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Jean-Marie Pallardy

French director Jean-Marie Pallardy began his career working as a model in the 1960s. He soon made the switch to directing softcore flicks, three of which have just been released on DVD by MVD. They rarely get too steamy, really, but they're all sex-driven stories with plenty of nudity - that being of course the real tits and full bush variety.

My Body Burns, from 1972, is about a lesbian couple who meet up with a pervy guy who needs to get married to cover his swinging ways. It's great

for some kitschy imagery, but it all gets pretty sordid. The girls have a kind of light S&M thing going, but also fight about the marriage proposal, so there's not much room for tender hippie love. Instead it's kind of all kinds of things at once - character drama, sexual politics and some sort of suspense story that gets confusing. It's still fun to watch, but Pallardy got better when he dropped the *noir* and went for naughty comedy.

Erotic Diary of a Lumberjack (1974) is a pretty funny story about a dirty old professor (Willeke van Ammelroy) who goes on sabbatical but stumbles on a sex farm. The tension comes when the government sends out its pussy narcs to crack down on the lusty retreat. The men fight, but the women know how to win. Again, the story gets uneven, but it works better (and gets nakeder) than *My Body Burns*.

The best of the three is *Truck Stop*. By 1975, Pallardy figured out to use sex to move the story and not just as the setting. The story revolves around a roadside restaurant that provides lots of relief for its trucker patrons. The inn's madame is missing, and the drivers are put to a contest to see who is most worthy for her. A memorable challenge has them watching two of the waitresses get it on with bells tied to their cocks - ring the bell and your our. I'm not sure why mama-san is looking for a guy who can't get it up, but it's funny anyway.

All of them would earn "R" ratings by today's standards - there's not much more than boobs and pube flashes. But they do get pretty sexy. They're all dubbed in English (no subtitle options) and all come with the same bonus features - an interview with Pallardy and a slideshow of his photos. He went on to have some cult success with *White Fire* (1985) and *The Donor* (2004) with David Carradine, but apparently has left the sexploitation behind him. Posted by Softcore Jollies at <u>8:40 AM</u>

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