

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Adrenaline</b>
Author(s)	Lenny Borger
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1990 Feb 7
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Corridor, Robak, Alain, T.V. buster, Hudson, John, Adrénaline, Piquer, Yann, 1990 Physical culture, Piquer, Yann,

## **Adrenaline (FRENCH-COLOR/ B&W)**

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**Paris** A Sinfonia release of a Manitou Prods. production. Produced by Yann Piquer. Directed by Yann Piquer, Jean-Marie Maddeddu, Anita Assal, John Hudson, Barthelemy Bompard, Alain Robak, Philippe Dorison. Camera (b&w, color), Bernard Cavalie; editor, Pierre Didier; music, Scoop!; art direction, Jean-Pierre Camus. Reviewed at Cannon screening room, Paris, Jan. 25, 1990. Running time: 73 MIN.

With: Jean-Marie Maddeddu, Clementine Célarié, Bernardette Coqueret, Ged Marlon, Alain Aithnard, Jean-François Gallotte, Franck Baruk.

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■ **“Adrenaline” is a baker’s dozen of sketches with a fantasy or horror premise, made by seven directors and packaged to vie as a feature theatrical attraction. It’s a motley series of mostly mediocre quality, redeemed on occasion by flashes of macabre humor and parody. Ironically, it will probably end up quickly enough where other short efforts do — as filler on tv. Film premiered at the recent Avoriaz fantasy fest.**

Many of the shorts exploit the theme of inanimate objects which acquire a deadly will of their own: a nearly empty subway train runs out of control; a ceiling descends inexorably on a bedroom occupant; an empty wine bottle attacks a human; aged automobiles solemnly roll towards a car cemetery with their helpless drivers locked inside to accompany them into the compressing machines.

Among the better entries, played for sinister laughs, are Anita Assal and John Hudson’s “T.V. Buster” in which a boob tube couple, personally harangued by the images on their tv screen, call in a specialist to exorcize their set. “Corridor” by Alain Robak (whose gore feature “Baby Blood” got a special mention at Avoriaz) is a lampoon of the Indiana Jones-style booby-trap gauntlet setpiece, reset in an house being visited by a potential buyer.

Yann Piquer and Jean-Marie Maddeddu crown the collection with “Physical Culture,” a good 1-joke item about a man who literally has his head punched into a shapeless pulp in order to exhibit it in an abstract art gallery. Short separately has won numerous prizes, notably in the shorts competition at the 1988 Cannes film festival. — *Len.*