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## SURVIVE STYLE 5+

### Movie Details

 Post Author: Matt Ho  April 29, 2013  0

OUR RATING



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BEFORE SUNSET

**DIRECTOR** GEN SEKIGUCHI

**WRITER** TAKU TADA

**US BOX OFFICE** N/A

**RUN TIME** 1 HR. 59 MIN. **RATED** R

**YOUR RATING**

**GENRE** COMEDY, INTERNATIONAL

**WATCH THE TRAILER** SURVIVE STYLE 5+ TRAILER

**STARS** Hiroshi Abe Kyoko Koizumi Reika Hashimoto Sonny Chiba Tadanobu Asano Vinnie Jones



3.7/5 9 votes

## SYNOPSIS

Five stories that involve a murderous husband and his seemingly indomitable wife, a hitman and his translator, a Japanese family, a trio of robbers, and a commercial executive all become intertwined in a strange and surreal narrative.

## REVIEW

*Survive Style 5+* is what I'd like to call a dose of "what in the f\*\*\* did I just watch?!" given how bizarre it can get, and I mean that in a good way. I highly suggest you walk into this knowing nothing because it's way more entertaining to watch it blind. So I'm going to say this: STOP reading. But for the curious who wish to continue, I'll start by listing the five main subplots. You've been warned.

1. A husband (Tadanobu Asano) who no matter how many times he kills his wife (Reika Hashimoto) finds her reincarnated with vengeance.
2. A commercial executive (Kyoko Koizumi) with an unusual imagination for ads obsessively record



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## U.S Box Office

### Weekend Box Office for 5/10/2013

Iron Man 3	\$72,525,615
The Great Gatsby	\$50,085,184
Pain & Gain	\$5,001,029
Peeples	\$4,611,534
42	\$4,588,209

Source: *The Numbers* - Movie Box Office

## Advertising

2. A commercial executive (Kyoko Koizumi) with an unusual imagination for who obsessively records her ideas into her tape recorder.

3. A suburban Japanese family's life is turned upside down after the husband (Ittoku Kishibe) is permanently hypnotized as a bird.

4. Three friends (Jai West, Kanji Tsuda and Yoshiyuki Morishita) rob houses out of boredom. One desires to live a normal life as a salary man, while the other two struggle to come out of the closet for one another.

5. A British assassin (Vinnie Jones) with a curiosity for learning people's purpose in life carries out hits alongside his Japanese translator/employer (Yoshiyoshi Arakawa).

The film uses the familiar Tarantino-esque narrative structure where multiple storylines at some point intersect. While the formula's nothing new, *Survive Style 5+* has its own distinct wacky off-beat style that mixes surrealism with a touch of insanity. Some will criticize it as being weird for the sake of being weird, but it doesn't feel like it's desperately pushing to be an oddity, and the absurdity is what makes it so much fun to watch in the first place.

The stories are wonderfully odd and entertaining with its idiosyncratic humor that keeps you laughing. It's not necessarily for everyone though given that the Japanese do have a different approach to comedy. The characters are amusing and the actors deliver solid performances in their roles. Kyoko Koizumi's scenes when she daydreams eccentric commercials is always laugh out loud.

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### “What's your function in life?”

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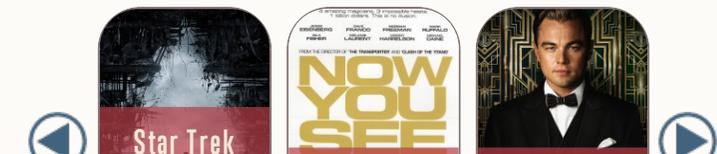
Sonny Chiba, whom most of you will recognize as Hattori Hanzo in *Kill Bill*, makes a hilarious cameo as an advertising company president constantly harassed by his wife's calls. Vinnie Jones is, well, the Vinnie Jones people either love or hate. But his appearance is welcoming and the addition of Yoshiyoshi Arakawa as his translator adds comedic value to his character. The visuals are wildly eye-catching with its flamboyant aesthetic and whimsically outrageous sets that look like a psychedelic cross between a Michel Gondry and Wes Anderson film. Then there's the soundtrack. Oh how I love the soundtrack. The music feature genres ranging from punk to electro, a lot of which are originals that contain hilariously offensive lyrics that while juvenile, are instantly memorable.

Despite the stylized direction of Gen Sekiguchi, *Survive Style 5+* isn't necessarily style over

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substance. It seems pointless at first, but you will see the loose connections between the stories through the intervention of Jones and Arakawa's characters. There are conflicts that have to be solved and there's an interesting shift towards a slightly more serious tone in the second half to introduce each individual resolution. The film may feel like it's dragging at this point, but if you're hooked to the madness of it all from the beginning, you'll have no problem sitting through it. There are some underlying themes by the end that deal with ideas of loss, learning to let go etc., but it may take a second viewing for some people to find.

## VERDICT

Go watch *Survive Style 5+* and just give it a chance. Is it weird? Yes. Is it ridiculous? Yes. But its unconventional approach is its strength and it's also what makes it surprisingly addictive. Not everyone is going to like the film and that's understandable. But the quirkiness, the humor, the amazing soundtrack and the fantastical/surreal elements of *Survive Style 5+* makes it worthy to check out. Keep an open mind and try not to take it too seriously.

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