

## DVD Review: Gold - Before Woodstock, Beyond Reality (1968)

By [Aubrey Ward III](#) | Published Yesterday | [Movies](#) | [Unrated](#)

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### One Of The Finest Acid Trips Ever Filmed.

Captain Jinks (Garry Goodrow) is not happy about a group of people running around naked, singing songs about revolution and cavorting in the mud. His plan is to appoint himself leader of these wayward people and use strict laws to make them into productive citizens. A man called Hawk (Del Close) and another man named LeRoy Acorn (Orville Schell) will join forces to free their fellow flower kin from the uncool tyranny of Captain Jinks.

*Gold* is one of those flicks from the late 60s / early 70s where a bunch of people would go out and make their own movie on their own terms. Watching *Gold* brought to mind classic "guerrilla films" such as *Pink Flamingoes* (1972), *The Last House On The Left* (1972) and *I Spit On Your Grave* (1978). Most of the cast and crew of *Gold* were probably relatives or people looking to score free beer and free publicity. This is so far from "mainstream" that it's practically from another planet.

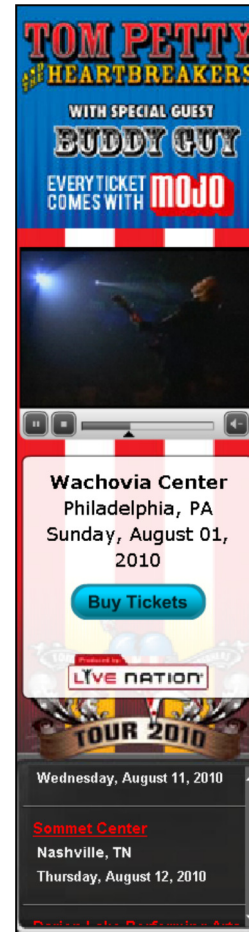
The plot isn't too bad. A dude comes in and tries to force people to live by his rules and then some other dudes arrive to save those people from being bullied into a lifestyle they want no part in. The first part of the film starts out with some vague dialogue between Captain Jinks and some other guy ("Verbal" played by Sam Ridge, I think) where Jinks asks Verbal for help in becoming ruler of this hippie tribe. I think the duo are able to convince the people to follow them with the promise of gold in them thar hills. The people get on a train to this place and then it stops for a break and then Verbal and Miss Gold Nugget (Caroline Parr) sneak into the nearby woods for some outdoor fornication. The literal running gag has Hawk hobbling on crutches in pursuit of the hippie exodus.

My problem with the film was that I felt like I had to sift through a lot of filler scenes and silly babbling in order to understand what was going on. So, yeah, there is a story but it got mucked up by the scenes of gratuitous nudity and sudden cuts to a group of hippies

### Aubrey Ward III

I'm just a regular guy that loves watching movies and talking about them. I feel it's my duty as a world citizen to detect cinematic "bombs" so you don't have to. I'm no cinemaristocrat but if I think a film is worth spending money on I'll tell ya. If it's not fit to be used as a doorstop I will certainly tell ya. And remember to always rent first before buying.

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singing in the woods about "all that glitters is not...all that glitters is not...all that glitters is not".

The [acting](#) isn't even campy bad. It's just plain awful. *Gold* makes early John Waters' flicks look like Shakespeare. The only competent performance is provided by Garry Goodrow who actually put in that extra effort to create a solid character for Captain Jinks. When he's with the other castmembers it looks like he's the only one paying attention in class while the rest are just goofing off for the camera.

A major plus is the groovy soundtrack. The songs provided by the likes of MC5, David McWilliams and Barry St. John are actually pretty good and help to improve the quality of *Gold*. If you're into that kind of folk rock with a slight psychedelic edge then you might find your head bobbing to at least one of the featured tunes. Among my faves are "Going Back To Mama" and "Gold" by David McWilliams.

My verdict is that *Gold* is probably one of the finest acid trips ever filmed and I wonder if the cast and crew were also doped up throughout the production period. Underneath the nudie shots, horrible dialogue and off-beat humor is a decent tale about people just wanting to be free and not shackled by the repressive regulations of the "establishment".

The *Gold* dvd includes two commentaries: one with Bob Levis (director) and Garry Goodrow (star) and the other commentary is provided by Upright Citizens Brigade founders Matt Walsh and Ian Roberts. An hour long Bob Levis interview on a cable access show is also featured. I watched about 18 minutes of that and it was mostly about politics. Not a bad thing but I guess talk about *Gold* happened in the second half of the interview.

Rounding out the features are a [clip](#) from Garry Goodrow's "roast", [trailers](#) for *Gold* and other Wild Eye Releasing offerings and a gallery of *Gold* lobby cards.

**Rhymes With:** *Desperate Living* (1977), *Pink Flamingoes* (1972), *Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things* (1973), *Blitzkrieg - Escape From Stalag 69* (2008), *Gothkill* (2009), *Street Trash* (1987)



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