

Unleashed

The blend of a raw, blood and guts action movie and a deeply psychological film about self-discovery and family is a rather stark juxtaposition. *Unleashed*, released on DVD on October 11th, manages to mix the two with a power that hits like one of Jet-Li's vicious punches.

Unleashed is the story of Danny (Jet Li), a Chinese man brought up in London's rich criminal underworld. Raised by a cruel mobster who brings Danny up to be a dog, trained to fight. Danny is forced even to wear a leash (hence the title) that controls his willingness to fight. After a car accident that Danny believes kills his boss (Bob Hoskins) Danny runs away to a man he met in a warehouse, Sam (Morgan Freeman), a blind piano tuner with a history of his own.

Taken in by Sam and his stepdaughter Victoria (Kerry Condon), Danny is coached back into a civilized world, even taking off the collar that imprisoned him. But even living in a world with a façade of Civilization, there is still an underworld, and familiar faces that want to drag Danny back in by the collar.

The unrated version of *Unleashed* was released with the original. The unrated version features more blood, and even a brief scene of frontal nudity. While violent at the commence, *Unleashed* manages to grow into an emotional story about the man behind Danny's veneer of violent subserviency.

Grade: B-