

Battle Royale

(original title unknown) [Batoru rowaiaru]

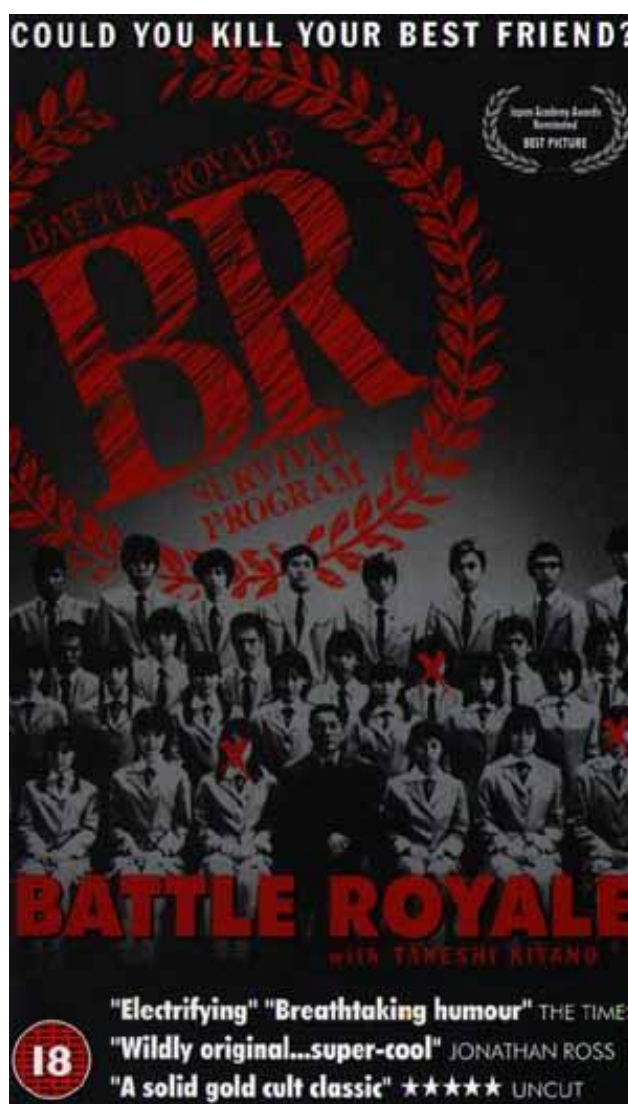
Japan : 2001 : dir. Takeshi Kitano ? :

: 109 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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Tatsuya Fujiwara; Aki Maeda; Taro Yamamoto; Masanobu Ando; Kou Shibasaki;
Chiaki Kuriyama; Takeshi Kitano; Yûko Miyamura

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	✂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The Japanese ultra-violent game show finds its sublime apotheosis – dump a class of schoolkids on an island and compel them to annihilate one another. Fun for all the family !

Source: CVMC website



CVMC video retail/rental website review:

“Set in the near future, the Japanese government has tired of its unruly youth and has decided to teach the kids a lesson by placing a classroom of ninth graders on a deserted island and forcing its members to kill each other until only one person survives. A relentless portrait which stirred up a lot of controversy and ire in its homeland.

Rated NR: adult themes [*sic*]; brief nudity; sexual themes; profanity; frequent violence

Language: Japanese (also some English) (with English subtitles)

Categories: Action/Adventure, Boy Films, Adolescent, Dark Comedy, First Love, Girl Films, Adolescent, Horror (The vast majority of the dialogue is in Japanese.)”

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001"]

No further information currently available. “Wildly original.. Super-cool” gushes BBC film buff Jonathan Ross, but it’s not kind to mock. He has a need to sound trendy. In fact the idea is far from original. Even if we discount “**LORD OF THE FLIES**” (and whyever should we?), this is “**THE RUNNING MAN**”, “**PUNISHMENT PARK**” and a clutch of other kill-or-be-killed corrective programmes, with the modern twist of so-called “reality TV” voyeurism. Japanese game shows have long had a name for fairly violent humiliation of their contestants, so this seems merely a logical continuation of the trend. Whatever “ninth-graders” may be, they’re clearly older teenagers, despite the cutesy school uniforms to make them seem younger, and in that sense the film dodges the real controversy, which William Golding did not. His boys were of prep school age, and he was making a point about the tenuous veneer of civilisation. Older teens kicking merry hell out of one another hardly seems so disturbing, since we expect them to do this anyway, without government inducement. We’re less prone to extrapolate from them about our own natures and conduct. Still, worth a look to see how this plot is worked out in practise. “A solid gold cult classic”? Well that remains to be seen, doesn’t it.

See subject index under [ASIA](#), [SCHOOL](#) and by inference **PRISON / BORSTAL / REFORM SCHOOLS**. It would scarcely qualify as a **DESERT ISLAND**, teeming with teenagers.