to murder anyone who's ever been a bully. The gore effects are not as good as they could be, but seeing that most Asian filmmakers are just getting into using CG effects, I can understand this. I still say old-fashioned gore effects are the best. If you don't believe me, watch John Carpenter's **The Thing**.

In the movie Ichi ends up killing a major crime boss, invoking the wrath of its members. Among those is the very creepy Kakihara, brilliantly and flawlessly played by the incredible Japanese actor Tadanobu Asano (Pronounced Tahan-Oh-Boo Ah-San-Oh). The first thing I noticed about Kakihara were the scars extending from the corners of his lips. If you look closely in the cigarette scene, you can see smoke seeping out of the scars, briefly suggesting that the piercings also on the corners of his lips are for more than decoration. And they are, as we find out in one horrifying moment towards the end of the film – something I will only tell you if you don't plan on seeing it; I don't want to ruin it for the others.

Kakihara is a masochist, feeling that true love can only be expressed through agony and pain. He is also criminally insane and endlessly sadistic, as you will soon find out when that nasty torture scene comes around. This movie is somewhat hard to follow. I had to watch it twice, so I admit it is confusing in some parts. Kakihara spends most of the movie looking for the mysterious person who killed his boss and eventually runs into him and picks a fight. He feels that Ichi is the only person worthy of killing him. Needless to say, Kakihara has some issues. Along with this, you begin to find out more of Ichi's clouded past and why he is so keen on destroying all those who are evil to people.

Ichi is a very confused and frightened boy. He cries as he does in his victims and states very clearly he does not want to kill people. It's internal rage and horrible memories that drives him, and as the story progresses, you feel more sympathy than fear for him.

All in all, **Ichi The Killer** is about ten times more violent than **Kill Bill** and infinitely more spine tingling than any other movie. I actually had to look away in one scene; something I have never done before.

Brilliant film. From me, it gets a **10 out of 10**.

Danielle Mammano, Junior

You'll Rebel to Anything

Mindless Self Indulgence

There is no correct way to describe the musical genre that MSI fits into. Basically, they have none. **You'll Rebel to Anything** is one of the most tense, freakishly fun, and strident albums ever released by this band. Their front man, Jimmy Euringer (AKA Little Jimmy Urine), can only be described as a helium voiced, speed singing maniac that's never met a swear word he didn't like; he isn't afraid to completely destroy a Rush song in an insane cover of **Tom Sawyer** and can produce the most insane lyrics I've ever listened to. This album features furiously twitchy songs that all seem to be put through a glitchy, stuttering techno-blender.

MSI is the only band I know of that can combine the straight-fingered bar chords, so loved on the heavy metal scene, with ping-pong synth notes that are borderline plunderphonics style of editing things down to create one crazy album in which each track has a million things going on all at once. It would make even the fastest thrash band drop their jaws in awe. This CD is made for the rebellious teenager, but rarely does such irresponsibility, irreverence, and ire come wrapped in an explosive little package that sounds so good. Even opening the CD booklet will plunge you into MSI's world before you can hear the actual album, for on the first page it simply says, **"All the censorship in the world can't make up for bad parenting."**

I could only smile and praise Little Jimmy Urine for being so intelligent because he couldn't be more right. His intellect shows even more in the track named after the CD: **"You'll Rebel to Anything (As long as It's not Challenging)"**.

The opening lines:

"Hey you in the uniform/so you won't be ignored/you are affected/and so you accept it"

This song pertains to every modern "punk" and "goth" in the US. In the words of Paul Gilmartin, **"The average American wouldn't know how to question authority if it was at the other end of a knock-knock joke."**

Both the comedian and the song are right. The average teen rebels at their own convenience. Very rarely will you see one that will go out of their way to stand for their beliefs. And that, my friends, is the high point of this CD. After this track the rest of the songs seem to die down a bit and become a tad less interesting, but overall **You'll Rebel to Anything** gets a 9 out of 10 from me.

By the way: **Plunderphonics** is a term originally coined by John Oswald in 1985 for an essay entitled *Plunderphonics, or Audio Piracy as a Compositional Prerogative*. Although the concept of plunderphonics is seemingly broad, in practice there are many common themes used in what is normally called plunderphonic music. This includes heavy sampling of educational videos of the 1950's, news reports, radio shows, or anything with trained vocal announcers. It should be noted that Oswald rarely used these contributions to this genre, the exception being his rap-like 1975 track **Power**.

Credit to Wikipedia.org for the definition.



Lyons Welcomes Conrad Birdie to the Stage

By: Christian Gardner

Bye Bye Birdie, this year's spring musical, is about a young singer, Conrad Birdie, who's been drafted into the army. Conrad Birdie, who can be referred to as the Elvis Presley of the story, is to have a nationally televised goodbye kiss. Birdie's boss, Albert Peterson has arranged him to kiss one lucky average teenage girl. The kiss is to take place on the famous Ed Sullivan show. Parallel to Conrad getting ready to be drafted and his final TV appearance before the induction, Albert Peterson, Conrad's agent, has his own problems with his longtime girlfriend/secretary Rose Alvarez, who is waiting for the long expected wedding ring. Albert's mother, who thinks Rosie is some siren, causes problems for them. With Rosie trying to launch off her own career, and Conrad getting to know the kids of the town, this musical is bound to be full of laughter.

Ms Irene Brown, a second grade teacher here in Lyons, is the director and choreographer of the show. Ms Brown directed and choreographed 2005's production of **Leader of the Pack**. **Leader of the Pack's** vocal and pit Orchestra directors, Danielle Ellis and Mrs. C. Clark are also returning.

Audition Dates for this year's musical are November 28th and 29th, and callbacks are the 30th if needed. Show dates are March 17th through 19th.

Everyone is welcome to do the musical, as there are plenty of parts. Singers and actors are needed as well as musicians for the Pit Orchestra. Also, anyone willing to take part in the Stage/Tech Crew is welcome, and painters are needed. Stage/Tech crew involves working with lights, sound and lots of other stuff, including building the set and moving stuff during the show. Practices take place after school and on Saturdays. More information about the show will be released shortly.

Underground Movie Corner

Tiffany Graham, Sophomore

This section in the newspaper will be dedicated to the movies you most likely don't get to hear about by watching T.V. and listening to the radio. You will be introduced to movies that are available to you in Pick-a-Flick and on channel 800, the Movie-On-Demand channel.

This past month I have watched a movie filmed in Rochester, N.Y. This Rated "R" suspense/murder mystery is called **After Image** directed by Robert Manganelli. Starring in this film are Louise Fletcher, playing the role of Aunt Cora, and John Mellencamp, who plays Joe, a crime scene photographer obsessed with death.

After Image is a movie about a deaf woman and a man named Joe that try to unravel the deaf woman's images of murder. They join together and begin searching for the man that is killing all of these innocent people. As the movie rolled along, it became more interesting to guess what was going to happen next. This movie doesn't make a whole lot of sense, but it kept me at the edge of my seat, as I was trying to figure out what was going on the whole time.

I recommend this movie to anyone who loves movies that you have to really think about.