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Hooked

Hooked is a fascinating documentary that takes a look into the online gay hook-up community, a world where semi-anonymous and anonymous one-time sexual encounters can be arranged.

The documentary is admirably neutral, relying almost entirely on interviews with a variety of gay men and omitting almost entirely narration. No fingers are pointed. The thing in itself is examined.

It's interesting to find that for some that use the online gay community to make sexual appointments, it seems to be a positive thing. For others, it's a debilitating world of addiction.

One thing that comes through this is the paradox of something that is so intimate yet so impersonal. Sexually, physically, these hook-ups are obviously very intimate encounters. Yet emotionally, there's great potential for an utter lack of intimacy.

Some heavy users of online chatting to link up for sex seem to have suffered tremendous emotional damage as sex is reduced to no big deal yet stands as a central, driving force of their lives. Then there are those who really seem to think the whole thing is no big deal.

A variety of personalities appear here and it's probably enlightening for heterosexuals to see such a spectrum of personalities. Some gay people's orientation may be obvious, but there are those you'd never suspect. So though it's not a direct intention of the film, it does provide an educational peek into gay culture at large via a specific cross-section of it.

This frank and fascinating film is engaging and informative and highly recommended.

Added: Monday, August 21, 2006

Reviewer: [Grand Guignol](#)

Score: ★★★★★

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