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Catching Up at the Video Store: Jigglefests For The Masses



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Catching Up at the Video Store: Jigglefests For The Masses

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It used to be you could keep up with the latest home video releases. During the VHS era, new titles were released either as "rental" (titles were sold to rental stores only for an exuberantly high \$80+ a cassette!) or "sell-through" (wherein the public could buy the title in stores for under \$30 a pop). The only alternative to purchasing costly analog video cassettes was the whole LaserDisc movement of the time.

LaserDiscs were definitely the DVD of their day, as they offered better quality (even if you did have to flip them over mid-movie) and even a few special features here and there — all that for just a few dollars more than a video tape. But, as some of you may recall, LaserDiscs seemed to remain the "niche" thing to do: they weren't picked up by most of the general public (who probably just didn't "get" it), and you usually had to go to specialty stores to find the latest releases.

And then came DVD (and later Blu-ray). Suddenly, we had anamorphic widescreen pictures, dynamic DTS surround sound, and, once again, bonus materials. The difference between DVD and LD, though? People actually "got" it this time (and it may be due to the whole "compact size" thing). Finally, videophiles were able to buy the latest release for a decent price...without having to wait for a "sell-through" re-release.

DVDs also offered us more — and, by more, I primarily mean more to *choose from*. Obscure titles began to crawl out of the woodwork (or was it plastic?), making the weekly odyssey to keep up at the video store that much more of a chore. Nowadays, it's practically impossible for even a full-time couch potato to keep up with all of the new releases (from both major and independent distributors alike) that seem to pile up on rental

and retail shelves every week. And so, it is with bloodshot eyes and a thorough lack of sleep that I bring to you a list of titles you may have missed (and may possibly want to add to your rental queues)...

With this edition of *Catching Up...*, I have decided to dive head first into the sleazy world of "Jigglefests" — films that are chock-full of boobies and booties, and surprisingly lacking on any *other* socially-redeeming values. It was like a dream come true.

<u>Naked Ambition: An R-Rated Look At The X-Rated Industry</u> (Phase 4 Films) – We begin with the most "mainstream" of all titles in this session — a tastefully-made documentary about the porn biz by photographer Michael Grecco. Join Grecco as he ventures to the 2006 Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas, mingling with such greats as Ron Jeremy, Jenna Jameson, published Larry Flynt, and more. Next, get up close and personal with Joanna Angel and Sunny Lane as they audition for the Adult Video News Awards. Good times for all. Also available <u>On-Demand</u>.

The Alcove (Severin Films) – What would a journey into sexploitation be without the hands-on approach of Italian schlock-meister Joe D'Amato? Severin Films brings us another class-ick from the late Italian filmmaker, which (re-)teams horror/sex genre favorites Annie Bell, Al Cliver and *Black Emanuelle* star Laura Gemser. Lilli Carati takes the lead in this tale of slavery, drugs, and all-things sex in the '40s, and D'Amato receives mad props for actually having production values for a change. Severin rounds out this lascivious goody with a vintage interview with the late D'Amato.

Schoolgirl Report: *Vol.* #6 – *What Parents Would Gladly Hush Up* (Impulse Pictures) – It's a German-made production from 1973, set in a high school full of oversexed and oh-so-sultry teenage nymphs, and it's now available to drool over on DVD. How much further do I need to boast a must-see like this for you?

Horat! (Pink Lotus Entertainment, Inc.) – The full title of this DVD releases reads *Horat! The Sexual Learnings Of America For Make Benefit Beautiful Nation Of Kaksuckistan*, which pretty much sums up the amount of classiness to be found here. There's nothing like being topical in the cinematic world of sex: if a mainstream movie is a success, then you gotta make a spoof with a lot of suck-cess. So, why did it take the filmmakers behind this winner so long to come up with a hardcore spoof of *Borat*? Hell if I know. The bigger question is, "Why did they make said hardcore spoof and then opt to edit out all of the hardcore goods and release this as a softcore flick? As least that's what it looks like they did to me. Porn stars Tommy Pistol, If you enjoy Cable TV porn, here's your ticket to happiness.

<u>Vamp Vixens</u> (Brookland Bros. Entertainment) – Yup, it's more Cable TV porn. This time, however, the series of story-less, non-related vignettes feature a lot of tattooed and gothy Suicide-looking Girls. The whole thing is hosted by Luna Moon, a dominatrix-vampire lady.

<u>I Am Virgin</u> (Independent Media Distribution) – Blame *Twilight*. I do (of course, I blame *Twilight* for everything). Granted, vampires and sex have walked hand-in-gooey-hand *long* before those Catholic nuns ever started swapping kids with rulers, but the recent *Twilight* fad seems to have given way more vampiric oddities than most people would care to look at. An obvious play on *I Am Legend*, *I Am Virgin* tells the T&A-filled tale of the last man on Earth (Adam Davis), and his mis-adventures in a world inhabited solely by sex-crazed vampire chicks. Naturally, Ron Jeremy still manages to make a guest appearance. The bottom line: it has better dialogue than *Twilight* and it's *way* more entertaining than *I Am Legend*!

Happy viewing, kids!

<u>26 May, 2010</u> - Posted by <u>Luigi Bastardo</u> | <u>Movies</u> | <u>sexploitation</u>, <u>bad</u>, <u>Laura Gemser</u>, <u>Joe D'Amato</u>, <u>nudity</u>, <u>T&A</u>, <u>Naked Ambition</u>, <u>The Alcove</u>, <u>Schoolgirl Report: Vol. #6</u>, <u>Horat!</u>, <u>Vamp Vixens</u>, <u>I Am Virgin</u> | <u>Leave a Comment</u>

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I encourage everyone to sign-up here, leave comments, and help me build a community of nutjobs that would even make Marshall Applewhite proud.

Oh, and all of those links to Amazon I have on here? That's about the only way I will ever make money off of this, so if you want to buy it, try buying it through there. Thanks, kiddos.

-Luigi Bastardo

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 Luigi Bastardo
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