

SIXTIES (1961-1970) CO-D
All reviews by Michael J. Weldon

(THE COCKTAIL) HOSTESSES (Alpha Blue, 70) P/D/S A. C. Stephen, S Ed Wood Jr. Toni (Rene Bond in a terrible curly blonde wig) is a "free soul" who drives a white Volkswagen. She quits her secretary job and discovers she can make more money dressed like a medieval wench in a Sunset Strip club. Most of this very colorful movie is sex scenes with badly dubbed in screams. A hostess with long blonde hair (Terri Johnson) joins in a threesome. Ric Lutz (looking just like Richard Carpenter!) plays piano during the party/orgy which is visually dominated by Candy Samples. A lesbian says "The only thing that men are good for is what is in their wallets." When one waitress is raped by a deranged customer, the bartender (Forman Shane) says "What's another screw to her?" Also with spanking, a daisy chain and flamenco guitar music. With Lynn Harris (THE STEWARDESSES), Sandy Carey and others.

CONFESSIONS OF A PSYCHO CAT (SW, 68) P/D "Eve" (Herb) Stanley, S Bill Boyd (THE THREE LOVES OF A PSYCHO CAT) Rich Virginia (Arlene Lorraine), _summons three men to her apartment (filled with animal trophies) and offers them a fortune if they can survive the next day in Manhattan. They all had been acquitted of killings (shown in flashbacks). The out of work stage actor is tricked out of hiding with the promise of a job. The unshaven junkie with an irritating laugh is shot by an arrow during a Central Park chase. Another flashback reveals Virginia is insane because her dog was killed. The guest star victim is former boxer Jake LaMotta (the subject of RAGING BULL), playing a wrestler who is killed as if he were a bull. The odd 70 min. b/w movie features a freezer full of bodies, time wasting generic street scenes, and some topless and nude scenes, obviously added as a marketing afterthought. LaMotta had been in THE DOCTOR AND THE PLAYGIRL (63) and was in several other 60s movies made in Europe.

COOL IT CAROL! (VSOM, 70) P/D Peter Walker, S Murray Smith Joe (Robin Askwith with Brian Jones hair) is a moody braggart who delivers meat for a living. He and his 17 year old friend Carol (Janet Lynn) take a train to London and lose their money at a gambling/ strip club. Carol ends up doing nude modeling, hooking and being in a porno movie for money. The "true" innocents in the city story is kind of depressing. Also with Stubby Kaye (!) as a TV star and Jess Conrad. Askwith was also in Walker's THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF GRETA and THE FLESH AND BLOOD SHOW (both 72).

COUNTRY GIRL (SW, 68) D/S Bobby Davis Angie (black haired beauty Jean Wilson) and her man leave the city for the "lodge" run by Marie (Marie Campbell) and her husband for a fishing trip. They all get drunk, Angie sings a folk ballad, then they switch partners. Marie masturbates in the woods before her young lover shows up late ("You Dog!") and his neglected wife Honeybee (Ruth Stafford with a massive red beehive do) seduces Ruthee (Sue Sennet). The frequent sex ("mmm," "uhh," "ohhh!") in this brainless 65 minute color softcore movie takes place mostly in the woods and involves many positions. Most of the actors have strong Southern accents and use slang.

COVER ME BABE (70) D Noel Black, S George Wells, P Lester Linsk

Tony (Robert Forster from MEDIUM COOL), a seriously grim L.A. area college filmmaker who quotes Lewis Carrol, debuts a short filled with surreal FX tricks and topless blondes, including his girlfriend (Sandra Locke in her 2nd film role). He then decides to “direct reality” with his cameraman (Sam Waterston). They shoot mondo footage of a dying kid, a couple making love, a transvestite and a roof top suicide leap. He interviews a homeless alcoholic (Mike Kellin) and hires a woman (Maggie Thrett from DIMENSION 5) to strip and masturbate on camera. He edits all the footage together with the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Tony also has sex in a cave (Bronson Canyon?) with another blonde actress (Susan Benton, later in A BOY AND HIS DOG). Also with Robert Fields as the outraged and jealous professor, Jeff Corey as an agent, (future director) Floyd Mutrux as a sad gay character who takes LSD, Michael Margotta (DRIVE, HE SAID) as a rival director, and Regis Toomey as a studio director. The music is light pop (some tunes are by Bread). We were glad to see this forgotten (20th Century Fox) R rated feature on Fox FXM cable. Black had also directed the much better PRETTY POISON (68).

CRAZY BABY (Sinister, 66) D Franco Montemurro, S Michael A. Scheiber, Ennio De Concini, Adriano Bolzoni

(LA BATTAGLIA DEI MODS) In foggy Liverpool, black leather rockers with chains start a destructive riot in a pub, a blonde is killed and Ricky (Ricky Shayne, a popular Italian singer at the time) leaves for Paris (where a Russian anarchist runs a starving artist club), Genoa (where he joins a commune) and Rome where he confronts his disapproving, rich but wise diplomat father (Joachim Fuchsberger). The father’s blonde mistress Sonja wants Ricky but he falls for her sister Martine. Ricky wins several fights (with kung fu style loud noises dubbed in), befriends and defends a guy with a bad leg named Grue and best of all, sings. Most songs are in Italian and some are ballads but when he enters a 75 hour (!) non stop music marathon (“I’m obliged to do it.”), the tired rebel sings “She Don’t Love Me” (while having flashbacks) and “Bumble Bee” (probably learned from the Searchers). He also sings the theme song and the original Italian version of “Let’s Live For Today” is heard (on a jukebox). Elga Andersen and Eleonora Brown co-star. This hilarious, very entertaining German/Italian production must have caused some serious head scratching when released here as BATTLE OF THE MODS in 68! The print is letterboxed.

THE CREEPING TERROR (64) P/D/edit/narrate/star Argyle J. Nelson (Vic Savage), S Arthur Ross, Robert Silliphant, P/act William Thourlby

A very awkward and slow moving alien creature that resembles a pathetic Chinese New Year dragon roams the countryside eating anyone in its path including deputy sheriff Martin (Nelson), his new bride (his real life wife), some soldiers and people at a dance and at a lovers lane. Victims always go in head first. Many are women so the camera can concentrate on their kicking legs in nylons. In one scene the creature seems to be trying to fuck a car that says 23 Skidoo on the side. At the dance someone yells “My God! What is it?” A hand grenade kills it but there’s another one in the space ship! Are there more of them?! “Only God knows for sure.” Despite what some reviews say, there ARE dialogue scenes, but most of the time when people talk you only hear narration and when victims scream – they really SCREAM! The very odd score is by Dr. Frederick Kopp, a music teacher. The Dr. Bradford character is played by producer Thourlby. The son of American Indian Olympic star Jim Thorpe, he later became wardrobe consultant to Richard Nixon! This was filmed around Glendale and at Angelues Crest Park. Nelson (also an Indian) edited many TV movies and SEXTETTE (78). This was taped when WOR aired it on their 9 All Night show at 6 am (perfect!) back in 1984 and sent in by Joe Shoemaker. I enjoyed watching the Meet The Mets and Negro College Fund ads and the minimal audio only news about Mayor Koch and the homeless problem instead of the joking robots talking over the now common version.

CURSE OF THE SWAMP CREATURE (Dark Dreams, 66) P/D Larry Buchanan, S/act Tony Houston

This is a slow moving sort of a remake of VOODOO WOMAN (57), but set in the American south (it was shot on Cado Lake in Texas). After some excess plot and boating through the swamp, unsuspecting geologist Mr. Rogers (John Agar), Brenda (Shirley Mcline), a con woman, and two assistants finally make it to the remote home of the balding mad scientist Simon (Jeff Alexander). Rogers reluctantly helps out Simon's wife (Francine York), sometimes keeps locked in a closet. After experimenting on many humans victims (which he throws into his pool of gators), Simon finally turns Brenda into a very short lived bug eyed "fishman". Local black "natives" constantly beat drums (for the doctor), but eventually organize to confront the evil doc. A beautiful mute black woman dances by a fire. Bill Thurman plays an oilman who is murdered (and the monster) and William McGee (DON'T LOOK IN THE BASEMENT) is a servant.

THE DANISH CONNECTION (SW, 70) D/S Walt Davis, P M.D. Maury

Agent Johnny Wadd (John Holmes) and blonde Eric (muscular Rick Cassidy) are both working for the impotent Mr. Steel, who is seeking a Viagra type secret formula. Both agents are in various softcore sex scenes (featuring Sandy Dempsey, Sandy Carey, Rene Bond and others). In "surreal" sequences Wadd is drugged, attached to a pleasure control machine, chained up on a giant water bed, and smothered by several naked women (one is black). A man sits on a toy horse with a naked barking woman on a leash, some guy dances around and a black slave brings a potion. Johnny also has kung fu fights on a boat, in a field and by a temple. Kitty the secretary and beautiful lesbian bar owner Marsha have a sex scene and a naked woman happily swings toward the camera from a rope during the opening credits. Manuel S. Conde was the cinematographer. Robert Chin, who directed most of the Holmes/Wadd movies (which inspired parts of BOOGIE NIGHTS) plays a long haired voyeur villain. Minimal comic soul songs are heard along with orchestrated themes from other movies. The print is jumpy and worn. The main stars were also in SEX PSYCHIC (also by Davis, later a TV actor) the same year.

THE DEBAUCHERS (JFTH, 70) D Sidney Knight, P Jean Jacques Robeau

May (Tina Russell) goes to a mansion to accept a job in "an experimental film." She becomes the sexual captive of the loud, unshaven, overweight "millionaire genius" filmmaker ("We're exploring a whole new genre here"), his older live in shrink, maid and butler. May's boyfriend shows up to rescue her but is paid off and in the (surprise) ending is killed on camera. This is an early hard core sex feature (the cast names are all pseudonyms) with a lot more dialog than action. Russell, an early porn star (WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MISS SEPTEMBER?), later died of cancer. Knight also made GIRLS THAT DO (67), LOVE IS WHERE IT'S AT (68) and others.

THE DEADLY ORGAN (SW, 65) D Emilio Vieyra, S Antonio Rosso, P Orestes A. Trucco

(PLACER SANGRIENTO) A man with a rubber monster mask and hands and a Beatle wig kills women with a syringe of heroin. His victims are hypnotised by hearing a weird space age bachelor pad type record on a close and play record player. A doctor uses LSD as a truth serum and a big city inspector (Mauricio de Ferraris) falls in love with the top billed Gloria Prat. The mystery killer also plays the organ and drives a Porsche convertible. The b/w horror mystery takes place near a beach (with a constant heavy mist) and in a club (with a rock combo and a gay and lesbian clientele). This Argentine production was filmed (in Paraguay) before the director's CURIOUS DR. HUMPE (PV #18). It was first released (by Cambist) in America in 67, then re-released as FEAST OF FLESH (the title on the print). The (hip slang) English language dialog is by Jack (THE FLESH EATERS) Curtis. Vieyra is featured in the Mondo Macabro book. This feature is followed by

some trailers and a wild, unidentified extremely gory scene (from SIX SHE'S AND A HE).

DEAD RIGHT (JFTH, 68) P/D/S Charles Martin

(IF HE HOLLERS, LET HIM GO!) James (Raymond St. Jacques), an artist who loves classical music, pumps gas in a southern town. He's framed for the rape/murder of a white woman, is beaten and escapes after years in prison. A man (Kevin McCarthy) tries to force James to kill his wealthy wife (Dana Wynter) and after more setbacks, incredibly, he manages to clear his name. Every white character is racist and/or out to use and abuse the hero. The constant flashbacks, flashbacks inside of flashbacks and colorful psychedelic segues makes this a true product of the late 60s, with enough plot for two movies. Barbara McNair (who is also heard on the soundtrack) plays James' nightclub jazz singer lover. Her brief nudity was used to promote the movie (released by Cinerama - rated R) in Playboy. She went on to CHANGE OF HABIT with Elvis and Jesus Franco's VENUS IN FURS. Royal Dano, as the most hateful character, has a scene with a topless girl. Also with Steve Sandor (HELL'S ANGEL'S 69), John Russell (sheriff), Ann Prentis (who looks just like her older sister Paula), Arthur O'Connell (prosecutor), James Craig (police chief) and Susan Seaforth (who does a sexy dance in a bar). McCarthy and Wynter, of course had been the stars of INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS.

DESTINATION INNER SPACE (Cinefear, 66) D Francis D. Lyon, S Arthur C. Pierce, P Earl Lyon

Characters in an undersea lab find a mysterious container on a flying saucer. It grows and all of a sudden becomes an upright alien fish man. This (man in a suit) creature has been mocked in the past but is actually pretty cool with its scary face and very bright red back fin. Gorgeous red haired photographer Sandy (Wende Wagner) is almost as colorful as the monster. Diver Maddox (Mike Road) considers visiting submarine Commander Wayne (star Scott Brady) a coward and a murderer. The gruff rude Wayne tells biologist Rene (Sheree North) to "Shove that under your microscope and study it!" when she rejects his advances, but he turns out to be the real hero. Gary Merrill has less to do as the doctor in charge, James Hong (PV #4) is Ho Lee the cliché comic relief cook, and Roy Barcroft is the captain of the topside ship. With weird organ music and some very good underwater photography. The forgotten United Pictures also released CYBORG 2087 and DIMENSION 5, both also written by Pierce, and Lyon's CASTLE OF EVIL (also with Brady) the same year. Wagner was also in OUT OF SIGHT and ROSEMARY'S BABY.

THE DEVIL'S GARDEN (SW, 70) D/S/act Robert C. Chin, P Roland Miller

This is the only sex movie I've seen that was filmed in Jamaica. You get to see lots of local scenery and characters discuss "strange religious cults like the Rastafaris." A blonde (Sandra Carey), fleeing from her Satanist movie director husband, is drugged by the long haired Chang (the director, known for making early John Holmes porn movies) and is featured in several sex scenes (some semi-hardcore). The most memorable part though is a voodoo ceremony in a shack where a possessed black woman (Debbie Maguire, a one time Mrs. Richard Pryor) strips and writhes on the floor for a long time. With multiple flashbacks inside of flashbacks, noisy experimental music, demon masks, a lesbian scene, interracial sex, bondage, and an it's all a dream ending.

THE DEVIL'S JOINT (SW, 69)

This pro-pot documentary has no credits and is pretty dull considering the theme, but was probably a revelation to late 60s/early 70s "underground" audience members. A narrator explains how America's marijuana war was started. We hear pot theme songs and see the Nixon "Checkers" speech, Chinese being executed for opium and scenes from THE PACE THAT KILLS (28), REEFER MADNESS (36) and other roadshow movies. The silent footage is the best. Comic BATMAN TV series inspired insert titles don't help. See the recent GRASS (PV #34) instead.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR... (JFTHI!, 70) P/D/S Skip Sherwood, S Mike Mickler
 I've never seen any reference to this pretentious but well made obscurity (from American National Entertainment). Kevin (young Dennis Christopher with a blonde Brian Jones haircut) is a serious college English major virgin, who drifts into dreamland during boring classes. He and six other guys sail to an island. They burn their I.D. cards and blow up a model city there and Peter (Terance O'Brien), a writer, talks about freedom, rules and war. In the real world Paige (Cheryl Waters later in MACON COUNTY LINE) calls Kevin a fruit while topless as part of a sorority prank. In the fantasy she's his perfect understanding mate. James (Gary Busey) laughs a lot and goes "Hot Damn!" when a girl's breasts bounce (in slow motion) but on the island, he is intelligent, thoughtful and leads a campfire rap about Ginsberg and Rimbaud (!). They encounter a blind Nam vet and a former Col. and armed locals who threaten their new carefree life. Kevin eventually dies only to wake and realize that he needs to lighten up and get a girlfriend (at least that's the message I got). With electronic music, sappy songs, and creative and effective cinematography and FX. One scene is repeated several times and parts reminded me of HEAD (colorful solarized scenes) and CARNIVAL OF SOULS (ghoulish heads in the water). Sherwood also produced David Caradine's AMERICANA (73). I watched this just after the BIOGRAPHY of the wacky self destructive born again Busey.

DISC-O TEK HOLIDAY (SW, 66) D Douglas Hickox, Vince Scarza, S David Edwards, P Jacques De Lane

Some Yanks took JUST FOR YOU, a 64 British feature, added some East coast American acts in 65 and released this wonderful time warp rarity in 66. Peter And Gordon, The Bachelors and Freddie And The Dreamers do two songs each. Millie Small (alright!), The Band Of Angels (with Mike D'Abo), The Applejacks (with a female guitarist) and others you never heard of each do one. Even the lightest non-hit clips are colorful and interesting to watch. The Americans acts are all classic. The Chiffons do the haunting "Nobody Knows What's In My Mind But Me" (written by Brute Force) by a waterfall. The very young Vagrants (with lead guitarist Leslie West!) do a great garage rock attitude song ("Oh These Eyes") outdoors while kids in bathing suits dance. The Rockin' Ramrods sing at a teen dance, then back Freddie Cannon doing three of his best past hits (plus one then current one). These segments include the best look at real (non Hollywood) mid-60s American teens (band members and dancers) you'll find. DJs Bob Foster (Baltimore), Hy Lit (Philly) and Arnie "Woo Woo" Ginsberg (Boston) introduce the acts. The unavoidable plot concerns Casey Paxton and his girlfriend trying to get airplay for his 45 (which he sings three times!). It is fun to see them hanging out in famous sections of the three New England cities though. All this and an A bomb blast gag! The print is excellent and in strong bright color.

DR. GOLDFOOT AND THE GIRL BOMBS (Orion, 66) D Mario Bava, P/S Louis M. Hayward, S Robert Kaufman, P Fulvo Lucisano

(I DUE MAFIOSO DELL' F.B.I.) Goldfoot (Vincent Price), "the worst maniac who ever lived," has an all Chinese staff except for his female assistant Hardjob (Moana Tahi) and he answers to Peking. Their zombie like duplicates of beautiful women explode while seducing generals. The idea is that "America and Russia will destroy each other in a colossal atomic conflict." Meanwhile two inept doormen (Franco and Ciccio) provide lots of (often sped up) slapstick comedy. Franco appears in drag and Ciccio (the tall one) is cloned. This rushed unfunny sequel could have used some decent FX and has not improved with age. Laura Antonelli (who is also cloned) looks great though. Price (who talks to the camera) also plays a stuttering NATO general in a cage and disguises himself as a nun. Fabian has little to do as

an American agent. The music is by Les Baxter and a large LBJ photo is on a wall. The following year Bava showed what he was capable of with DANGER DIABOLIK and Franco and Ciccio were in HOW WE STOLE THE ATOMIC BOMB.

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