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Gums

1976

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Over the past year or two I've received a lot of offers to review film parodies, not something that's unusual unless you consider that they have all been from none other than Vivid Entertainment meaning they are hardcore porn. The most curious email in recent months was an offer to do a set visit, something which I wasn't quite sure how to take. The idea of porn and parody isn't anything that's entirely new however and back in what might be considered the mainstream acceptance of the industry, the 1970's saw a number of porn parodies targeted at whatever the latest box office smash was.

Gums was originally released back in 1976 and lampoons Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* although "lampoon" might not be the right word in this case since it really has only a few things which might be considered similar to *Jaws*. Unlike many adult films today, *Gums* has a plot although a very basic one. The small town of Great Head has recently been the site of terror in the water as a number of men have fallen victim to a horrible creature in the water who is looking to sip from the phallic cup of those who come near to where she dwells. Sheriff Rooster Coxswain (Paul Styles) soon realizes that his only hope is to get in touch with an old friend, Dr. Sy Smegma (Robert Kerman) who might be able to stop this terror before the unthinkable happens. Assisted by Captain Carl Clitoris (Brother Theodore) they begin their search of the open waters for the sex craved mermaid who has her eye on every rod in the water, and it's not the kind used for fishing.

I'm really not sure what to make of this film. At first I thought that perhaps it was a modern parody but quickly realized that wasn't the case at all. I'm also not certain if this is the type of movie that should be categorized as being pornography or sexploitation since any real hardcore action is obscured by overlaid graphics. Apparently there is an uncut version of the film, I'm not positive this means uncensored, and I also couldn't find much regarding which version this is.

Gums puts in just about every sexual antic you can think of, at least from what you can see or imagine is going on. Oral, woman on top, sex with blow up dolls, sex toys, and plenty of nudity are all par for the course with this one. There are

also those few spots where *Gums* remembers that it's trying to parody *Jaws* and goes back into the plot and very poorly written script but in reality, what porno has memorable dialog? It's really kind of a lost art for the industry since most producers realized that people weren't watching for any type of banter between characters so much as just the sex.

What's notable about the movie are some of those who are involved. Brad Fiedel wrote the score for *Gums* and later he would go on to compose for films such as

wrote the score for *Gums* and later he would go on to compose for films such as *The Terminator*, *T2*, *True Lies* and even *Amazing Stories*. Brother Theodore meanwhile was the voice of Gollum in the animated version of *The Hobbit* and *Return of the King*. Robert Kerman has appeared in horror classic such as *Cannibal Holocaust*, *Cannibal Ferox* and *Eaten Alive* as well as made some minor appearances in modern cinema such as *Spider-Man*. Also actress Crystal Sync was featured in *Bloodsucking Freaks* under the name Erica Wolfe.

The only extras on the DVD are a collection of three stag films, old school nudies that feature a single girl stripping and showing her “talents.”

Technically this makes the first time we’ve reviewed an adult film on this site although it is a borderline call on what genre it truly belongs to. *Gums* is more of a curiosity piece although some who enjoy vintage adult films may find that this is the perfect thing for their collection but if you’re looking for true hardcore, don’t expect this to be a movie like *Debbie Does Dallas* or *Deep Throat* in that regard as *Gums* has more emphasis on parody rather than sex.

-mike-

Directed by:
Robert J. Kaplan

Written by:
Paul E. Cohen
Sam Cohen
Robert J. Kaplan

DVD Features:
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Audio: English Stereo 2.0
Bonus Films: Lusty Lady, Busty Babe,
Natural Blonde

Cast:
Brother Theodore
Terri Hall
Robert Kerman
Jody Maxwell
Crystal Sync
Paul Styles
Ian Morley
Mark Carvel
Zack Norman
Edward Krane
Ras Kean
Michael Sullivan
Steve Kraus

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