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Reviews

Review: "Girl With Gun"

By John Oak Dalton

Jul 14, 2006, 19:01



Approximately 15 minutes

Writer: Emile Haris

Director: Russ Emanuel

Featuring Tracy O'Connor, Michelle Lee, Erick Holloway, Michelle Martin

Availability Information: <http://gwg.russem.com/index.html>



Gwen is a young professional with a full plate, trying to juggle a boyfriend and a job, and struggling with both; like so many of us, she has to try to balance a dinner date with her significant other while taking on a ninja killer in the alley between courses.

Russ Emanuel's *Girl With Gun* is a breezy action short with nice set pieces and some tongue-in-cheek humor. As Gwen, and her alter ego the Nightingale, Tracy O'Connor is bright and pretty and seems comfortable with the kung fu, but really can't act a lick. Erick Holloway's mild, and mildly confused, boyfriend, helps in support.

But Emanuel isn't putting together an acting showcase; a martial arts fight featuring a trusty Ninja smoke bomb and a little Wire-Fu (which brought a smile to my face) is the centerpiece of the short.

What struck me is that this short seemed to be lifted out of a larger piece, and a more involved storyline featuring the saga of the Nightingale. I wondered if Emanuel, like many microcinema directors, intended this short to be a "calling card" for a feature centered around the same cast of characters.

If so, the further adventures of Nightingale would be welcome, and certainly would have its appeal among fans of comic-book heroes (with Nightingale's nod to

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Black Canary and *Birds of Prey* in evidence) as well as martial arts aficionados.

Three and a half stars.

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