



Movie Review:

Initial D

With all the hype surrounding this movie, I expected and hoped for a no-plot action movie on drifting similar to many of the surfing or snow skiing adventure movies. Instead, Initial D is a boy meets girl, teenage love story. The story is 80% character development and a mere 20% drifting.

The Engine: Non turbo.....the boy *Takumi* is a school student on summer break. He works in a service station by day and is a Tofu Delivery Driver for his father at night. Takumi's delivery route takes him via Mt. Akina and over the years he has developed his driving skills on the mountain. Takumi falls for his child-hood friend Natsuki, a fellow student. However all is not as it seems with his sweet-heart. Professional drift drivers arrive in town seeking out the legendary king of Mt. Akina. Takumi with some coaching from his father competes against and conquers these drivers as he aims to become a professional racer.

Aerodynamics: The racing/drift sequences provide some spectacular action. Although the true "money shots" of drifting cars are few and far between.

Brakes: For the true fans of drifting there is not enough action, with the love story and character development consuming much of the time. Whilst glimpses of all major drift cars do exist, the action concentrates on only a few models. The techniques used by the drivers for drifting appear to be mainly shift lock and E- brake. I did not see any Jump Drift, Trail Brake or Feint drifting.

Features: The movie is a true showcase of the roots of drifting in rural Japan. The fact a AE86 Trueno is the feature car is a credit to this authenticity.

Rating: ★★



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