



Did they really do this? Did they actually shoot a sequel to “Showgirls”? By all appearances. I have a DVD in my hands proudly proclaiming to be SHOWGIRLS 2: PENNY’S FROM HEAVEN and it promises to one-up its predecessor. (By the way, love that title - “Penny” is a central character, Penny Slot ... yep ...) Whether it’s a sick suck job or a sexy sequel will be entirely up to the individual viewer. This one connects to the original not by way of character continuity - rather, the thread between seminal and sequel is decadence. And not just any old decadence. Nope. We’re talking extreme. Delirious decadence. Ecstatic. Over the top like the cow jumped over the moon. SHOWGIRLS 2 seems to have aimed right from the beginning for sensational, ostentatious,

sexplosive, camp-cult insanity. One could easily argue it outdoes its predecessor, even if it doesn't have the budget or Paul Verhoeven. It does have Rena Riffel behind the camera, as well as writing the script and producing the damn thing. Oh, and in front of the camera. It also has the freedom indie filmmaking provides outside Hollywood strictures. One wonders if Verhoeven intended camp but there seems little question with Riffel's. One thing Riffel does have is experience. She's an all around performer and entertainer. Her talents include dancing. Her resume includes acting in "Striptease" and "Mulholland Drive", besides her role in SHOWGIRLS 2. I'm not going to describe the movie for you. You need to experience it on your own. I will say it's got the sex and sinister schemes to fill a pulp novel.

145 minutes, color, not rated, widescreen

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