Cats on Film Pod

Transcript

Cats on Film Pod Episode 1
Keanu (2016)



INTRO JINGLE

INTRO SHOW
RAY
Hi everybody! Welcome to *Cats on Film Pod*. I'm your host, Ray Allyn, here with my co-host, Skipper.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Thanks for joining us every Tuesday as we review cats in film – the felineness of their portrayal, the humaneness of their treatment, and what that tells us about the humans on screen and behind the scenes. There will be spoilers.

Today, we'll be talking about *Keanu,* from 2016, which is basically a "Key & Peele" movie.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Let's recap!
A little shorthaired tabby kitten gets mixed up with some Latinx drug dealers and has to run for his life. He tries to shelter with a nice black photographer, played by Jordan Peele, who starts calling the kitten Keanu. Unfortunately, Jordan's ties to the drug trade put the kitten in danger yet again.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Lots of humans engage in violence to try to gain control of the kitten. Eventually, most of the humans get arrested because they've shot and killed so many people.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yes, plus the illegal drugs. In the end, the kitten is taken in by the arresting officer, who cares enough to get Keanu a check-up at the vet.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
This is clearly a comedic send up all the revenge fantasies of people becoming mass murderers to save a kidnapping victim, but bonus points for men being willing to face death for a kitten!

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Yes, always the captive pet. Although Keanu *did* scratch at Jordan's door and cry for help. And he helped save Jordan – and Keegan – from both the Allentown killers and that crime boss, Bacon.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I know! Bacon Cheddar! *laughter*

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Really incredibly cute kittens in this lead role – they had to go through several because the performers kept getting too big to play a tiny kitten.

CLIP FROM KEANU
CLARENCE
That's the cutest cat I've ever seen in my life!

RAY
He's almost magical – there's always soft, beautiful music when Keanu is revealed.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Well, the real Allentown Boys can't be killed, as the post-credits scene shows, and they're too good at tracking down Keanu to not have extra powers.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Well, sure, a cat could sniff out the trail, but they're humans. We just don't naturally have that level of acuity, Skipper.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
I think they use a lot of digital effects to keep the kitten performers out of danger. Like, the live kitten is digitally edited into the action sequences.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Mmm, yeah, the clothes.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
And you really think, across-the-board, that no cat would willingly wear clothes?

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Mmm-hmm.
Y'know, that do-rag and gold chain combo, which is showcased in one of the posters—it's so emblematic of the main theme of what Jordan and Keegan's characters are going through – that contrast of loving a cute kitten but feeling societal expectations to be tough and quote-

unquote “black enough”. And the whole idea of equating violence with manliness and confidence, and protecting women, and--

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Okay – yes, I have strayed off from the kitten. “Cats on Film,” not “people on film”. You’re right.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
So . . . how many paws do you give *Keanu* for its feline representation*?*

SKIPPER
3 meows

RAY
Three out of four paws. There’s a strong focus on a cat – he's the title character, after all – but maybe isn’t treated the best.

SKIPPER
meows

RAY
Sooo much violence.

RAY
Thank you for listening to *Cats on Film Pod.*
Know someone who loves stoner comedies?
Be sure to share this episode with them!

OUTRO JINGLE

END CREDITS

RAY
This episode was voiced and produced by Ray Allyn, with music by The Dosman, and additional sounds from FreeSound.org.

Tune in next Tuesday for our next episode and remember to subscribe so you don’t miss out.

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We're online at CatsOnFilmPod.com and at CatsOnFilmPod on Instagram and Twitter.

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SKIPPER
meows