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### Eight Ball by Robert Allison

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DVD Review

**Region 0**

**Director:**

Robert Allison

**Date:**

February 25th, 2004

**Extras:**

Yes, read on...

**[PAL]**

**Film Year:**

2004

**Rating:**

(\*\*\*\*½)

**Purchase:**

**Order DVD**

Straight out of South East England and from the mind of the Allison brothers comes **Eight Ball**, an tremendous action-packed feature film that screams combat from frame one. Directed by Robert Allison, this is one no-budget flick that holds nothing back and is proof once again that big budgets in the wrong hands sometimes can be unjustified when the end result is similar, if not sometimes better. **Eight Ball** has everything an action fan could desire and a whole lot more. Filmed in tons

of scenic locales, the movie plays more like an art film than an action flick. The best thing of all is the fact that Eight Ball is entirely fresh and imaginative recently having hit the streets on DVD February 19th, 2004.

Packed with excitement and energy, this is one widescreen DVD that will not dishearten...

The DVD starts out with an explosive drug deal gone wrong and an awesome gunfight and chase right on a public beach! Reminiscent of several [John Woo](#) and [Quentin Tarantino](#) films (especially, Reservoir Dogs), a viewer can tell from the get-go that Eight Ball is a film of high-quality while maintaining its own original concept. The haunting and fitting urban soundtrack is well-placed and interesting and the acting is of good caliber throughout. The carefully choreographed battle scenes are slick and stylish.



Gunfights on the beach? Looks like Santa Monica...

The chronicle centers around Jon (played masterfully by Max Woollen) and his girlfriend Claire (the lovely [Jemma Garrard](#)) and their twisted relationship being attacked by all manner of evil and gunmen. Jon is a fatal assassin who is striving to break free of the unforgiving world of various London gangsters before they hurt those that are closest to him, and he does so by any means necessary. From gunfights, hand-on-hand combat to the special RAX 750 Anti-Personnel Machine Gun, this is one of the best independent action films we've seen in a very long time.

On Jon's last deal, a mysterious sniper (played by producer [Richard Allison](#)) brutally murders his partner Butch (Assistant Director, Jack Vine). His only option is to discover the identity of the killer and take revenge while keeping his girlfriend Claire away from danger - stopping at nothing until the score is settled. Oh, how Jon kicks ass indeed. He even kicks ass at playing billiards.



Who's that wigger in my neighborhood?

Certain moments of this film play out like an intense game of [Quake 3 Arena](#) (believe us, this is a good thing...) and the intense battles towards the film conclusion will keep you on the edge of your seat. Mix in a little [Grosse Pointe Blank](#) (see: [Doom Video Game](#)), murder most of the comedy and you've got something similar to Robert Allison's [Eight Ball](#). [Eight Ball](#) also features the added talents of Conelius Collins, Richard Floor, Jess and Heather Duffy, Alexis Mensa-Bonsu, David Beynon, Sam Yates-Smith, Alana Fitch, Richard Floor, Simon Tevlin, Nick Kirk, Chris Eaglestone, John Barker, Aime Lumbuyaka, David Power, Lee Cooper, Edward Hampton and Jonathan Pinto.

The most memorable would be Tom Vine's portrayal of Snipe's Thug when he shouts out "You're dead meat, old son!" Many of the actors are cleverly reused or resurrected in other parts of the film due to the limited budget (or is that close-nit cast?) but this is not noticeable on the first viewing. Miss Polacek as Gym Receptionist was impressive as well. Was that Gym #1 or Gym #2 anyway?



Claire! Duck! There's a deleted scene over there!

Overall, this is a must-have DVD for fans of action films. The high-quality sound and digital effects makes for a great-looking action film with fresh new talent. The

opening and closing computer effects of the pool table are top-notch and the DVD features over 100 minutes of extras, all of which are very cool. There's a director and producer's commentary in which Richard and Robert Allison and Jack Vine give some insight into the making of Eight Ball and point out a few of their often overlooked visual mistakes in addition to explaining how to eat a cold Whopper hamburger. The commentary also gives some neat inside film-making tips for the camera-inclined.



Jon and Claire kiss and make up...

There's a very interesting 14 minute "making of" documentary hosted by the Allison brothers themselves, a teaser trailer (also found at [the Trickshot Films website](#)) and several artistic film tests showing off even more of London's magnificence. In addition to all that, the Eight Ball DVD also features three deleted scenes - Snipe's Arrival, Alternative Argument and Pool Que Fight. Each removed scene is explained by the Allison brothers before viewing.



The film was Region 0 and PAL formatted but the DVD had absolutely no problems playing on a lower-end home DVD player and [InterVideo's WinDVD 5](#) on personal computer during bench tests so American action fans should have no problem playing this DVD in their home systems. The quality of the DVD disc is remarkable and the clear-cased collector's box is a kind bonus! The producer also sends word that a NTSC version could be made if the demand arises. This is one cool action film and Screaming Stoner Video will be keeping an eye on Robert Allison, he will surely go on to do great things. This is a terrific DVD with plenty of goodies included, [Highly Recommended!](#)

[ 4 ½ puffs! ] 90%