



HOME : NEWS+OPINIONS : MUSIC : ARTS+CULTURE : DINING : MOVIE LISTINGS : ABODE : ARCHIVES : CLASSIFIEDS : CONTACT

Full Site Search GO

Quote

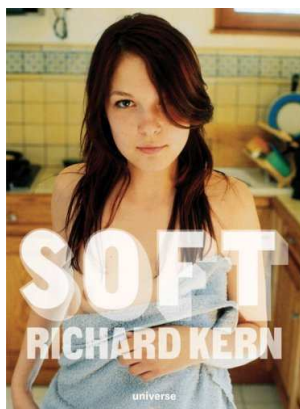
"Everybody can't be afraid of knuckleheads and gangsters. If we were, they'd take over." -- Sammie Sias, Richmond County Neighborhoods Association Alliance

Issue #19.36 :: 04/02/2008 - 04/08/2008

Richard Kern

"Extra Action (Extra Hardcore)"

BY JOSH RUFFIN



Richard Kern "Extra Action (Extra Hardcore)" MVD Visual

AUGUSTA, GA - Note to self: if you want to jump-start your career as a visual artist, associate yourself with someone from Sonic Youth—now. For some reason, most of the projects that its members touch go through some sort of bizarre self-alchemy and end up absurdist gold. Maybe it's a coincidence...I don't know for sure, but Jim Jarmusch certainly struck hipster oil when he cast former SY drummer Richard Edson in his breakthrough film "Stranger Than Paradise," and Richard Kern pulled off a similar trick when he was tapped to direct the group's 1985 video for "Death Valley 69."

The latter is particularly relevant, as Thurston Moore returned the favor by composing an original score for Kern's new DVD release, "Extra Action, (Extra Hardcore)," providing the photographer with an hour's worth of feedback-laced dive-bombs and sparse, harshly strummed acoustic meanderings against which to set his portraits-in-motion of some 60 exhibitionists and girls-next-door as they, in his own words, "roll around and do something interesting."

Interesting indeed, but that's hardly the most evocative adjective that could be used to describe Kern's trademark voyeuristic techniques, not to mention the models that volunteered for this gig. The film is divided by theme into several series of vignettes that move at a surprising pace from relatively tame soft-core exhibitionism (young ladies in a bathtub, drinking coffee, etc.) to just plain weirdness (naked girl playing basketball), with a little bit of good ol' hardcore pseudo-smut thrown in for good measure. I won't go into details, but there's a section entitled "Insert" (I'd tell you to use your imagination, but you shouldn't need to).

Viewers new to Kern's work would do well to focus their attention on the man's style and exactly what it means in the context of the acts being filmed therein, rather than on the usually explicit nature of the act itself. Whether capturing such seemingly menial goings-on as playing with cats and lounging around, or the deeply personal and private act of masturbation, nothing, it would seem, is taboo.

What defines something, however, as taboo? Kern implies here that it is not the act-in-itself which is taboo, but that it is made so by its being viewed by outside parties. He is able to render that element inconsequential for two reasons: 1) the models are filmed in the comfort of a standard home environment, usually a kitchen, living room, or bedroom, all nondescript and unassuming. 2) Though a good fifth of the film consists of scenes that wouldn't seem out of place in gonzo pornography, the models, though

EMAIL THIS STORY

PRINT THIS STORY

WRITE A LETTER TO THE AUTHOR

MORE BY Josh Ruffin:

- Isis
- Murder by Death
- Memories

Video: Club Cream



Events Calendar

click on the day to see the events for that day

Prev	Apr 2008							Next
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

event: pick your type

(Event Type) Go

music: pick your venue

(Music Venues) Go

dining: pick your cuisine

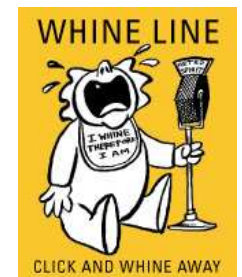
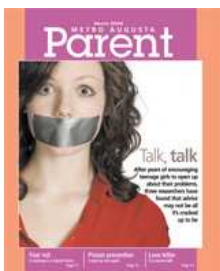
(Cuisines) Go

Events by Venue

(Music Venues) Go



Get this widget!



SIGHTINGS





consistently making eye contact with the viewer, never seem to be explicitly showing off or "acting." Everything they do is completely organic and unpretentious; you just happen to be watching.

WHINE LINE

[Click here to send us your whines.](#)

C-VILLE site search by 



Copyright © 2008, Portico Publications
Copyright | Portico Corporation

Powered by **PLANet w3 CMS** Content Management System
PLANet Systems Group 2008