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## [Ilsa the Wicked Warden \(Video review by Michael Allen Rose\)](#)

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### **Ilsa the Wicked Warden**

**1977 – 2012 Cheezy Flicks Entertainment**

One of the most famous exploitation series in history, the Ilsa series centers around a truly sadistic woman and her tender young charges. This time around, she's the warden of a mental asylum that treats mental disorders like "nymphomania, lesbianism and prostitution," which explains why there's no labor shortage at Ilsa's. There's probably a line of men waiting with resumes in hand leading out the door all the way across the Colombian border.

We're introduced to the hellish asylum by way of a group shower. Somewhere between jump cuts of squealing girls showering together and shots of Ilsa soaping up her enormous jugs, one young lady decides to make a break for it. She grabs a white sheer slip and about two seconds after she runs out of the shower room, she's off into the jungle, with two gunmen in hot pursuit. At least, I think it's a jungle. At times it looks like a swamp, and then a few minutes later, there's a garden sprinkler on in the background.

Anyway, it becomes immediately apparent that Ilsa should hire better henchmen. Within minutes, the sweet-faced young escapee slits the throat of one and loses the other. She ends up on the doorstep of one Doctor Arcos who tries to nurse her back to health as she rolls around and moans about shock treatment. With her accent, it sounds like she's having nightmares about "shark treatment" which would be way funnier and probably more disturbing. Ilsa (actress Dyanne Thorne) shows up with her goons to take the girl back to the clinic and within no time flat, the girl has mysteriously died under her care. The girl's sister shows up and with the doctor's help, she decides to go in undercover to see if she can uncover the truth about Ilsa's mental hospital which turns out to be pretty much the worst plan in the history of plans.

She's admitted and given over to two butch-looking middle-aged women. As they hose our heroine down, the two guards throw out humiliating barbs about the size of her tits, spending extra time shooting cold water at her butthole. It looks uncomfortable, but refreshing, like a high-powered mint.

We soon find out that there's a hierarchy in the facility. A butch shorty with a mean streak, Juana, runs the show when the guards aren't around. She starts to bully our heroine, and proves that she's the queen bitch. There's motivation there though, and some real character development, as in a twist, it turns out shorty is Ilsa's favorite naked massage provider! Also, her pincushion. In one of the most carefully crafted scenes of sadistic glee ever, we get to see Juana used as an acupuncture practice dummy. The coup de grace? Ilsa dropping her huge rack down on the pinheads and playing hammer the nail.

Juana gets her own time in as a top later on, in the bathroom. She forces our little friend the protagonist to lick her ass clean after a er... constitutional. Yup. That happens.

The editing is either really strange or unintentionally avant-garde. Jump cuts mid-scene and mid-line lead to teleporting clothing and instantly changed postures. It's not so bad though, as usually the shot jumps to more boobs. There are so many boobs in this flick, it's got to be some kind of record. Unfortunately, they're not all happy boobs. Some are used as pincushions. A little later we see the world's worst gyno exam, complete with a tube of acid and the requisite burning. The wisps of smoke arising from the poor girl's crotch are a nice touch.

It turns out that the girls are being forced to have sex with convicts and psychos and filmed, with the results being sold as porn. Seems like a solid business model, other than the vicious mutilations and whatnot. The resulting turnover rate has to cut into your bottom line.

Of all the exploitation flicks out there, this one is a real kick in the teeth. The pincushion scene alone is a definite soul-killer, as is the acid burning hoo-ha sequence. That's not to mention the lobotomies, the breast scarification, the cattle-call group showers and the general sadism with which Ilsa abuses her charges. Actress Dyanne Thorne creates some of the most terrifyingly evil expressions outside of a rattlesnake cage, which really sells the violence. This violence isn't glamorous (even though the ladies are); it's brutal, nasty and it makes you feel like you need to wash your brain with lye. In the end though, violence begets violence, and Ilsa comes to one the most visceral endings in film history. It's something of an homage to the movie *Freaks* though with arguably an even more horrific fate for our nasty dom-in-charge, complete with metaphorical jump-cuts between humans and animals that underscores the violence. If you can stomach it, this is the darkest "women in prison" genre movie you'll ever see, and like *I Spit On Your Grave* or the aforementioned *Freaks*, the vengeful ending allows viewers to leave with a sense of closure and something like justice, even if it makes the soul squirm and rot a little.

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