

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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Audience feedback: Kumiko The Treasure Hunter

26 people voted. The breakdown and comments are listed below.

'Excellent': 3 votes

- Weird and compelling. The ending was brilliant – especially for Bunzo
- A dark comedy the Coen Brothers would be proud of.

'Very Good': 7 votes

- Sad commentary on the power of belief over reality – leading to madness. At the start of the scene on the frozen lake (before Kumiko's desperate attempt to break through the ice) I was struck by the similarities with early Herzog (Aguirre, Stroszek, Heart of Glass)
- The borders between reason, technology, art and madness can be pretty blurred. Impressive use of sound design – and did I detect a certain affection for Kubrik?
- Just a film – a 'fake', but made me feel cold!
- Great music and cinematography. Central performance was lovely
- The idea of the story – excellent, but some ideas poor!
Continuity curious – small stream running water when the lake was deeply frozen (too frozen to break the ice to retrieve "treasure" and yet some greenish grass not covered with snow under trees...)? But dreamlike ending excellent – she had a lot of energy, seemingly, after 5 days without food!
- Entertaining, amusing in parts, & poignant in others. Fortunately, I saw Fargo for the first time the other day¹!

'Good': 8 votes

- Sympathetic portrayal of the isolation of mental illness, the impossibility of conforming to societal norms; especially for a young woman.
... and the unhelpful kindness of strangers. Was getting anxious about how it would end & disappointed by the fantasy and her newly-acquired serene beauty, complete with lipstick.
- Visually good but not entirely satisfying
- Visually beautiful and emotionally resonant but the ending seemed disjointed
- Unusual and enjoyable. What is it saying about Japanese society?
- Slow moving and sparse dialogue, and yet quietly beguiling and affecting ... very powerful soundtrack!
- Japanese 'Psycho'?! What's real and what's not?
Thank goodness Bunzo could be relied upon

¹ Same here, I specifically wanted to see the original before we screened this film (Bob F.)

- As long as you could suspend disbelief – enjoyed it.
- Sadly, not as good as expected. Pacing too slow & loud music doesn't increase the tension!

'Satisfactory': 3 votes

- Another take on Care in the Community
- Like most things Japanese, I thought it strange. Very sub-Coenesque
- It was OK – just!

'Poor': 4 votes

- Quirky films can't get by on quirkiness alone. It didn't seem to know what it wanted to do where it was going.
- Cruel picture of mental illness. A number of stock "odd" characters in the US – very sub-Coen Brothers
- Good soundtrack, but "not my tempo" ☺
- Interesting concept, poor ending and too long.
Bunzo the rabbit was the best actor...

1 comment submitted without a vote:

- Japanese films can't miss. Wonderfully different.

Based on the above, the film had an overall score of 3.08.