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EROTIC DIARY OF A LUMBERJACK (1974)

Published by [David Carter](#) on 2009/10/27 (49 reads)

Directed by Jean-Marie Pallardy
Review by David Carter



Released by Le Chat qui Fume
Running Time: 94 minutes
Rating: Not Rated
Color format: Color
Audio/Subtitles: 2.0 Dolby Stereo English
Region Code: 1, NTSC
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen 1.66:1
16:9 Enhanced: No
Special Features: Featurette on the director, extended scenes, stills gallery
Trailer Online: [Yes](#)



Short Version: Bawdy French comedy

Mention French cinema to someone and they will likely think of Godard, Truffaut or another director known for "important" or "artistic" cinema. Unless you're talking to a film critic, this topic will almost always elicit a yawn as well. To lump an entire nation's cinema into one category is shortsighted, however, and French cinema encompasses as many genres as American or Indian film. Their more famous counterparts often overshadow the genre films, though. French eroticist Jean-Marie Pallardy is taking his legacy into his own hands now by releasing his films on DVD, remastered with elements from his private collection. The latest Pallardy film to hit shelves is his bawdy comedy *EROTIC DIARY OF A LUMBERJACK*.

The main character of the film is not a lumberjack, but a Nobel Laureate professor named Muller. As he's grown older, Muller has begun to care less for his work and has dedicated most of his time to chasing women, much to the chagrin of his work-minded son, Jean-Marc. After chastising him for romping around with their maid, Jean-Marc wakes to find his father missing. Muller has decided - on the eve of his Nobel announcement no less - to head to the countryside and set up shop in a hedonistic community.



Jean-Marc tracks him down not soon after in an attempt to get him to return to civilization and resume his work. Muller attempts to show him the joys of natural living, free love and the other pleasures of the community but Jean-Marc refuses to be dissuaded from his task. Jean-Marc is only distracted from his nagging after he meets Isabelle, a beautiful redhead who avoids the advances of the legions of men after her. Love blooms between the two but Isabelle isn't honest with Jean-Marc about her true mission - she's an undercover police officer trying to shut down the community. *EROTIC DIARY OF A LUMBERJACK* takes a laid-back approach to the material, not unlike the one that Muller adopts in the film. There are no big plot breakthroughs; things just sort of meander along without much connecting material from scene to scene. The film never even gets around to explaining what Muller is a professor of, so, unlike Pallardy's *TRUCK STOP*, the only driving force in the film is sex. Pallardy makes good use of the outdoors for some interestingly framed scenes but falls well short of the bar set for outdoor softcore erotica by Russ Meyer's *UP!*. Closed-circuit television is used as a plot device to show the audience some of the more "deviant" activities at the camp, but these are rather tame with the most "extreme" being a laughable scene of a girl in bed with a skeleton.

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Though the women in the film remain nameless except Isabelle, **EROTIC DIARY OF A LUMBERJACK** is not as misogynistic as many of its contemporaries in the world of erotic films. The film makes it clear that the women on-site at the camp are there of their own free will and are not prostitutes, making the situation and the film seem a good deal less exploitive than were that not the case. Additionally, Muller is shown enforcing the camp's "consensual activities only" rule by force, furthering the idea that men and women are on equal footing in the community.

The film's rarity has resulted in some minor flaws on the print even after remastering. None of these are obvious enough to distract you while watching it, however. Those interested in learning more about Jean-Marie Pallardy will get plenty of information about him through an hour-long featurette and the trailers for many of his films included as bonus features. The few extended scenes lengthen some of the erotic moments but don't venture too far outside the confines of softcore cinema. **EROTIC DIARY OF A LUMBERJACK** is not much of a film, but it does what it does well enough for fans of Euro-erotica to check it out. If you're in the mood for a few jokes, a lot of nudity and a bare minimum of plot, it'll be worth your time.



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