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Liberty in Restraint Behind the eyes of a fetish photographer



Despite the title this is not one of those DVD's you buy just to knock one off to when you come home on a Saturday night/Sunday morning, having failed to pull much to the amusement of your equally inebriated mates. This is a surprisingly in depth, non judgemental and emotional Documentary of the world as seen by Noel Graydon, Australian Fine Art Fetish Photographer and directed by Michael Ney.

"I find real abuse dark, I find real fetish very light. In fact the amount of dark images that I have done with fetish are minimal because I am actually trying to show the light and the beauty and the love. I've always been trying to show how love is expressed in a fetish context because I think that is what the untrained eye misses". Noel's own words, the love, respect and trust that he found within the scene is mentioned throughout the 90 minute Documentary. not what most people imagine the world of Bondage/discipline, Dominance-submission, sado-masochism to be.

Joel Elliot, Noel's mentor and close friend, tells of the gangly apprentice who "got in his face" the first day they met, and how he advised him that you couldn't just take photos you had to live it, Noel did just that. With the help of other mentors, friends and Noel himself, you are narrated through Noel's journey from gig photographer to Fine Art Fetish photographer.

His goal to become a Fetish Photographer introduced the lapsed catholic lad to a whole new world that he wished to portray from the inside, not the outside looking in. He gave up photography for four years and became a full member of the sex industry, he trained under several Dommes and became a pro-Dom under the name of Master Venom, He also struggled with an addiction to speed and smack in that period of his life.

During the Documentary a world of; Shibari (Japanese Rope Work) and suspension bondage is demonstrated by Mistress Felina, male subs with cock and ball torture - CBT if you want to mention it in front of granny, flogging, cutting, needle play and play piercing's, pain sluts, D/s relationships and electro play. By electro play I don't mean the drunk Americans you find clips of on youtube, playing with those racquet shaped fly swatters, although that is hysterical if you have a spare five minutes.

The story behind Noel's most inspired piece of work "Suffer the little Children" based on Rubens - Coup de Lance, was conceived through his anger towards the paedophilia scandal and the hypocritical views of Arch Bishop George Pell in. who, in 2002, stood by a self confessed abuser of children yet stated for the media that Homosexuals were more dangerous for smoking!

"I feel perfectly comfortable to leave my child with any of my queer friends, but there is no way I'd leave her with a catholic priest"! funnily enough I would be inclined to agree whole heartedly with Noel on that one.

Near the end of the documentary is Annette, Noel's wife, talking about how Noel was now clean, healthy and happy. this is made so much more poignant when you know that tragically whilst riding his push bike Noel suffered an asthma attack triggering a major heart attack caused by an arterial blood clot, He died Saturday 7th July 2007, aged just 36.

Liberty in Restraint is an insightful and thought provoking look at Graydon, his life and his approach to his art and the somewhat maligned world of BDSM. originally an 8 minute short finalist in the 2004 MAFIA Documenting Competition, it then became a 35 minute preview that won Best Short Documentary at CineKink Film Festival in New York, 2004.

Be warned this is not a DVD for you if you have a needle phobia, parts even made me squirm and only reality TV has managed that in the past.

Oh and guys, buy a mag!

www.libertyinrestraint.com

By: Red Shaw

www.noelgraydonphotographer.com

