

they walked, and fought so well they could cut a man in half while shaving. So, if the Japanese were to make a martial arts film, it would accurately portray the samurai, correct?

Wrongooo, bwana. There's only two samurai movies I know of, and *Shogun* is too boring for me. The other, *Shogun Assassin*, is so badly made that Zac Campbell Productions couldn't do worse. And it's based on the comic book *Lone Wolf and Cub*, just in case you wanted to know.

(Sung to the tune of the Brady Bunch theme.)  
*Here's the story, of a man named Lone Wolf;  
Who was working for the Shogun in Japan  
He was a fearsome warrior, with a Ginsu  
sword;  
He's his own biggest fan.*

*And it's the story, of his lovely wifey;  
And his cute little three year old son  
Who studied samurai, like his father  
Presumably for fun.*

*Until the one day that Lone wolf pissed off  
the Shogun,  
And the Shogun bumped off Lone Wolf's wife  
And Lone Wolf, who was into clichés  
Swore that he would take the Shogun's life.*

*Lone Wolf and Cub,  
Lone Wolf and Cub,  
Slashing up feudal Japan just for fun.*

And that's about it in terms of premise. As anyone who's read the comic book knows, Lone wolf spends the rest of his life, and this movie, pushing his son around in a heavily customized crib and killing the zillion billion ninjas that the Shogun sends after him. No real need to tell the rest of the story in detail; suffice it to say there's buckets of blood and hippo-loads of flying body parts. Horror movie fans will love it.

Now, I understand that Japanese cinema is a little different from ours, but that's not an excuse for this movie's asininity. Apart from the obvious lack of a plot, there's the matter of the fight sequences. Lone Wolf decapitates, de-limbs and yes, even de-torsos hundreds of people in this movie, presumably because he's the best samurai ever. But the ease with which his cuts people in half makes this film look like a two hour advertisement for Ginsu World Class. Even worse are the blood effects. The smallest nick or scrape spurts blood three feet into the air. You could say Lone Wolf is painting the town red, but you'd be wrong. Due to a massive error in the color processing, all the blood in this

movie is a cheery florescent orange. At best, it looks like vomit. At worst, it looks like they're bleeding liquid Cheetos.

Oh, and discophobics might well wish to skip this one, since the soundtrack might as well have been a tribute to the Village People.

Stuff To Watch For: Look for the guy at the gate to be split in half; the unintentionally hilarious scene of nudity and the kid's reaction to it; the customized baby cart with its cleverly hidden blades; and the final fight scene with the Lords of Death (Cliché Alert! Cliché Alert!).

Favourite Quote: "It is said, that when a man's throat is cut, a sound can heard like the sound of winter winds whispering. I have often wanted to hear that sound. But to hear it, coming from my own throat, is, ridiculous.... augh... Or something like that.

Judgement: If you like gore, dismemberment, minimalist plot, rotten fight scenes, lousy dialogue, awful music, and boredom in large quantities, you'll find a lot to like about this movie. Not for most tastes, and while I hate to sound snobbish, not to mine.

Next Time (you will notice I've dropped any pretense of being weekly): I don't know. I'll surprise you. ●



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