

SEVENTIES (1971-1980) TH - Z

All reviews by Michael J. Weldon

THAT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD (Abacus, 75) P/D Sig Shore, S Robert Lipsyte (SHINING STAR) Check out this very 70s look at the music industry. "Bucky" Buckmaster (Harvey Keitel) is a successful NYC producer who wants to record "The Group" (Earth Wind And Fire) but his boss (Ed Nelson), who answers to "the organization," makes him work with The Pagers, a Christian soft pop "family" trio from Florida. Bucky ("You can't make chicken salad out of chicken shit!") eventually has an affair with the fame obsessed hard drinking, pill popping lead singer Velour (Cynthia Bostick). Her "brother" (Jimmy Boyd of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" fame) turns out to be a junkie and the "father" (Bert Parks!) had molested Velour when she was a child. You get to see Keitel skating at an all black ice disco, and give anti-record company and pro-music talks. The Pagers' manager (Michael Dante) threatens to "stick an icepick" into his "golden ear." The way Bucky gets (non-violent) revenge is funny and clever but unlikely. Murray The K plays a lecherous radio DJ and DJ Frankie Crocker plays himself. EW&F do several songs and during the end concert the piano turns upside-down while it's being played. The soundtrack LP went to #1 but few people saw this movie from (the mob owned) distributor Bryanston. Shore also produced SUPERFLY.

THREE ON A MEATHOOK (Regal, 72) D/S/music William B. Girdler, P John Asman, Lee Jones

Two years before DERANGED and TEXAS CHAINSAW, Girdler used PSYCHO as a partial blueprint for his version of the Ed Gein legend. Young Billy Townsend (James Pickett, who has childhood flashbacks) lives in a backwoods farmhouse with his widower Pa (Charles Kissinger). Pa has somehow convinced Billy that whenever he's around females, he kills them. Blonde Debbie (Linda Thompson) and her three girlfriends run out of gas while on vacation, so Billy brings them home for the night. When Debbie, who we first saw having sex with some guy in a hotel room, is hacked to death in the bathtub, it's like a (very mild) version of a similar scene in BLOOD FEAST. Two of her friends are shot, when the other is decapitated, her body falls while the head stays held up by an axe. Billy goes to town while Pa cleans up. He sees a re-issue of THE GRADUATE, then an embarrassing Chicago type horn and pants suits band (American Xpress) who do two songs in a club. Note: Some band out there might want to hurry and do a cover version of "We're All Insane." Billy wakes up with a hangover at the home of nice uninhibited cocktail waitress Sharon (Sherry Steiner from ASYLUM OF SATAN). Despite the recent multiple murders, he invites her and her blonde Nam widow friend Becky for a vacation in the country. Drunken Pa reluctantly serves them a special "veal" dinner. Becky is killed by pick axe, Sharon discovers bodies hanging on meat hooks, then - the dead mother shows up! A PSYCHO style expert explains why Pa was just killing for his wife - who had the "illness" cannibalism. The last shot is Pa in a straitjacket thinking to himself. Thompson and Steiner both have nude scenes and three of the other victims swim topless. Girdler's score includes wah wah guitar, weird organ sounds, and sad harmonica. The make up is by Pat Patterson, a TV horror host who made DR. GORE (PV #18) the same year. Tennessee beauty contest winner Thompson moved into Graceland with Elvis the year this was released! He called her Precious but replaced her with Tennessee beauty contest winner Ginger Alden in '76.

THREE PHASES OF EVE, STRIPPED FOR ACTION (Cinefear)

These two early 70s movies (from extremely worn out, used to be in color prints) are cheap even by porno movie standards and have no credits. In the first, the schizoid Eve (Sandy Carey from THE DEVIL'S GARDEN, who flubs her lines) relates two sex flashbacks (one with two men) to her shrink (Rick Lutz, from Ed Wood's NECROMANIA), then joins him at an orgy party. In the more elaborate second feature (it has even more flashbacks and dialog), a young guy called Bonaparte

(he looks kinda like Ron Howard) tries to find out why Rosie was killed. He has sex with every woman he meets and a satanic looking British guy relates Rosie's sex flashbacks. It has way too many sex scene close-ups and the song "Music To Watch Girls Go By" is heard. New scenes with two comic slob "reviewers" in a theatre have been added along with 3 X trailers. This release is part of a series (just what the world needed!).

TNT JACKSON (Sinister, 74) P/D Cirio Santiago, S/act Ken Metcalfe, S Dick Miller TNT (Jeanne Bell), from Harlem, does impressive backflips and high kicks as she battles drug dealing villains and avenges her brother's death in Hong Kong. The arrogant Charlie (Stan Shaw with a big afro), blonde Elaine (Pat Anderson, who has a brief shower scene) and Ming, work for Sid (Metcalfe). TNT has a sex scene with Charlie, and in the movie's classic scene, fights four guys in a room while wearing only her panties. Bell looks great, has some good lines and breaks one guy's arm nearly off. A large impressive street parade with costumes takes place on an island and it all ends in a big fight in a hotel. Except for location work, it was shot in the Philippines. The print is reddish. Bell (who was the stripper in MEAN STREETS) returned in Santiago's THE MOTHERS (PV #18) and this was remade as FIRECRACKER!

A TOUCH OF SWEDEN (SW, 71)

Jerry (Uschi Digart), a "famous actress" who became a nurses' aide (huh?) flies Pan Am "back to Sweden" where she relates Hollywood sex flashbacks (including a lesbian scene and a threesome) mostly featuring her friends. "Comedy" is provided by some pathetic vaudeville types as Dracula and Groucho and a guy in drag. The longest scene concerns a gay character with a bottle stuck up his ass. If you want to hear Uschi talk a lot, then this is the movie for you, but despite the all star soft core cast (Sandy Dempsey, Sandy Carey, and Marie Arnold) it's pretty terrible. The only good scenes are Peggy (ALL AMERICAN GIRL) Church taking a bath and Uschi walking around in a bikini. There's also a rollercoaster ride. Alpha Blue sells the same movie as PASTRIES. There are no credits.

TOWER OF LOVE (SW, 73) P/D George Drazich

Three women in chastity belts live at The Crotavia embassy. The "Den Mother" (Buck Flowers) watches as they play pool, jog, and exercise. A young locksmith (Joseph Peters), who turns out to be the king's son, arrives and unlocks the women for sex. There's also a lesbian scene. Jean Pascal, Kitty Lombard and Tammy Smith star and Johnny Legend's sex version of the old song "Saved" is heard. The print of this Boxoffice Int. soft core nudie comedy is too dark.

TRAIN RIDE TO HOLLYWOOD (Anchor Bay, 75) D Charles R. Rondeau, S Dan Gordon, P Gordan A. Webb

Bloodstone had 13 London label R+B chart hits (5 pop) during the 70s/80s but had been formed (in Kansas City) back in 62. This, their odd attempt at a musical comedy fantasy, was released by Tom (BILLY JACK) Laughlin. Harry Williams, the fat guy in "The Sinceres" is knocked out and dreams that he and his group are porters on a train filled with movie stars in some mixed up past. Gable (Jay Lawrence) and Leigh (Phyllis Davis) do GONE WITH THE WIND scenes, Jay Robinson is Dracula, and Guy Marks is Bogart. The Brando GODFATHER becomes the WILD ONE Brando and kills passengers. (!?) Seven numbers are performed including lush ballads (featuring lead singer Charles McCormick) and 50s hits ("Yakety Yak" and "Sh-Boom"), the group tap dances and are in silent b/w comedy bits. At a train stop, a New Orleans style funeral song is performed, Harry does a James Brown type song and boxes with a gorilla and there's a song by some harem girls. With Michael Payne, Roberta Collins and Tracy Reed. The tape is letterboxed.

2069: A SEX ODYSSEY (Seduction, 74) D Georg Tressler, S Willi Frisch, P Gunter Koff

(ACH JODEL MIR NOCH EINEN) Five Venusian beauties (with glitter eye makeup) land in The Alps on a mission to collect sperm from human men ("simple creatures"). The locals think they're a French Olympic ski team. One has sex in a car with a lingerie salesman (who uses a rubber), one does it with a cop who arrested her, one with a doctor in a sauna, and another, dressed as a nun, with a priest. The major and other locals are hooked up to a sperm pump machine (they don't mind) and all the alien women strip naked in a bratwurst and beer dance hall, causing a near riot. Nina Frederik, Catharina Conti, and Hedi Hankammer star in the silly German/Austrian production. There's also a trailer for INGA and a new "Cyber Jane" short (a Misty Mundae lesbian scene).

THE UNCANNY (Media, 77) P/D Dennis Heroux, S Michael Parry, P Rene Dupont
In a prologue (set in Montreal) nervous eccentric Wilbur (Peter Cushing) wants to interest a publisher (Ray Milland) in his book of stories, all concerning cats. He's told "It's just too fantastic!" In London in 1912, Janet (Susan Penhaligon) is a maid who kills her wealthy old employer (Joan Greenwood), then (in a sequence inspired by NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD), becomes trapped in a storage room surrounded by cannibal cats. In 1975 in Quebec, Lucy, an orphan and her cat go to stay with an aunt (Alexandra Stewart) and a jealous cousin (Chloe Franks). Witchcraft is used to shrink Lucy in scenes reminiscent of THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN. The last tale is a comedy set in In Hollywood, 1936. An actor (Donald Pleasence) is the villain in Dungeon Of Horror. His actress wife dies filming a pit and the pendulum scene and is replaced by her stand in (Samantha Eggar). John Vernon is the producer. It's fun to see the various stars but #2 has some bad continuity problems, #3 makes little sense, and the cat theme is pretty weak. The series of producer Milton Subotsky's horror anthologies ended with this British/ Canadian production and THE MONSTER CLUB (80). Neither one was released in American theaters.

VAMPIRE'S ECSTASY (E.I., 73) D/S Joseph W. Sarno, P Chris D. Nebe
(THE VEIL OF BLOOD, DEVIL'S PLAYTHING) There's a lot of nudity in this rarely reviewed lesbian vampire movie filmed in Germany. Three young females take a horse and carriage to a remote candlelit castle. A Van Helsing type lady doctor and her brother have a car wreck and end up there too. Stern faced housekeeper Frau Krupt (Nadia Henkova) leads a coven of five women (who are usually naked or topless) in the crypt. They chant, dance, caress each other and use large penis shape candles. Helga (Marie Forsa), a descendent of the Baroness Vaga, is put under a spell and has several sex scenes in a horse stable. The (overlong) Eastmancolor and widescreen movie also has a flashback, a clothes ripping bat attack and an orgy. The (too dark) video print includes the original trailer.

VAMPIRA (Luminos, 74) DClive Donner, SJeremy Lloyd, PJack H. Wiener
(OLD DRACULA) Four Playboy models arrive at the tourist attraction castle of Vlad (David Niven). His butler (Peter Bayliss) has them all drugged and drained of blood in an attempt to revive his master's 1920's wife (an idea copied from the DR. PHIBES movies). Since one model was black, his beloved Vampira (Teresa Graves from GET CHRISTIE LOVE!) is too. They go to London in a double coffin where she watches BLACK GUNN and learns jive talk and they dance a lot and vampirize a couple (Jenny Linden and Nicky Henson). With Linda Hayden, Veronica Carlson, and Freddie Jones, and a theme by Anthony Newley. The tape has Dutch subtitles. The misfire comedy came after the equally silly VAMPIRE HAPPENING (PV #6) and SON OF DRACULA (PV # 21) but was before LOVE AT FIRST BITE, NOCTURNA, (PV #2), and DRACULA BLOWS HIS COOL (PV #30).

VICIOUS VIRGIN, HOT LIPS (Cinefear)

Here's another double bill of worn out prints of cheap obscure early 70s porn movies (with no credits). In the first one, Susan (Susan Fields, in many early 70s sex movies) arrives in Hollywood to be a star. After sex in a casting office, she refuses a masseuse job but ends up dancing naked and being drugged as part of some huge guy's harem. The music includes sitars, spacey guitars and an instrumental version of "Paint It Black." In the 2nd feature, the blonde Mistress Victoria and her servants keep Holly captive. With whips, bondage and too many extreme close ups. New added scenes show gangsters who beat up the projectionist. Also with hard X trailers for a Brigitte Lahaie movie and two produced by David F. Friedman.

VIDEO VIXENS! (Vestron, 73) D Ronald Sullivan, S Joel Gross, P Roland Smithers
A TV station owner (Norman Field) hires the crude slob "king of the stags" (George "Buck" Flower) to direct an uncensored network Stag Film Award special which, of course, is a big hit. He forces a moralist movie reviewer (Harrison Phillips) to host, along with dumb blonde Inga (Robyn Hilton, also in THE LAST PORNO FLICK). This soft core spoof (owned by Troma) features a DRAGNET spoof, a fat milkman scene and a dungeon scene all featuring hard to believe "comedy" violence or rape. Familiar nudie movie regulars in the many film clips (some in b/w) and commercials include Maria Aronoff (Arnold), Starline Simple (Comb), Terri Johnson, Sandi Dempsey, and John Alderman. Others (all naked) are Cheryl "Rainbeaux" Smith, Linda York, Robyn Whityng, Angela Carnon, and token black Marva Farmer (also in BLACKENSTEIN). The assistant cinematographer was Joao (DEEP THROAT) Fernandez. Flower, Carnon and Whiting were all also in INNOCENT SALLY (PV #19).

WATTSTAX (73) P/D Mel Stuart, P Larry Shaw
A large scale concert put on by Stax Records (whose days were numbered) in The L.A. Rams stadium was filmed and they added man on the street interviews and (mostly serious and angry) commentary by Richard Pryor. Some acts are seen as is, others had footage of riots, racism, and protests added, and a few are cut off mid song. The main (complete) live acts are The Dramatics ("What You See Is What You Get"), The Staples ("Respect Yourself"), Luther Ingram ("If Loving You Is Wrong") and Carla Thomas ("Pick Up The Pieces"). Rufus Thomas, in a pink suit and cape, does several funky hits, raps, and is hilarious joking with the crowd and The Bar-Kays are amazing in chains and with huge white Afros playing "Son Of Shaft." Johnny Taylor plays in a club (with pimps outside) and Little Milton is seen in a video. Isaac Hayes arrives in a limo, is introduced by Jesse Jackson and after the big build up his performance of "Shaft" was cut out for some legal reasons. Also with The Emotions, Albert King, Jimmy Jones, and other name stars in group gospel numbers. Warner Brothers released it to theaters then and it should be on video now.

WEREWOLF OF WOODSTOCK (73) D John Moffitt, P/S Bill Lee, Hank Saroyan
The person responsible for this cheap as possible shot on video (in California) embarrassment was executive producer Dick Clark. Just after Woodstock, a local man (Tige Andrews) yelling "miserable freaks!" is struck by lightning while mindlessly smashing things on a small festival stage. Although he nearly dies and is totally wrapped in bandages, he stays home in bed. Each night he becomes a man in a mask monster, kills a cop, and hangs a little dog. He also kidnaps and ties up the groovy chick singer (Belinda Belanski) of a dysfunctional rock band trying to record in an abandoned shack. Meanwhile the local police Lt. (Harold J. Stone) keeps making chili and tries to feed it to a pair of "special youth officers" (an embarrassed acting Michael Parks and Meredith MacRae), who were sent from L.A. to observe the festival. After the ending (copied from THE HIDEOUS SUN

DEMON), Stone blandly says "It's Ovah." Also with Ann Doran (wolfman's wife), CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT star Richard Webb (wolfman's doctor), and in his feature debut - Andrew Stevens as a disgusted band member. A radio announcer talks about the "Woodstock" area, ignoring the fact that the festival took place in Bethel, in Sullivan County. This debuted as part of the ABC late night "Wild World Of Entertainment" time slot (which included IN CONCERT and DICK CAVETT). The (pathetic) make up is by Joe Blasco and John "Bud" Cardos was production consultant. A voice over adds the fact that all the guitar music (including the Santana opening) was by Jerry Cole! Belaski was later in THE HOWLING (80) and Moffitt directed LOVE AT STAKE (87).

WEREWOLVES ON WHEELS (Shocking, 71) D/S Michel Levesque
Adam (Stephen Oliver) leads the Devil's Advocates biker gang. Robed monks led by One (Severn Darden) offer them (drugged) wine and during a ceremony, Helen (D. J. Anderson) dances topless with a skull and a snake. Tarot (Duece Barry) has flashbacks and keeps warning the others. Characters are killed and blood is spilled but no werewolf is seen until the end payoff scene. He does ride a motorcycle though. Other bikers are played by singer Barry "Eve Of Destruction" McGuire (as Scarf) and William Gray (from FATHER KNOWS BEST). McGuire had done too many drugs and later recorded Christian LPs. Gray, who raced motorcycles, had been busted for pot. The music is country and raga rock. Chuck Bail was the stunt coordinator. Oliver, who usually played bikers, started out in Russ Meyer's MOTOR PSYCHO. Levesque was an editor for Meyer movies. This print is good but too dark.

WHO KILLED MARY WHAT'S'ER NAME? (Prism, 71) D Ernest Pintoff, S Sean O'Toole, P George Manasse

Mickey Isadore (Red Buttons), a well off, but diabetic former boxing champ, rents a cheap apartment on Mulberry St., determined to solve the murder of a hooker that nobody cared about. He receives help from his daughter (Alice Playten), a man he meets (Conrad Bain) and a hooker (Sarah Miles) and is threatened by bikers and a black revolutionary. With b/w flashbacks, the Elgin Theatre (showing a W. C. Fields movie) and an interesting (PG rated) look at early 70s NYC. With young Sam Waterson as a poor underground filmmaker, David Doyle as a broker, Ron Carey as a bartender and Jake LaMotta. Future director Jeff Lieberman was associate producer. Pintoff made BLADE (73) next, also in Manhattan.

WICKED WICKED (Shocking, 73) P/D/S Richard L. Bare
Several blondes have disappeared from a huge old seaside hotel, so house detective Rick (David Bailey), a disgraced former cop, is on the case. We soon learn that young electrician Jason (Randolph Roberts) is a traumatized psycho killer who uses secret panels and spy holes, wears a rubber mask and stays in a hidden room with a guillotine. Meanwhile Rick's ex-wife Lisa (Tiffany Bolling) arrives to sing at the hotel's nightclub and becomes a target by wearing a platinum wig. Reviewers seriously hated this PG rated MGM "Duo Vision" (split screen) gimmick movie, but it's obviously an elaborate sick joke and the double screen is used in various ways. While the story unfolds we also see flashbacks from various time periods, fantasy sequences, and scenes that point out contradictions and ironies in what characters say. When Mrs. Karadyne (Madeleine Sherwood), a sad longtime resident with money problems, talks about her acting career we see her as a stripper. A crazed looking old lady plays the score of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (25) on an old pump organ. When Rick and Lisa get back together in bed, footage of lightning, a charge by Teddy Roosevelt and an H bomb blast (!) is edited in. I saw this in a theater once and still think it's a fun unique experience. My complaints are a visible microphone, the fact that a black maid character is killed but not missed, and the lame Chicago type horn band (The Leaves Of Grass). With Scott Brady as the thick gruff police Sgt., Arthur O'Connell as the maintenance man, Ed "Kookie" Byrnes as a suspicious lifeguard, Roger Bowen as the manager, and Diane McBain. Bolling

sings several songs including the funny theme. In '73 she also starred in BONNIE'S KIDS (PV#31) and THE CANDY SNATCHERS (PV#15) and recorded an LP. The rare print has Danish subtitles. Bailey was a regular on ANOTHER WORLD, Roberts was Ritchie Cunningham's one season brother on HAPPY DAYS, Sherwood was the Mother Superior on THE FLYING NUN (!), and Bowen is best known from the movie M.A.S.H. Bare directed all 63 Joe McDoakes Warner Brothers comedy shorts (42-56) and THIS REBEL BREED aka BLACK REBELS (59).

WILD HONEY (SW, 71) D/S Don Edmonds

Farm girl Gypsy (Donna Young from ALL THE LOVIN' KINFOLK) takes off for L.A. after her abusive father (who listens to religious radio shows) attacks her. She tries LSD ("a tool for unlocking your mind") on a sugarcube at a party ("Why are they doing it all over the floor?") and after various minimum wage jobs, decides to do nude modeling at The Little Doll House. After meeting a devious lesbian (Donna Stanley from THE STEWARDESSES), she's happy to accept money for sex and has her own new convertible. A laughing hooded Satanist hosts a crazy party where naked fat people use whipped cream and Uschi is with a guy reading Mein Kampf. Gypsy is tied up naked there by a salt and pepper pair of musclemen then suspended spinning from the ceiling. Then we learn that her experiences were "all a dream." Long haired Astro keeps women on leashes and a depressed motorcycle riding Nam vet abandons Gypsy. With a trip sequence, raga music, pop songs, a Dylan poster, Hari Krishnas on Hollywood Blvd., and a marquee for Disney's THE BOATNIKS. The cast includes K. W. Christian, Mark Edwards (THE DEAN'S WIFE), and Kip Whitman (BUMMER!). It was the first directing job for former beach movie actor Edmonds, who went on to make ILSA movies. This Boxoffice Int. release is pretty entertaining but Young is naked more in the trailer than in this cut version where every sex scene ends abruptly. The tape also includes NUDE A GO GO (a short also on SW comps) and some vintage footage of NYC theaters and strip clubs.

WINTER KILLS (Avco Embassy, 79) D/S William Richert, P Fred Caruso

The more you know about JFK lore and assassination theories, the more you'll enjoy this fascinating movie based on a book by Richard Condon. Some critics have endorsed it as a misunderstood "black comedy" but I think it's very serious. The way it creates a parallel universe and uses flashbacks to comment on real people and events invites comparisons to CITIZEN KANE. 19 years after President Kegan was killed (in 1960 in Philadelphia) his directionless non politician (half) brother Nick Kegan (Jeff Bridges) is introduced to a bandaged man (Joe Spinnell!) who confesses to being the second gunman. Kegan runs for his life as many around him are killed and various characters (some are impersonators) relate contradicting flashbacks or explain opposing versions of reality. A mobster (Ralph Meeker) blackmails the Ruby character (Eli Wallach) into killing the (never seen) Oswald. A Cleveland mobster says that 20th Century Fox (!) had the president killed because he had caused the death of Marilyn. A family friend (Richard Boone) says "They will pile falsehoods on top of falsehoods until you can't tell a lie from the truth and you won't want to know the truth - that's how the powerful keep their power." Anthony Perkins runs a secret all seeing hi-tech spy network for the divorced multi- millionaire patriarch (John Huston, at his most chilling since CHINATOWN). The president is remembered as an unqualified reckless womanizer whose position was paid for and who died because "he started to think we live in a democracy." Also with Belinda Bauer as the sarcastic Euro magazine editor girlfriend, Sterling Hayden as a right wing general with a private army, Dorothy Malone as the insane seeming mother, Tomas Milan, Toshiro Mifune, Brad Dexter, and Elizabeth Taylor, whose only (unheard) line is "Son of a bitch!" Vilmos Zsigmond was the cinematographer and the score is by Maurice Jarre. Bauer has nude scenes and a black female assassin is seen topless. Berry Berensen (Mrs. Perkins), Candice Rialson, Tisa Farrow, Camilla Sparv, and Erin Grey all have small roles. This was re-edited with the hard to believe ending restored and re-released in '83. The tape runs 97 minutes. With this, Richert's THE AMERICAN

SUCCESS COMPANY (also with Bauer) (79), HEAVEN'S GATE (80) and CUTTER'S WAY (81), Bridges (whose father Lloyd was once a Communist party member) was on a roll starring in controversial money losing political themed movies. Caruso deserves recognition for producing this, NETWORK (76) and BLUE VELVET (86).

WITHOUT WARNING (JFTH, 80) P/D Greydon Clark, S Lyn Freeman, Daniel Grodrik, Ben Nett, Steve Mathis

(THE WARNING) Two vacationing teens are killed by bloodsucking frisbee like discs (with teeth and tentacles) and their terrified friends (Tarah Nutter and Christopher S. Nelson) seek help in a backwoods bar. The scary gas station owner (Jack Palance) knows about the alien threat and tries to help but the crazed Nam vet Sarge (Martin Landau) thinks that the surviving kids are aliens in disguise. Palance and Landau are both typically intense and fun to watch and any movie with both of them in scenes with Neville Brand and Ralph Meeker as local drunks is a must. Victims (all hung up in a shack and shown in bloody closeups) include Cameron Mitchell (as a macho hunter), Larry Storch (scout leader), a young David Caruso and Darby Hinton, later in Andy Sidaris movies. Sue Ann Langdon runs the bar and Kevin Hall plays the OUTER LIMITS look alien. It's definitely the best movie by Clark, but the print is too dark and I still wonder what happened to those cub scouts!

A WOMAN'S TORMENT (Alpha, 78) P/D "Robert Norman"/ Roberta Findlay
An "unbalanced" woman (the not very attractive or Asian "Tara Chung") breaks into a beach house on an island. She hears voices and bird noises and hallucinates. We see close-ups of her troubled eyes. She stabs a telephone lineman and a comic nosy neighbor (Marlene Willoughby). Meanwhile she has two sex scenes and her sister in-law (Jennifer Jordan) has sex scenes. One part is very bloody and there's an electrocution in a shower. The only part I liked was when the Goodyear Blimp passed by. The dreary hard core psycho sex movie was followed by "Norman's" better known X film MYSTIQUE (79), featuring Ron Jeremy, and probably filmed in the same seaside vacation house.

WONDER WOMEN (VSOM, 73) D Robert O'Neil. S Lou Whitehill, P/star Ross Hagen
(THE DEADLY AND THE BEAUTIFUL) Mike Carver (Hagen), a macho mercenary ex-CIA agent in leisure suits, is hired to investigate the disappearance of several athletes. Dr. Su (Nancy Kwan) has had them kidnapped to her private island for use in brain transplant experiments. Except for her assistant (Sid Haig with hair), all her agents are machine gun firing females in mini skirts. The fu fighting Maria De Aragon (from the director's BLOOD MANIA) has the most screen time and there's also blonde Filipino drive-in movie vet Roberta Collins and Afro hair Shirley Washington (from DARKTOWN STRUTTERS). An eccentric cab driver (Vic Diaz) becomes Carver's guide and translator, so you get to see a lot of Manila (and a slo/mo cock fight). The General Films release substitutes "brain sex" for the expected skin scenes (it must have been rated PG), but pays off when Su's mutant failures escape from their cells. The score is typical funky wacka wacka wha wha music. Arthur Marks was the exec. in charge of production.

WRONG WAY (SW, 72) D Ray Williams

After their car breaks down, two young women (Becky Sharp and Lynn Harris) find themselves victims of a long elaborate gang rape (while folk music plays) in the desert. Even pot selling bikers leave the four sleazeball rapists, saying "bad scene, too heavy for us." Then the females become victims of an insane (Manson inspired) killer cult leader and his (male and female) followers. Meanwhile, in a cheap hotel, two unrelated lowlifes have sex with a stoned woman (Mindy Brandt) that they plan to "trade to a Mexican whorehouse" for heroin. The local sheriff and his deputy eventually manage to shoot and kill all the bad guys. When the older leader of the first group gets high he imagines a naked woman in a cowboy hat and poker chips, cards and cash while backwards music plays. One of his diverse followers is a red haired hippy, one has an Elvis look and one is called

Crabs. They all say "groovy" and "right on." Other music is fuzz guitar and bongos. A. C. Stephens was the distributor of this unusually demented soft X movie. This is a UK print, complete with a government stamp of approval for release.

THE YOUNG STARLETS (SVE, 74) P/D "Terrence Navillus," S Margot Holtem
In this (obviously fake) sex doc. in 10 segments, porn actresses talk to the camera before their featured scenes and tell us why their work is better than a 9-5 job or how they got started. Several have solo scenes, one has a ballet class lesbian scene and the guy with the "16" year old uses a rubber (not at all usual in hard X movies at the time). One explains that she enjoyed incest at home before her threesome scene and another takes on two guys while trying to film a toothpaste commercial. With sex on a public beach, an S+M scene and people on a beach interviewed about "monokinis." Red haired Clair Dia (THE JOURNEY OF O) is the only one that seems to have had a (brief) "career."