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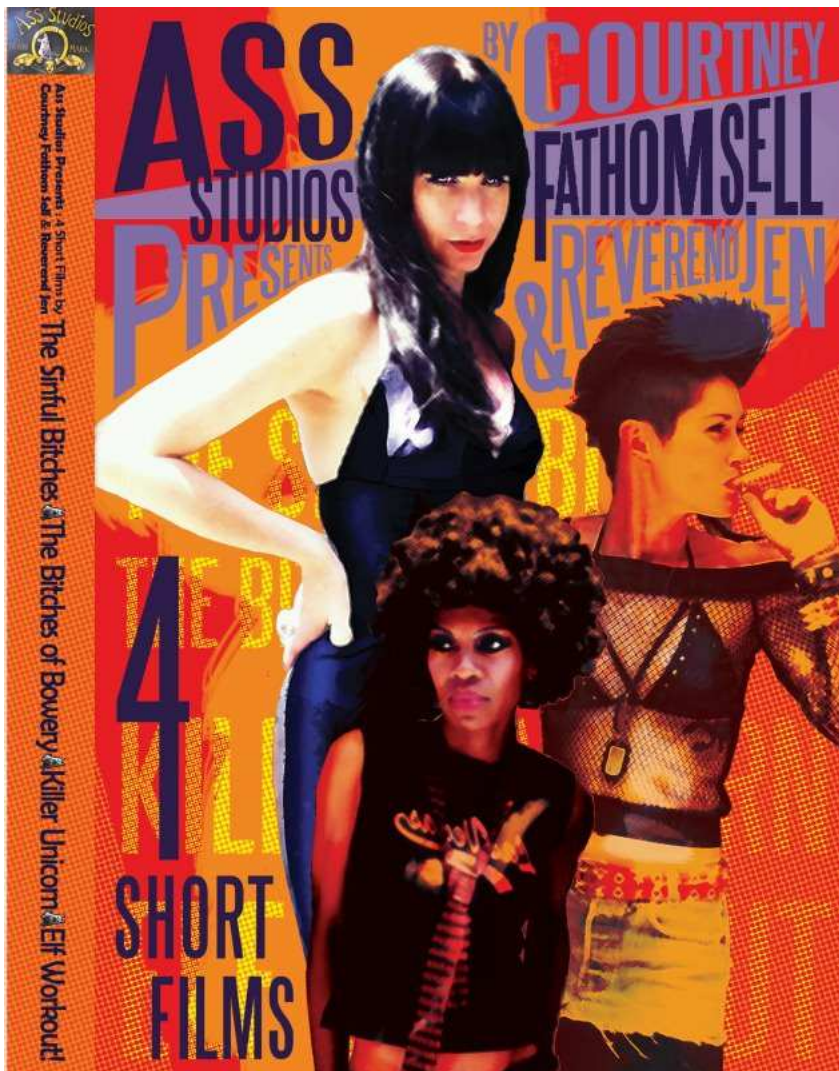


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[Interview with Courtney FathomSell](#)

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Ass Studios is The Definition of D.I.Y. Struggling but making their mark in Independent Film Capitol of The World The Lower East Side. Ass Studios is reminiscent of an era

gone by fueled by Sleaze, Drugs and Rock N Roll. (The three things that made The Lower East Side famous.) The latest release features 4 Short Films on DVD: 'The Sinful Bitches,' 'The Bitches of Bowery,' 'Killer Unicorn' and 'Elf Workout!' Featuring: Reverend Jen, Faceboy, Stormy Leather, Femme Appeal, Reina Terror, Robert Prichard, Moonshine Shorey, Patrick Bucklew (Mangina), and more! All films Directed by Courtney Fathom Sell. We got a chance to sit down with Courtney Sell and talk to him about it.

Hi Courtney, -

Hi there!

When did you start making movies? – Ok, yeah, let's start there! I think I was eight or so. Using friends parents' video-cameras until I got my own as a Christmas present later on. I used to make slasher films in the backyard with my friends and they were just such trash, but a blast to make. When I was in high school, I kinda got the reputation of being the 'movie guy'. I had friends and played football for a while, but was still rather unpopular. I was shy, but could really find myself opening up behind the camera. Once I gained a minor reputation in the hallways of school, all the pretty girls wanted to be in one of my movies. It was a good catch. They thought I was like Dawson from 'Dawson's Creek', but instead of making sad sappy bullshit, I'd have them being chased around with a guy with a chainsaw or vomit on camera. I once put together an underground boxing ring in my parents basement without them knowing and all of us would fight each other and film it. Pretty soon, the schtick was up when someone came home with a fat lip and black eye – but that's a whole other story. I'm insane, sorry.

You started Ass Studios with Rev. Jen, How did you guys meet? -

Oh wow. Well, I had known about Rev for a while, just being really close to that circuit of people in the past without making the connection. I once saw a clip from her show 'Electra Elf' and thought it was great. She's beautiful aint she! I moved back to New York City after leaving New Orleans when my block got 'hot' as the say, and contacted her to see if she wanted to collaborate on a new film. I just got through making my documentary 'The Hole' and was hungry for a new project. We immediately hit it off, and she hired me to direct a commercial for her novel 'Elf Girl'. Afterwards, we went on a bender thinking the end of the world was coming, and made a pact in a drunken haze to start a film production company in order to make a soft-core porn horror film. The world didn't come to an end, which was nice, because we had a lot of work to do! Since that meeting, and upon doing this interview, we have made about 20 films together. She is an inspiring, beautiful, and true creative force. Once, I got high on ambien and made a short film of her taking a bubble bath. Really Warholian style type of thing. Whether it ever comes out or not, it really captured her beauty. As do most of our other films!

Stormy Leather also makes an appearance on The Dvd we're big fans of hers, Do you plan on working with her again? -

Stormy is amazing! I think you'll be seeing a lot more of her in our films soon. She's become a core-member of Ass Studios. 'Elf Workout' was the first short we made, and Stormy came to the shoot ready to rock out. I hadn't even met her before and she was just completely game for everything. So it only made sense we featured her in The Bitches of Bowery too!

The Sinful Bitches reminded me of The Sinful Dwarf but your was funnier who wrote it? -

Yes! It makes me happy that you even know about The Sinful Dwarf. And yes, we are paying some serious homage there. That film really hit Jen and I hard. We were astonished when we saw it. 'The Sinful Bitches' did not have a script, so no one really wrote it. Therefore, it is really a great testament to all the actors in it including Faceboy, Rev, Mangina and Reina! We made it in one afternoon, and the entire time, Reina was under the belief that we were making a different movie (which has yet to be made called 'Satan's Bitches')Ha! All I remember from making that movie was just thinking about what scene should come next. As long as we had a basic story-line, I could work it all together in editing. I see that film as being a cartoon more than anything else.

Where did the idea of fingering The Pocket Pussy come from? -

I thought it would be hot.

What inspired Elf workout? It made me feel dirty. It was the same feeling I got when I looked at Victoria Secrets catalogs as a kid. Its absolutely Genius! Also Rev. Jen is HOT! -

Rev and I were talking about how most workout videos are simply masturbational material. I know the "sleazy work-out video" formula has been done before, but I really got excited about trying to make one which topped most others. Whether or not it did could be argued. I'm happy you felt dirty! That's the point! I like Linnea Quigley's Horror Workout video too. That was my main inspiration. I

love The Femme Fatale attitude in The bitches of Bowery, had a huge Russ Meyer vibe to it. Will you make Feature lengths like this. Im all over it. -

I would love too! I have a few ideas I am pondering in this same style. Actually, we just completed a new piece (though it is also a short) called 'Waltz of the Bitches' in which The Bitches of Bowery return and torture an evil count named Rick Santorum. Hopefully this will be released very soon. To be perfectly honest Mike, if I ever get enough money and energy to make a feature, it will most likely be in the style of a Russ Meyers' film. I love films that people can enjoy while getting drunk in a bar and don't need to stress over heavy story-line. Not saying I don't ever want to do a complicated film one day, or am being lazy, but right now, all of our screenings are usually at bars and I love hearing the audience scream, yell, swear, and throw beer cans at the screen. It's just my comfort zone. Quick factoid: The Bitches of Bowery was initially made as a music video for a band (who will remain nameless) and upon seeing the final cut, they told me they didn't like it, that it was not the "image" they were looking for and did not want their music associated with it! And we had already done ALL this work. So luckily, Moby and his band Diamondsnake, who are amazing, ended up using the footage for one of their music videos. The Bitches of Bowery is just a longer version of this music video.

The Killer Unicorn was absolutely Hilarious. Why did you cast dudes in their 30-40's to play High School students? -

Ha! That's the joke! I love reading the reviews from some "critics" about how it was so 'miscast'. Haha! Get with the joke assholes! One of the main stars of the film, our dear friend Robert Prichard (who played the main Bully with the football) is famous for playing many villains in classic Troma films such as 'The Toxic Avenger' and 'Class of Nuke em' High', so we thought it would be great to have him reprise his most famous roles!

What is your company currently working on? -

Well we are just coming off our a week long film festival we began called 'Assdance Film Festival', which had its closing night ceremony last night! The idea for the festival was the screen only movies that had been rejected by other film festivals. It was an incredible event and the closing night ceremony had a bunch of our friends like Faceboy, Janeane Garofolo, Michael Musto, Victor Varnado, and so many others handing out awards to all the filmmakers. We got about 30 submissions and every film got screened and every filmmaker got an award. I believe strongly in this kind of idea. I hate entry fees and the submission process of most film festivals. Therefore, Rev, Robert Prichard, Tom Tenney, Faceboy and Myself all decided to start our own festival to showcase the films which have 'Fallen through the cracks' and call it Assdance! As far as other films, we had to take a quick break due to other personal projects. Both Rev and I have a bunch of stuff on the side. She is writing a new book and I just got through working with the incredible documentary filmmaker Ondi Timoner (Dig!) on her new series, so Ass Studios is now just coming back together. We have so many new films however, we are thinking its time for a Volume 2 DVD! Oh yeah, Rev wrote a brilliant script for our first possible feature 'Satan's Bitches' which we are itching to begin on if we can shake off our hangovers. You will certainly see all of the Ass Studios superstars in that one! Ok ok, now I gotta get back down to the pub and drink away this headache. Assdance killed us! Thank you so much for giving your time to talk with me Mike. I really appreciate all your kind words.



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