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Gums

Written by: [George Pacheco](#) on October 22nd, 2012



Theatrical Release Date: Florida/USA, 1976

Director: Robert J. Kaplan

Writer: Robert Kaplan, Sam Coen, Paul Coen

Cast: Brother Theodore, Terri Hall, Robert Kerman, Jody Marshall

DVD Released: May 22nd, 2012

Approximate running time: 66 minutes

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 Full Frame

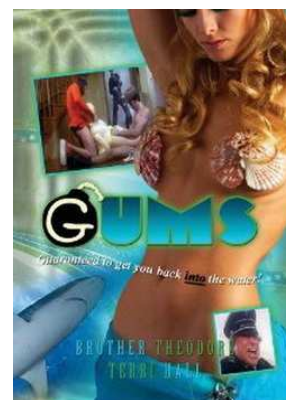
Sound: Dolby Digital Stereo English

Subtitles: N/A

DVD Release: Sinful Mermaid

Region Coding: Region 1 NTSC

Retail Price: \$24.95



Gums is a ludicrous, pornographic parody of *Jaws*, notable primarily for its casting of famed comedian and spoken word artist Brother Theodore in a non-sex supporting role, alongside such other hardcore stars as Terri Hall and [Cannibal Holocaust](#) actor Robert Kerman.

The film deals with a sex hungry mermaid which is preying upon the men (and women) of a small coastal town, orally attacking anyone unlucky enough to be swimming in the water, leaving a trail of withered willies in her wake.

Theodore takes on the Captain Quint role popularized by Robert Shaw, only this time Theodore's character is the lunatic Nazi 'Captain Clitoris' who takes on the mermaid hunt for financial gain. Elsewhere, it's Kerman who adopts the Richard Dreyfuss persona—twisted a bit via Kerman's too-tight swimsuit and

ever-present blow up doll—leaving the town's Sheriff Coxswain (Paul Styles) top be set up as Roy Scheider's Brody by default.

The most curious aspect of *Gums* is the film's perverse use of puppetry during some of the latter sex scenes, the effect of which is both disturbing and side-splittingly hilarious in its vulgarity. It should be noted, however, that this version of *Gums* has been edited a bit, with all of the hardcore bits either being truncated or obscured by various optical effects or cartoon imagery.

Despite this censorship, *Gums* still provides plenty of entertainment value, simply due to the sheer absurdity of the whole affair. The people behind *Gums*—a crew which included future *Terminator* and *Fright Night* composer Brad Fiedel in the music department—were clearly having a grand ol' time putting this slice of sleaze together, with the film resonating to this day as an 'only in the Seventies' curiosity which is bizarre, crass...and thoroughly enjoyable.

The DVD:

Sinful Mermaid's release of *Gums* shows the age and wear of an adult film which probably hasn't endured the best keeping over the past thirty-plus years. Released in its standard ratio of 1.33:1, the film's colors suffer from a bit of print damage and dirt, but overall the video presentation is solid. The audio levels are a bit muffled at times, but this might be due to poor sound handling on the set, as opposed to any fault of the DVD mastering. Extras for this release are kept to a minimum, with only three black and white stag reels—totally unrelated to the film's source material—set aside on the bare bones menu. Overall, *Gums* gets a serviceable, but below average presentation from Sinful Mermaid.



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