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The Basement Girl

New Release

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TOPICSA film by Midi Onodera

2000

12 minutes

Color, 16mm

Canada

Rental video \$50.00 film \$50.00

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Abandoned by her lover, a young woman finds comfort and safety in her basement apartment. Mundane routines, a diet of junk food and the warmth of the television insulate her from the pain and betrayal of her ill-fated relationship. Eventually, "The Basement Girl" emerges—transformed and ready to "make it on her own". This latest film by Midi Onodera ("Ten Cents a Dance", "Skin Deep") breaks new cinematic territory by employing multiple formats from traditional 16mm film to toy cameras including a modified Nintendo Game Boy digital camera and the Intel Mattel computer microscope.

"Midi Onodera's latest film is a witty and wonderful meditation on how women translate the images that surround them (from Bionic Woman to That Girl!, from Barbra Streisand to Maya Deren). The film is funny and touching at the same time, as it looks at familiar texts in new contexts. For anyone interested in women and visual culture, this is an absolute must-see." Judith Mayne, Ohio University

- Toronto International Film Festival
- Berlin International Film Festival, 2001
- Austin Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
- Barcelona Lesbian & Gay Film Video Festival

"'Who can turn the world on...?' Midi Onodera's latest tape could equally well be titled The Most Fun Ever! She is a processor par excellence, mixing loss, melodrama, isolation and indulgence with the choicest morsels of lesbian-inflected popular culture. Barbra, That Girl, The Bionic Woman and, of course, MTM convince 'the basement girl' that she's 'gonna make it after all.'"

Amy Villarejo
Cornell University

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