



BURN UP!

50 minutes, suggest ed rating for 15+ (ADV Films)

THE ORIGINAL "BURN UP!" - RE-RELEASED ON DVD

It's been about a decade since I watched the old school anime OAV "BURN UP!", amid the kick-ass female heroines during the late 80's and early 90's, with a lot of attention on "Bubblegum Crisis", "Gall Force", "Dirty Pair" and "Silent Mobius", "BURN UP!" was one of the first anime to spotlight heroines of the police force who kick ass!

"BURN UP!" is an anime OAV from 1991 that focuses on three police officers, Maki (the blonde-haired crime fighter who is itching to get into the action), Reimi (the dark-haired crime fighter who is attached to her technological gadgets and Maki's partner) and Yuka (the naive, pink haired crime fighter who works more as dispatch in the police force).

The story centers around many young women who are being kidnapped and being sold to high paying clients of a sex slave ring. In order to stop the ring, the women take matters in their own hands in

stopping the ring but Yuka gets kidnapped in the process.

Now, Maki and Reimi must do whatever possible to rescue Yuka and stop the sex slave ring.

I must admit that I wasn't excited about "BURN UP!" when I first watched it but I definitely enjoyed the series that came after such as "BURN UP W" and "BURN UP EXCESS" mainly because there was more than one episode to get to know and enjoy the characters.

Typical of early anime at the time, "BURN UP!" features fan service such as a shower scene featuring Maki and also plenty of bra and panty shots.

Fortunately, what this anime is known for is its action and the action on this anime is very good for its time with a pretty cool car chase scene but unfortunately, most of the action seems to take place more at the beginning of the OAV than the final battle.

The main thing that hurts the

storyline for "BURN UP!" compared to other heroine anime is the lack of character development because there is only one episode featuring these characters.

All other BURN UP titles ("BURN UP W", "BURN UP EXCESS", "BURN UP SCRAMBLE") released after the original OAV featured the adventures of a new female trio but yet more episodes to enjoy those characters.

The trio of Maki, Reimi and Yuka ends with this OAV and that's a shame.

But I will say that it's great to see old school anime again and since it's been a long time since I have watched this anime, it gave me the chance to see how animation has evolved in the last 15 years.

For the animation, it was definitely good anime at the time with plenty of action scenes and colorful scenery but when you watch it now, you can see how still frames or small number of frames were used on certain parts throughout the anime. Video is presented in 4:3 format.

For the sound, the anime is presented via 2.0 in Japanese (with English subtitles) and in English.

Music for "BURN UP!" was typical of anime at the time, rock music that was not really that great. Definitely not super and definitely not something I want to listen to over and over on my home theater system either.

As for the DVD and its special features, there are none.

If you have watched the other "BURN UP!" series and have never seen the original, you may want to check the original out.

Otherwise, the original "BURN UP!" OAV never caught my interest then and watching it over a decade later still doesn't captivate my attention now.

— DENNIS A. AMITH

REVIEW GRADE

C-