

## Pornos: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

TRINA KILPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Everyone has preconceived notions about pornographic movies, whether it be they are disgusting, incredibly arousing, or somewhere in between. In my opinion, pornos are not all bad, but then again, they are not all good. I called up a movie store specializing in sexuality explicit films and asked them to set aside three of their top rentals for me. I got 1001 Cum Shots, Sex II Fate and Art of Desire.

Aside from the embarrassing feeling that may arise from the fact that the windows on the storefront are covered, the store was just like any other. No one patronizing the store looked any different from you and I, and apart from the fact that all the boxes on the shelves had pictures of naked people on them, this could be any video rental establishment. Although, there were some pretty interesting things for sale on the shelves by the check-out counter, some not for the easily offended.

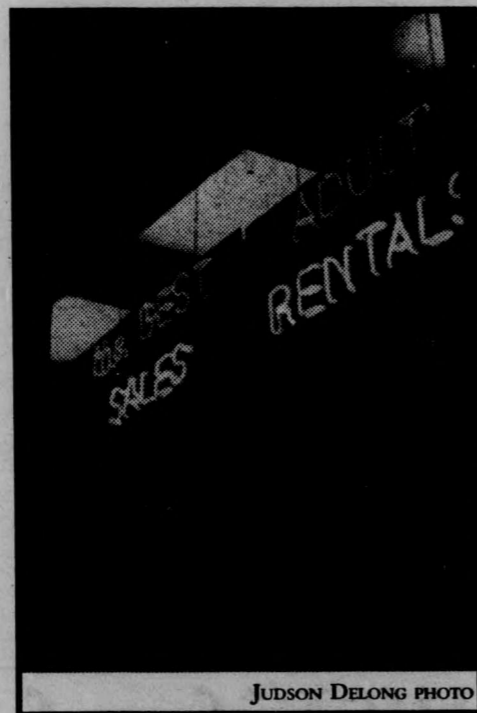
The woman who worked there told me that of the three movies, Sex II Fate and Art of Desire had a plot, and 1001 Cum Shots was just a series of clips. She sure hit the money on the last one. The title tells the whole movie, 1001 (I am assuming that there were 1001, since I didn't watch the whole thing) clips of men ejaculating on women. A variety of positions and techniques were used, and the men came on different parts of the girls, but the underlying theme was the same for each clip. I must say that after the first five minutes, I found this a little hard to swallow, no pun intended.

The next movie, Sex II Fate, did actually have a plot. I must say that of the three, I liked this one the best. There was an underlying story that was believable, and the actors were not naked throughout the whole thing. Other things which brought credit to this movie were the fact that it show a guy wearing a condom, something that is rarely seen in pornographic material, and the fact that the movie did not have chintzy "porn music."

The third and final movie, Art of Desire, had little plot to it. There was one woman who was in each scene, and she tells what she is doing at each place, but that is hardly. Plot. I found this movie was exactly what I imagined pornos to

be like: cheesy and slow-moving.

Most people I have talked to, both men and women, said they are turned on somewhat by pornos. I think that this has to do with the fact there is a little of every person's fantasy in these movies. For many guys, seeing two women involved in sex with each other is a huge turn on, and most every pornographic movie has some girlgirl scenes. I am sure that 1001 Cum Shots would also be arousing to men, whereas women



might find it disgusting. For women, I believe that the pleasure comes from seeing someone taking their time to please the women, since for a lot of women this does not happen in real life.

In many sexual relationships, the emphasis is on making sure that men climax, not women, and thus there is little consideration as to if the women in fully enjoying herself. Many problems can develop from this such as the woman being turned off, or even repulsed by sex, and the social stereotype that the only one who need to have an orgasm is the man. I should also point out that pornos are not just for the sick, dirty-minded

old man. Many couples rent movies to give their sex life a boost. Or people rent them out of curiosity.

But, I did find many problems with these pornos. These things apply more to actual movies than clip videos like 1001 Cum Shots. First of all, to do most of things that the actors and actresses do in these movies, one would have to be in incredible shape. The flexibility and endurance shown in the movies is just fantastic. In addition to the fact that most of the positions shown require very well-developed leg and arm muscles, there is the fact that pornos are definitely not representative of "real sex." For instance, all body parts are super large; huge breasts on the women and immense penises on the men. As well, it is a long time before the man ejaculates in the movies, yet neither wants to stop: once intercourse starts, that is until he achieves orgasm.

There are many things depicted which would be impossible, or at least very painful, for the ordinary person to do. Also, why are the men always completely naked, but the women always have at least boots or shoes on? And what is with the heels? If I were a man, I would be scared that one of those heels would puncture me somewhere. My final complaint is that some of the things are just plain gross. I am sure there were intended to be erotic, but they just come across as repulsive.

During the course of the two movies, there was nothing that would be considered by most as degrading to women, something I think a lot of people, especially women, expect in a pornographic movie. There were no whips or chains or anything like that in the movies I watch. In fact, for the most part, there were like very explicit, low budget films, nothing too kinky or weird. There weren't even any two or three guys on one girl or vice-versa in the movies I watched (except for brief instances where two girls and one guy would be together, but this ended up with one of the girls leaving.)

I believe that those of you out there who are against pornography are welcomed to your own opinion, and those of you who are all for it are also right in what you think. But I also believe that one must have an open mind, and know that there are some ugly pornos, and some bad ones, but there also some good ones.

## Sexual Healing (continued...)

Continued from page 10

it does, many people don't think it does. Certainly on a moral-ethical basis, many people find it objectionable.

Should we censor it? That's a different issue. There are many things I find objectionable and many people who even personally find pornography objectionable also don't believe that censorship is the solution. The solution is education so that people are no longer enticed or find it interesting or are turned on by these things. There's no way that we're going to do away with it, it's going to go underground, it's going to be unregulated, so that censorship doesn't solve the problem. It's sort of like, we're all opposed to alcohol abuse. You know, there was a time when there was prohibition; we don't believe in that anymore. It's not because we're in favour of alcohol abuse, but we found out that that approach did not solve the problem and I think that's the issue with pornography. There are several issues: do you

like it or not? Do you think it's appropriate? Do we want to have it in our society? And regardless of that, there's another question, which is what do we do about it? I'm of the opinion that we're going to get a lot further with education than we're going to get with censorship. Do you ever treat homosexual people, and what differences and similarities have you observed between homosexual and heterosexual people in terms of their sex lives?

I've seen a number of gay and lesbian couples over the years and gay and lesbian individuals as well. Sometimes they're not there to talk about sex specifically but they're there to talk about their sexual identity or their relationships with their family, or they're there to talk about something that doesn't have anything to do with their sexual orientation. Your orientation has nothing to do with whether you're stressed in school or whether you know what you want for a career or whether you get depressed.

But I have seen some couples in sex therapy

and their issues are exactly the same as we all have. In relationships, we all struggle to communicate well, we all struggle to find a way to have both people's needs met, we all struggle with the level of intimacy we're comfortable with. Gay and lesbian couples have sexual problems the same as heterosexual couples and the problems are the same kinds of problems. If you're a woman in a lesbian relationship, you may not have orgasms, the same as if you're a woman in a heterosexual relationship. A gay couple may have differences in how often they want to have sex, as may a heterosexual couple. So in terms of sex therapy, the problems are very similar.

There are some specific issues related to having a partner of the same gender. Some of the issues that we see in heterosexual couples don't come up, in terms of the ways in which men and women are different that cause conflict may not happen. On the other hand, there are issues being with a person of the same gender. Generally, in terms of sex therapy, it's not very different.

## Psyc 3343: Let's Talk About Sex

TRINA KILPATRICK

THE BRUNSWICKAN

Most people see the words 'Human Sexuality' and immediately think SEX! and since human sexuality is being taught as a course at UNB, well it must be a class about sex. This is only half true. The Human Sexuality course, psychology 2343, taught by Dr. Sandra Byers, was definitely an eye-opener for me. I went there thinking I was going to be watching dirty movies and learning all sorts of different sexual techniques, as I am sure most of the class did. But that wasn't true. Of course, we did learn some sexual techniques, as far different positions and what most men and women like to do, and we did see some sexual movies (all in good taste), but most of the course was spent learning all the aspects of sex.

We started learning the 'tools of the trade' and exactly what parts do what. Most people would say that they already know everything, but I'm sure everyone would have learned something new from our frank discussion of body parts. I mean, how many of you know that it is a woman's clitoris that is usually stimulated to bring her to orgasm, and that it gets erect, just like a penis? Or that a man's testicles move up during sex? What's more, now I am comfortable enough with sexuality that I can say penis without blushing. Pleasure was presented as what should be the ultimate goal for sex, not orgasm, and I know that changed the views of many of the students in the class.

There were many things presented throughout the course that I didn't know, or was mistaken about. Facts that both boy and girl babies have orgasms, and that male babies can and do have erections, even in the uterus, came as a total shock to me. I also learned that the way girls masturbate is not at all what is usually presented in books and movies, etc. The method of choice is clitoral stimulation, not vaginal.

The Human Sexuality course also taught me that young are not alone in what you feel or do, and that, for the most part, your feelings and actions are not wrong. The course also gave me a better understanding of sexually transmitted diseases, sexual abuse, pregnancy and sexuality in aging. And yes, old people do have sex. The tutorials that run along with the class helped me learn to talk about sex, something that is very important, especially so that I can pass on the correct information comfortably to my children.

There were things that I disliked about the course, however. At the beginning, I found that it was basically a review of every other psychology course I had taken. Freud, Skinner and operant conditioning, and Reiss's Sociobiological Theory. Things that I believe everyone had a good enough understanding of that a review would have been more adequate. Also, a lot of time was spent on subjects, which to me, are on the fringes of Human Sexuality. Finally, I think that we all have learned more, and received more out of the class if the class size had been smaller, and the approach had been teaching by discussion instead of by lecturing with overheads. I believe that the subjects were presented at much to fast a pace for the students to pick up much from the actual class sessions.

All in all, however, this class was a great learning experience for me and I am very glad to have taken it. I would recommend this course to anyone who is the least bit interested in sex, or just wants to learn lots of cool things about the 'forbidden act.'