

DVD Holocaust

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In the Sign of the Virgin



Director: Finn Karlsson (Denmark, 1973)

Studio: MVD

Aspect Ratio: n/a

Region: 0

Running Time: 89 minutes

Review posted on 16/07/2009 by Crimson Celluloid

REVIEW:

I dreaded reviewing this film. After having sat through one too many slide-whistle-heavy Werner Hedman films I was prepared to be titillated, moderately amused and, ultimately, disappointed. I should have checked the credits because this *In the Sign of...* was in fact directed by none other than Finn Karlsson and this guy KNOWS how to make a film.

The basic premise of the film involves the proximity of Saturn to Earth's orbit and the effect it has on people. Apparently last time Saturn was this close to Earth people indulged in all sorts of depraved and deviant behaviour (look it up in POPULAR SCIENCE, it sounds credible to me). The scientists of the day have discovered that the local girl's boarding school, described as "a school for young, beautiful, delinquent girls" is right under Saturn's path (what are the odds??!!) and must act to prevent these young, beautiful (cough) virgins being corrupted. They develop a serum that negates all sex drive and will see the girls safely through this cosmic event.

"Despite the occasionally derivative storyline the film maintains interest throughout its entire running time and it's worth checking out if you're a devotee of Nordic porn/comedy"

In a weird "Ripley's Believe it or not" coincidence, another scientist across town has developed a fast-acting and highly-effective aphrodisiac. The two scientists happen to bump into each other and, in an idea that was relatively original in the 1970's, their suitcases are swapped. Oh the humanity!!! Needless to say the aphrodisiac vendor ends up at the brothel and the moral young man with the sex-drive inhibitor ends up at...well, do I really have to tell you?

Along the way there's lesbian sex, including one muff-diver rape sequence that is strangely out of place in its intensity and borderline cruelty. Hetero sex is alive and well in this one too with enough hardcore action to keep the most zealous mutton-slapper happy. There's a couple of sequences that differentiate this from Hedman films (no cream pies for a start!), director Karlsson isn't afraid to experiment cinematically. He uses double exposure, weird angles and there's an underwater orgy sequence that is simply stunning. Interestingly several of the cast members also appeared in Hedman's films, a travelling troupe of Mrs Slocombe look-alikes, moustache-twirlers and male porn stars with small, uncircumcised cocks.

Despite the occasionally derivative storyline the film maintains interest throughout its entire running time and it's worth checking out if you're a devotee of Nordic

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porn/comedy. Karlsson only directed 6 or 7 films before dying a broke-down alcoholic aged 66 in 2003.

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SPECIAL FEATURES:

- None

RECOMMENDED VIEWING:

- Any film from the 'In The Sign of' series



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