



DANGEROUSLY TITILLATING!

009-1 VOLUME 1

4 episodes (episodes 1-4), 100 minutes, Rated TV MA VSL ADV Films, Release Date: June, 2007

Over three decades ago, during the cold war, a manga titled "009-1" (zero zero nine one) by Ishinomori Shotaro was created.

Although known for his works such as "Cyborg 009", "Kikaider" and "Kamen Rider", "009-1" would focus on a female main character and a storyline that would mirror the world that was undergoing the threat of nuclear war, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the

USA and Russia tensions at the highest level.

The storyline features an alternate world 140 years into the future with the cold war separating the Earth into the Western and Eastern Bloc.

The main character is Mylene Hofman, a female cyborg who with other 009 units are the Western Bloc's top spies.

The first episode features the 009 units working together to rescue a scientist who has been kidnapped by the Eastern Bloc. The episode highlights the talents and skills of the cyborg units and how Mylene Hofman who has the look and the body of a woman

but in reality is a deadly killer.

From cyborg units that can change their identity, super athletic agility and hidden weapons in their body parts and in Mylene's case, turrets hidden in her breasts.

Sure, the anime sounds like "one of those anime" that is made for the man fixated on women with hot bodies and well-endowed but although the anime has its share of fan service, it does not overshadow the major storyline that bares a resemblance to the popular "007" films.

The second episode focuses on Mylene's thoughts of her own organization as it hunts down humans with a mutant gene that gives them incredible powers. You start to realize through the episode that the scientist in the first episode that the 009 units were trying to rescue is the same scientist who experiments on these mutants.

But what makes Mylene's character more interesting is her human side that starts to question the organization when it comes down to hunting the mutants (in this case, a young girl who uses her power to hurt those who are trying to kill her).

The third episode focuses on Mylene's killer instinct. While the second episode features compassion, the third shows Mylene in a cat vs. cat, kill or be killed storyline with master hitman known as Egg.

Showing that despite her compassionate side shown on episode 2, in this episode... she is definitely a killing machine.

The first volume comes with the first four episodes and being a fan of spy storylines and to see a female-like "007" (aside from the cyborg enhancements) with the sexual innuendo, beautiful jazz music and action-packed storyline, I found "009-1" an awesome manga-to-anime transition.

The first DVD volume also comes with a 16-page booklet with character information and interviews.

Special features include the opening and closing themes, interview, weapon profile and information on how the manga became an anime.

I also found Ishimori's manga style quite interesting with the women very sexy and the men looking, well ugly with pickle noses. Having said that, the anime from scenery to the overall ambience is just beautiful.

Both English dubwork and Japanese voice work was excellently done and all in all I enjoyed it tremendously.

I highly recommend "009-1" because it's a series that is action-packed, beautiful and dangerously titillating.

A — DENNIS A. AMITH

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