

LICK YOUR IDOLS (MVD) This documentary revisits the golden age of transgressive cinema, 1980s New York, where Nick Zedd, Richard Kern and their co-horts (including Lydia Lunch, who is a great interview in this) shot ½ artful/½ artless celluloid (never video) masterpieces of abusive debauchery; some of the greatest non-titillating sex films ever made. Early on you half expect the filmmaker to set up a *DiG!*-type rivalry between Zedd and Kern, especially because Kern is shown today in an art gallery looking like a handsome professor and Zedd today looks like Darby Crash's dug up corpse (though still kinda handsome, as well). Thurston Moore even sums up perfectly Kern's days of rape and dismemberment cinema, saying that his descent into drugs and madness was like a scientist doing field research. But despite never ascending to high art, Zedd is not positioned as an enemy to Kern, and their collaborative work is highlighted. One unspoken postscript to this solid piece is that not only (as they point out) have cleaned up versions of the sleaziest stuff pioneered by the transgressors made it into high fashion, but barely cleaned up versions of the gore/sex/torture stuff has become mainstream cinema with all the "torture porn" horror movies the kids dig these days. As a DVD bonus you get Nick Zedd getting the shit kicked out of him by three cops for ten minutes and Annie Sprinkle licking a burn victim.