

Torrents Of Bood; Fist Of The North Star (Hokuto No Ken)

Contributed by
Friday, 23 September 2005
Last Updated Friday, 23 September 2005

This intense action anime movie came out in 1983 written by Tetsuo Hara and is one of the finest action anime to date. It opens with a serene setting showing happy little valleys and flowers stretching across the vast expanses of earth, melodic music accompanies the soft atmosphere. Then there is a burst of light on the face of the earth. That pretty much sets of the movie with some melting flesh and a few spirits exiting their burning bodies you get the idea. The world of the Fist is very similar to Mad Max, And Hara has admitted that those movies were an influence in the setting and styles portrayed. Roving bands of gangsters murder and steal to survive in this world you either prey, or you are prey.

Our hero is Ken, Ken is last descendant of the 2 thousand years-old martial arts school Hokuto Shinken (the divine school of Hokuto) and has been chosen as the most skilled among the four children the previous master of the art, Ryuken, has adopted and trained to have an heir. The owners of this technique are able to convert the full force of themselves during fighting and they can use the ability of pressing Tsubos (pressure points on the body) to paralyse or completely destroy their opponents' body. He uses this skill with ghastly results. Blood flies and heads burst like squashed grapes.

The true Fist of the North Star is the focal point for the chaos and violence that ensues. He returns after being betrayed by one of his closest friend Shin for his girlfriend Julia. Shing was coerced by Ken's failure of a brother Jagi who never mastered Hokuto Shinken. Brought back by the cry of a mute child Ken returns to save the future of earth, as we know it. Along the way he meets his only ally in the anime Rei who is a master of the style Nanto Suichou Seiken or southern cross style, slicing people into literal cuts of meat. The battles in this anime are second to none as far as bloodlust and intense physical accuracy. The detailing done with the different styles is intense and this is one of Testuo Haras' trademark styles. Countless deaths occur in this movie in the apocalyptic battles that ensue. Never fails a crowd with the lust for a viciously invigorating anime.

Spoiling isn't a part of this review however the end of this anime movie sticks out. The setting and apex of the final conflict is a mind-opening example of the depth of the anime artist to understand the desire of humanity for peace and harmony in all things. That concept is reached with a blood spurting tendon tearing final impact of cataclysmic proportions. The intensity of the moods set by this movie are almost overpowering. Definitely a must see movie for the hard edges action anime fan!