

Peterborough Arts Cinema

Films that make you think

**Thursday 29th Jan
7:30 pm**

Sister Midnight

India, 15, 107 mins, 2025

Director; Karan Kandhari

Stars; Radhika Apte, Ashok Pathak, Chhaya Kadam

Sister Midnight is a vibrant, surreal black comedy about Uma (Radhika Apte), a headstrong Indian woman trapped in a stifling arranged marriage in Mumbai, who finds liberation through dark, punk-rock fantasy as she embraces vampirism and rejects societal norms, becoming a defiant goddess in her own story, blending Indian folklore with Wes Anderson-esque visuals and a punk soundtrack.



The Philosophy of Punk

Punk is a lot of things. It's a genre of music, a type of fashion, an attitude, and perhaps most importantly, a philosophy. Punk was born of frustration and disillusionment and raised by a group of people with a fierce desire to fight the oppressive systems holding society in a deadlock. Punk is an ideology in which freedom and self-expression reign supreme. Opposition to the establishment, commitment to non-conformity, and passion for authenticity are three of the core tenets of punk philosophy.

Anti-Establishment

Punk is a rejection of all things that make up the vague and powerful entity known as "The Establishment." Racism, sexism, corporatism, and colonialism are just a few of the dangerous "isms" that constitute that insidious system of systems. Since its inception in the mid-1970s, many people in the punk movement have dedicated themselves to tearing down these oppressive systems by engaging in protests, spreading socio-political messages, and establishing independent record labels to escape the influence of the powerful recording industry.

Non-Conformity

Punk is about embracing the freedom to express individuality. This principle of the movement is visible in the punk community's commitment to non-conformity, which is often expressed through fashion choices. Punk fashion often involves political messages, aesthetics that fall well outside of the mainstream, and second-hand clothing that operates as a statement against consumerism.

Authenticity

A cardinal sin, according to punk philosophy, is to lack authenticity. When it comes to punk culture, authenticity is the golden rule. Selling out for money or status, embracing the mainstream (and with it, the evils of capitalism), or giving in to pressure to conform to the dominant culture are surefire ways to lose the respect of the punk community. To embody the philosophy of punk is to be gleefully, unapologetically yourself no matter the consequences.

Like any movement, punk contains multitudes. It is not just music, or just fashion, or just a collection of beliefs. It is all of these things, and so much more.

On a personal note, my son was a drummer in a post punk band. Some of the members were vegan and eschewed drugs. They would play venues, including in Europe, invited by other post punk fans. Any monies earned would cover their costs. They invited band from the US, put them up, and they too would cover costs from the concerts. There were no managers. They produced their own CDs and fanzines. The audience would join the stage to sing if wanted. Their music didn't appear on the radio. A good time was had by all. I witnessed one of their concerts of multiple other musicians. I wanted to be young again.

