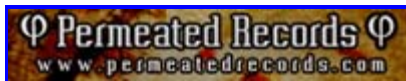


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Articles

tackle happy: the origins of the puppetry of the penis

Tackle Happy is a documentary that details the seminal days in Australia of the act we now know of as Puppetry of the Penis. If you don't know what that is, let me briefly enlighten you.

A couple of naked guys get on stage and make startling formations out of their genitalia. The hamburger. The Loch Ness Monster. A nuclear mushroom cloud. A snail. A windsurfer. Etc. The End.

That's the act. And it's funny, to a point, just as the documentary is entertaining, to a point.

Let's face it. You're going to rent this because you want to see guys do absurd yet creative things with their packages. Right? And there's plenty of that here. You get to see plenty of "installations" as the Aussies apparently call them, and you get to witness this performance art (which started, I kid you not, as an art calendar with a different installation depicted for each month) in a variety of venues.

The documentary details the rise of the show from a couple of guys who apparently have a lot of time on their hands to a pair of dudes that have a riotously funny and popular show.

Of course, there are the obligatory bits about censorship and canceled shows, and there are plenty of audience interviews (lots of women, who really seem to dig the goings on) and what not. And there are the also-obligatory tour problems, vehicular, stressed personalities and what not.

The downside is that the film, even at 75 minutes, just wears out its welcome around halfway through. Yes, this is interesting material, but as a documentary ABOUT the show, it just can't sustain itself. The

Puppetry of the Penis act itself could go longer (ahem) than a show about the act.

But, I still recommend this for anyone interested in The Puppetry of the Penis, and, as I said, you get to see plenty of said puppetry going on.

(P.S. The highlight of the special features is a bit that teaches you step by step how to do some of the puppet bits in the movie.)

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