

WARNING: I can't imagine how anybody with web access could be offended by mere words about sex movies anymore— but there are a few soft core sex movies that are mild by today's extreme and depraved standards reviewed in the 80s sections.

EIGHTIES (1981-1990) A-C **All reviews by Michael J. Weldon**

THE ALCHEMIST (Lightning, 81) D "James Amante"/Charles Band, S Alan J. Adler, P Lawrence Applebaum

In 1871, Aaron (Robert Ginty - PV # 23) is cursed by the alchemist (Robert Glaudini) who stole his wife (Lucinda Dooling from SURF II) and caused her death. In 1955, the ageless Aaron is sort of a wolfman with extra hair living in a shack, cared for by his 80 year old daughter. Nora (also Dooling), a hitchhiking waitress who has visions and nightmares, arrives with a guy (John Sanderford) that picked her up. Nora encounters midget demons in the woods and enters another dimension before the old enemies fight over her again. Some of the FX are fun and there's some gore. The score is by Richard Band and Ted Nicolodi was the editor. Band (who took over direction from someone else) didn't release it until '85. If it was one of his current Full Moon titles it would be promoted, advertised, and merchandised to death. The tape includes a trailer for Band's DUNGEONMASTER (84).

AMERICAN NIGHTMARE (Media, 81) D Don McBrearty, S John Sheppard, P Ray Sagar

Eric (Lawrence S. Day), a quiet classical pianist, searches for his missing sister (young Alexandra Paul, a decade before BAYWATCH). He falls for her stripper roommate (Lora Staley), and toughens up as he meets the dregs of society. He discovers that his sister was a hooker victim of a razor slashing psycho and that a killer pimp has been secretly video taping his whores at work. 20 years later, I don't mind giving away the surprise. One sex tape shows Eric's rich estranged corporate father with his own daughter and the killer is the star of TV telethons. Several pot smoking strippers (including Lenore Zann and Claudia Udy), are seen in action (one does an act with a pitchfork!) but there's nothing glamorous about it. The slobbering audience is very convincing. With "Mike" Ironside (with hair) as the police Sgt. and a gay drag queen victim. I love the title, but this was obviously filmed in Toronto. A large neon sign advertises (the then new) MTV, a marquee advertises a reissue of TRUCK TURNER and some graffiti claims that "The Viletones Suck"! The producer had starred in H. G. Lewis' WIZARD OF GORE and Paul (PROM NIGHT) Lynch was exec producer.

ASSAULT OF THE KILLER BIMBOS (Urban Classics, 88) D Anita Rosenberg, S Ted Nicolau, P David DeCoteau, John Schouweiler

Go Go dancer Peaches Page (Christina Whitaker from THE NAKED CAGE) is blamed for the club owner's murder, so flees to the Mexican border with two waitresses, Lulu (dyed blonde Elizabeth Kaitan) and Darlene (Tammara Souza). Big Vinny and his moll are in pursuit. Jamie Bozian (who?), Griffin O'Neal and a blonde Nick Cassavetes are beer guzzling, pot smoking good guy surfers in a customized station wagon. Only Kaitan has topless shots but all three do sexy dances in the desert. Much of the harmless comedy is car chases featuring Eddie Deezen as a goofy cop. The various artists LP was on Rhino. The only group I ever heard of was Billion Dollar Babies. Deezen was recently seen in a GREASE reunion TV special.

BACK TO BACK (MGM, 88) D John Kincade, S George Frances Skrow, P Brad Krevoy, Steven Stabler

Bo (Bill Paxton), an attorney, returns to his childhood Arizona desert trailer home. He's hated by everyone there because his now near catatonic father was the driver

for a payroll heist that left many locals dead. Wade (Luke Askew), the scarred corrupt sheriff, bugs, robs and manipulates people and is obsessed with Bo's family. Bo, with Jesse (Apollonia from PURPLE RAIN) and his brother Todd (Todd Field), question various witnesses. Several characters have flashbacks and a horse riding Ben Johnson offers a lot of explanation in narration that was probably added on orders from executive producer Roger Corman after completion. Everything is finally figured out after a shootout. With Susan Anspach and Sal Landi. The Concorde release was rated R for no apparent reason and is by the director of TERMINAL ENTRY (87).

BEVERLY HILL GIRLS (Shocking, 85) D/S Mike Hall, P/S/cine. Glen Kral
Members of a female rock trio change their clothes a few times, play two songs then go to a party/orgy. Drummer Becky (Becky LeBeau) sings topless (and takes a bath). Guitarist Linnea (Quiqly) sings "Strange Ways" (not bad) while a naked woman is seen dancing in slow motion on a car, then has a sex scene with a female "RCA record exec." Top billed Michelle Bauer masturbates and has a lesbian scene too. The obscure soft core sex tape uses video FX. It isn't even listed in the Bare Facts Video Guide. This version comes with uncensored outtakes after the end, where a couple have sex on the stairs and you can hear the director try to guide Quigley through a lesbian scene.

BEVERLY HILLS BODY SNATCHERS (SGE, 89) P/D Jon Mostow, P/S P. K. Simonds Jr.
Two long haired teen brothers (Rodney Eastman and Warren Selko) who need money are told to go work at a morgue that does business with their gangster uncle (Seth Jaffe). The owner (Vic Tayback) and his "doc" partner, (Frank Gorshin doing his Karloff moves) manage to revive corpses, chain them up and experiment on them (like in DAY OF THE DEAD). Sure fire laugh getters include gangster zombies, a Chinese mob attack at a funeral, a kid playing with a body in a hearse, a corpse with a boner and a NIGHT SHIFT (82) style morgue party (with some topless female extras). With Brooke Bundy (mom) and Art Metrano (her gangster lover). MORTUARY ACADEMY (PV #20) actually copied parts of this embarrassment a few years later. Mostow graduated to BREAKDOWN (97) with Kurt Russell.

BEWARE, CHILDREN AT PLAY (Troma, 89) D/cine Mik Cribben, S Fred Sharkey, P Ellen Wedner, Michael Koslow

Here's a nutty, unrated gore movie that will surprise you. A trash novelist, his wife and kid go to stay with a troubled sheriff friend in "the Pine Barrens of New Jersey." 13 missing local kids and teens (including the sheriff's) are part of a cannibal cult in the woods led by "Grendl." A woman is impaled, a man is cut in half and heads are displayed in a tent. The unique payoff is when the locals get together and massacre all the kids in what a poster could brag is "An Orgy Of Shocking Violence!" Where is 42nd St. when you need it!? The dialog is the worst and the music is from a synth. It was filmed (steadicam by Jim Muro) on Staten Island and around Newark.

BLACK CANDLES (Redemption, 81) D/S "Joseph Braunstein" / Jose Larraz (Spain) (LOS RITOS SEXUALES DEL DIABLO) After a wealthy lawyer dies during sex (his image was stuck with a pin), his sister (Vanessa Hidalgo) and her professor boyfriend go to the remote (British) home of his (voyeur witch) widow. This is a minimal plot soft core sex movie with drugged female victims, lesbian scenes, a demonic sacrifice that becomes an orgy and lots of nudity. Characters also talk a lot and have sex nightmares. The witch aunt (Helga Line from earlier Euro horrors

like NIGHTMARE CASTLE and WHEN THE SCREAMING STOPS) looks great with or without her clothes. Later Larraz horror movies (REST IN PIECES, SAVAGE LUST) have less sex and he now specializes in comedies.

BLOODBATH AT THE HOUSE OF DEATH (Video Treasures, 83) P/D/S Ray Cameron, S Barry Cryer

The late Kenny Everett (a pre-MTV British VJ) stars as a German surgeon with a malfunctioning metal leg in this silly, often boring horror comedy. As in THE HAUNTING, eight experts go to Headstone Manor, where a lot of people had been hacked up by a hooded killer. Vincent Price is a satanist in a red robe who summons doubles of the scientists before going up in flames. Blonde Pamela Stephenson has a topless scene while being raped by an invisible ghost. With flashbacks, decapitations, exploding people, gay characters, fart jokes and a spaceship. The opening with stray body parts everywhere is the funniest part, but Price provides a few laughs. Incredibly, the only 80s American features with Price were THE OFFSPRING and DEAD HEAT. Stephenson had (briefly) been a SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE regular.

BLOOD DELIRIUM (Shocking Images, 88) D/S Sergio Bergonzelli

The wife/model (Brigitte Christensen) of a rich and famous artist "Maestro" (bearded John Phillip Law from PV #12) dies. The dead woman appears in visions "from the future" to a Paris pianist (also Christensen) who is busy setting a table while topless. The Maestro and his brute servant Herman (Gordon Mitchell from THE GIANT OF METROPLIS) dig up the body (now a skeleton in a somehow preserved wig and dress). The wife substitute eventually moves into the remote old castle to model but the demented artist still can't find inspiration ("Can you give me the color for suffering!?") until he starts painting with blood. Herman kills women and hangs them upside down naked for draining and drugs and rapes the new model (while she has visions of maggots and lizards). This ridiculous part supernatural horror movie, is supposedly about the curse of Van Gogh.

BOOGIEMAN II (VCI, 82) P/D/S/act Uli Lommel, D Bruce Starr

"Six months later" the traumatized Lacey (Love) arrives in Hollywood to visit a friend (Shannah Hall) and her director husband (Lommel). This time the suspicious German servant (Sholto Von Douglas) is possessed by the mirror. During a pool party, obnoxious Hollywood types (first seen photographed as if they were ghouls) that want to be part of a movie based on Lacey's true story are killed. Death is by floating garden tools, a cork screw, and a power toothbrush. A woman dies sucking on a car exhaust pipe. The Hollywood Babylon book is seen and Eric Von Stroheim and DePalma's "bomb" BLOW OUT are mentioned. The new parts were filmed in the director's house. You also get all the highlights of THE BOOGIEMAN in flashbacks, flashbacks inside flashbacks, a nightmare inside a flashback and even John Carradine inside a flashback. Lommel's BRAINWAVES and THE DEVONSVILLE TERROR, both also with Love, were made around the same time.

BORN IN FLAMES (First Run, 83) P/D/S/edit Lizzie Bordon

This impressive low budget (it took 5 years to finish) documentary style look at what led to the "peaceful" revolution in NYC centers on three characters. The

black gay revolutionary Adelaide (Jeanne Satterfield) becomes a martyr after she's killed in jail. Two underground DJs, one white (Adele Bertei) and one black (Honey) eventually band together. Women start target practice, take over CBS TV, and bomb the World Trade Center (!). Faked news reports, discussions and arguments take up much of the time. Bertei (who was in Peter Laughner's last band in Cleveland, then the Contortions - Pat Place is in this too) is seen singing "Undercover Nation" with her all female band The Bloods, raps, and warns that "the government will flood the streets with smack." The cast includes Katherine Bigelow (her STRANGE DAZE shows a more likely future than this does) as a newspaper editor, Ron Vawter (PHILADELPHIA) and Eric Bogosian. I lived in the (smack flooded) East Village during the 80s, so noticed many familiar faces in small roles. Red Crayola and bits of several famous artists' songs are also heard. Borden went on to direct WORKING GIRLS (87) and LOVE CRIMES (92).

BOYS NEXT DOOR (New World, 84) D Penelope Spheeris, S Glen Morgan, James Wong, P Keith Rubenstein, Sandy Howard

Roy (Maxwell Caulfield), a pissed off, muscular trailer trash teen and his only friend Bo (Charlie Sheen) graduate from high school, then drink while driving to L.A. to party before facing a future of factory work or military service. Roy leads the sometimes reluctant Bo on a harrassment and murder spree, targeting women, gays and minorities. Pretty much ignored when released, this ahead of its time feature was an accurate look at things to come. Characters watch violent Japanese anime and one victim says "In ten years you'll be illiterate unless you learn to use computers." BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD had to be influenced by the horrifying but often hilarious things Roy and Bo say. Caulfield and Sheen are both excellent. With Christopher McDonald and Hank Garrett as detectives, Patti D'Arbanville, and Moon Zappa. The soundtrack includes choice tracks by The Cramps (several), Iggy, Tex And The Horseheads and effective electronic music by George S. Clinton. It was made between the director's SUBURBIA (84) and HOLLYWOOD VICE SQUAD (86).

BRAINWAVES (Embassy, 82) P/D/S/cine. Ulli Lommel

In S.F., Kaylie (Suzanna Love) is hit by a car and goes into a coma after surgery. Dr. Clavius (a grim Tony Curtis), and his assistant (Paul Wilson) convince her architect husband (Keir Dullea) to OK an experimental computer process to bring her back. Kaylie recovers but has visions of a cliché murder (electrocution by radio thrown in a tub), is being stalked by a man lurking around (we only see his feet) and thinks she's going insane. The confused but determined couple investigate, learning from several flashbacks. Turns out she's had a secret brain transplant from the tub murder victim (Corinne Alphen-Wahl who provides the R nudity). Lommel (after THE BOOGIE MAN) tries for a Hitchcock feel with lots of slow sweeping camera pans, a full dramatic score (by Robert O. Ragland), shots to remind you of REAR WINDOW and VERTIGO and Vera Miles as the mother in law. It's dated by having the young son play Space Invaders and attempting a Rubik's cube. The assistant character was added because Curtis (who was smoking crack at the time) couldn't handle his lines.

BULGASARI (Cinefear, 85) D/S Shin Sang-Ok, Chong Gan Ja P Kim Jong-Il

In medieval times, a master blacksmith refuses to make weapons for the army, so is caged, beaten and starved. Before dying he creates a small horned Bulgasari ("an impossible fantasy animal" in our Korean dictionary) from rice and prays to the spirits. Drops of blood from his daughter Ami (Chang Sun Hui) bring the creature to life. The lovable Bulgasari grows and grows as it eats anything metal (from needles to tools, plows and weapons...). The powerful scary looking towering (man in suit) monster then joins the growing peasant army in epic battle scenes. The top general tries to have it burned, buried alive and destroyed with huge cannons (shaped like animals). He even tries an exorcist ceremony with a priestess ("Leave this world!") and many dancing women. Other characters are the heroic swordsman rebel In-dae (Ham Gi Sap), whose mother is tortured and Ami's

little brother. This fun revolutionary folk legend was made in isolated North Korea by South Korean director (Ok) who had been kidnapped (!) in '78 by order of movie fanatic Kim Il Sung. The son of the late "great leader" is the only Communist dictator (so far) who inherited his position. If there was any justice in the world, a Bulgasari would eat him NOW so millions of Koreans could stop starving and be united with their southern relatives. With synth music and kung fu sound FX. The tape is in Korean with (hard to read) English subtitles. It opens with the Japanese language trailer. Ok (who was uncredited), later directed in America as Simon Sheen.

THE BURNING (Shocking, 81) D Tony Maylam, S Peter Lawrence, Bob Weinstein, P Harvey Weinstein

Filmways released it, but here's where Miramax Productions started. After killing a 42nd St. hooker, a disfigured former summer camp caretaker kills off a bunch of teens in the woods. Some murder scenes show a (supernatural seeming) shadowy figure attacking with hedge clippers. Brian Matthews stars with Leah Ayrers (HOT CHILD IN THE CITY). Dave (Kentucky Fried spokesman Jason Alexander with hair) is the most interesting character though. He's a good natured wise guy who stands up for females and the voyeur nerd (Brian Backer), who sells rubbers and Hustlers, does a Curley impression and moons the blonde bully (Larry Joshua). It was a fun start for the future SEINFELD star, but young Holly Hunter is barely there as just one of the kids. Also with Fisher Stevens. This is an uncut version with two actresses doing full nudity in shower and swim scenes and convincing gory killings (thanks to Tom Savini). The score is by Rick Wakeman and the editor was Jack Sholder. It was shot near Buffalo.

CEMETERY SISTERS (Incredibly Strange, 89) D/S "Nick Phillips" (Steve Millard), P Francis Millard

Joan and Leslie, the cheerful ordinary looking grown daughters of a Las Vegas mortician, place ads in the personals, marry men, then immediately kill them for their money. Only a surprise visit by an aunt slows down the killing (usually with large kitchen knives). Joan has traumatic childhood flashbacks of helping her father work on corpses. The running time is stretched greatly by stock shots of neon casino signs and flashbacks where Joan goes to a theater and watches long scenes from earlier Millard movies (CRIMINALLY INSANE and SATANS BLACK WEDDING). The "Sutton Sisters" star in this cheap shot on video release.

COLLECTORS ITEM (New Star, 85) D Giuseppe Patroni Griffi, S Albert Silvestri, Concha Humbria, Lucio Fulci

(LA GABIA) During Christmas, Michael (Tony Musante), an ad exec in Paris, visits Marie (Laura Antonelli) who he had seduced and abandoned when she was a teenager 15 years earlier. Both have flashbacks of their affair (he used to tie her up) and she ties (then chains) him up in bed. He has sex with her and her teenage daughter Jacqueline (the Spanish Blanca Marsillach), who sneaks in when moms away. The vengeful, sad and confused Marie keeps him around even after he's badly wounded trying to escape. Meanwhile, the cheating captive's rich girlfriend (Florinda Bolkan), searches for him. Blanca's sister Christa Marsillach (also in OPERA) plays the young Marie and does the most nudity. Antonelli (who had starred in the director's DIVINE NYMPH ten years earlier) wears sexy negligees. The Italian/Spanish production was filmed partially in France. The music is by Morricone. Within a year year, Fulci starred Blanca in DANGEROUS OBSESSION, a more exploitive variation of the same script.

COMMANDO SQUAD (TWE, 87) P/D Fred Olen Ray, S Michael Sonye, P Alan Amiel
Kat (Playboy foldout Kathy Shower, who keeps her clothes on) is sent to Mexico to rescue agent Clint (Brian Thompson), who spends most of this movie being beaten, tortured and tied up. Lead villain Morgan (William Smith) calls the big lecherous mayor (Mel Welles) a bloated spic and says "I'll jerk your guts out and hang you with them!" The leads are as dull as possible, but the enthusiastic bad guys (including Sid Haig, Ross Hagen and Russ Tamblyn) make this typical Ray

production almost worth watching. It all ends with explosions, gun battles and a burning man. Bronson Canyon is a location and The Pussycat Theater marquee announces SEXUALLY ALTERED STATES. Marie Windsor sells arms from behind the counter at Hollywood Book and Poster (original location). Also with Benita Martinez, Robert Quarry, Dawn Wildsmith and Tane McClure. The cinematographer was Gary Graver and the screenwriter was the singer of Haunted Garage.

CRYSTAL FORCE (Vista St, 90) D Laura Keats, S Jerry Daly, Jared Brady, P Craig Suttle

After her husband dies, the grieving Hope (Rebecca Brooks) moves in with her concerned beauty shop owner daughter Beth (blonde star Katherine McCall). Beth buys a magic crystal from an antique shop (owned by a laughing heavyweight satanist) and her mother holds all female seances. This results in nightmares and the appearance of a man in a suit monster that fades in and out. The not bad, serious horror movie resembles a soap opera with nudity, rape, a sex scene and Billy Idol and David Lee Roth references. I watched half of it before realizing that McCall is aka the once very prolific porn star Sharon Kane!

CUTTING CLASS (Republic, 88) D Rospo Pallenberg, S Steve Slavkin, P Rudy Cohen, Donald R. Beck

(ALL AMERICAN MURDER) Characters are killed (in a large kiln, axe in head, impaled with a flag...) at a high school. The suspects are Brian (Donovan Leitch), a confused, "new wave" look guy who had undergone shock treatments in a mental hospital and sneaks around on a bicycle, Dwight (Brad Pitt in his first movie), an irresponsible, hot headed, beer drinking basketball player who claims "I don't get mad, I get even!" and maybe the weird janitor. Dwight's girlfriend (Jill Schoelen, from THE STEPFATHER) has to decide who the killer is in time and a running joke is her dad (Martin Mull), left for dead while hunting, trying to crawl home. With Roddy McDowall (letch principal), Brenda Lynn Klemme (red haired friend) and Dirk (son of Dan) Blocker as a gym teacher. The leads are all very good (especially for a "slasher" movie). There's not much blood and no full nudity but the camera lingers on Schoelen's butt a lot. Pallenberg wrote EXCALIBUR and THE EMERALD FOREST. Three soundtrack songs are by Wall Of Voodoo (post - Stan Ridgeway). This could use a new promotion because of Pitt and SCREAM. Note: Apparently Pitt (now frequently seen on Japanese TV ads) was arrested for indecent exposure while working on this.

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