

I Just Had Sex

mresundance

Achievement in Mood - Winner 2011
Achievement in Use of Music - Shortlist 2011
Achievement in Innovation - Shortlist 2011
Achievement in Vidding - Shortlist 2011

The review below may contain spoilers for Thor.

Nicky: I think the dominant reading for this vid is the humour which comes from jaunty riffing on one central transparent metaphor, but the beauty of it is that it can also be read as a scathing indictment of traditional masculinity as portrayed through the ages.

HWG: I loved that this vid had such distinct levels to its structure. The criticism is so seamlessly weaved into the humorous execution that once you realize what's going on it's hard to imagine the vid without that extra level of SMARTNESS.

Nicky: On first view, the thing that jumped out at me was the great use of Loki's reaction face shots. The clip choices at 0:42 and 0:56 always give me the giggles. But what's more interesting is the fact that Loki doesn't just stay the "straight man" in the comedy, so to speak. There's a genuine character arc here.

HWG: I think you're picking up on the fact that although Thor is going around flashing his hammer at us, it's Loki whose journey we're following. Now can we discuss his faces some more? The reaction shot at 0:37! It makes me bust out with LOLs every single time.

Nicky: In the vid as in canon, Loki is very much portrayed as the Other. While Thor is big and brawny, literally a God, replete with blond lion's mane and phallic weapon, Loki is darker, more effete, and there are some race implications in terms of his Ice Giant parentage. It feels telling that he spends the first half of the vid observing and being somewhat horrified by Thor's hyper-masculinity, and then spends the second half trying to, um, grab Thor's hammer.

HWG: Well as we all learned from Captain Hammer in Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, what is the hammer? "The hammer is my penis." Power and hyper-masculinity are often times so inextricably linked that I can't help see the canon in it, and rightfully so. Loki's reactions in the first half of the vid signified envy of the sex and power that Thor was getting (and bragging about), because gosh darn it, Loki wants to have the sex too! He's just the worst at it as he proves with that clumsy power grab in the second half of the vid. (A for effort though!)

Nicky: I'm reading this two different ways: one, that Loki is the "her" in the narrative segment starting around 1:20, and all the fighting is just foreplay; or two, that Loki is trying to embody Thor's masculinity by supplanting Thor as owner of the hammer. Maybe it can be both, because there's definitely a sexual vibe, but also jealousy and an inferiority complex that bleeds through from the canon narrative. What do you think?

HWG: I completely agree! It's definitely both. As I mentioned earlier, sex and power go hand in hand and certainly the segment from 1:44 -1:55 really speaks volumes about masculinity and

dominance, especially as Loki is the "her" at this point in the story. I mean, he's literally trapped under the weight of Thor's whomping penis!

Nicky: Let's just pause for a moment to savour the horror of that mental image.

Okay, moment's over. The use of external graphics and photos lends the vid an excellent sense of the history of Thor - both as comic book character and in mythology - and really helps to showcase the hammer-worship throughout time. I especially love the mixed aspect ratios to showcase these different sources, and the effortless transition from graphic to live action at 1:18.

HWG: Yes! That transition was beautiful. I also really enjoyed the one at 1:11-1:12. I suppose it's not unnatural to use the comic source when vidding a comic book movie, but I thought it was pretty genius to take it a little further and step into the Norse mythology. Tracing the history and juxtaposing this ancient ideal of masculinity to its current rendering in the shape of Chris Hemsworth, it's equal parts absurd and terrifying. Absurd because, well, just look at him in his "turtleneck and chain!" And terrifying because it can't be denied that such primordial bravado is still revered in this day and age as it was when Vikings prowled the seas.

Nicky: As much as the vid is hilarious, I also find there's a real sense of apprehension which comes to a head in the segment at 2:20 where all the truckers and other men congregate in some sort of ultimate boys' club. It's a caricature, sure, but it's undoubtedly one of a situation that we all recognize to some degree.

HWG: The testosterone is a-flowing in the Penis Pit as the men folk congratulate themselves for having sex and touching the Mighty Member! This segment was truly a perfect punch delivered precisely by a skillful vidder. Ouch.

Nicky: I don't know whether to be horrified or just horribly amused. But as I said, this comes across as a humour vid first and foremost, and one of the things that it does best is choosing some great clips to fit the music and lyrics. Jane's giggly expression at 0:41 against "a girl let me do it" is perfect. The sparkly explosion in the sky at 0:51 to "it's the best" is hella dirty. The "pile of manure" at 1:36 never ceases to crack me up. And I rather think the vidder chose an ideal ending clip - Loki, bless his heart, seems to have really learned something by the end of these 2:45 minutes. I don't think I'd want to know exactly what he learned!

HWG: He had sex! It was pretty terrible but it doesn't matter, it still counts!

THE FOURTH WALL
