

SEVENTIES (1971-1980) DI-F
All reviews by Michael J. Weldon

THE DICKTATOR (Alpha Blue, 74) D Perry Dell, S Walt Davis, P/cine Manuel S. Conde

Crowds protest in Washington D.C. (news footage is used) while (comic) world leaders meet in a small room. All men are impotent because of a pill from the American president (who turns out to be a robot). After the dumb set up an agent narrates this tasteless, unfunny soft core comedy and introduces a half dozen mediocre sex scenes. A South American shepherd can't do it with Rene Bond until she makes sheep noises. Uschi is with a Russian writer and Linda York (from ANGEL ABOVE, DEVIL BELOW) is with a Jewish drag queen. A "fat Jap" watches two women. He and one of them are fake Asians. After all that hilarity, the last sex scene (featuring blacks) is a rape. There's also a (terrible) Mae West imitator and two naked (300 lb.?) women in a cannibal cooking pot scene. The Swedish Uschi, the most famous star of 70s soft core sex movies is rumored to actually be Yugoslavian.

THE DOLL SQUAD (WP, 73) P/D/S/edit/act Ted V. Mikels, S Jack Richeson, Pam Eddy Red haired, kung fu fighting agent Sabrina (Francine York) and her "girls" go to a South American island to stop rogue ex agent Damin (Michael Ansara) who has a large private army and plans to release bubonic plague. Twin scientists implant control discs in the skulls of men who had been sent out to "cause campus unrest" (!). They also create a new face for Damin's mistress. The female fighters all wear tight black jumpsuits and kill lots of soldiers with silencers. The cheap but fun optical FX include soldiers blowing up and lots of explosions. Parts seem to have been filmed with 3D in mind. Tura Satana gets down to her pasties (the movie was rated PG) doing her strip act in Vegas, before joining Sherri Vernon (also credited with hairstyles and make-up), Leigh Christian, Judy McConnell and others to save the world. Herb Robbins from THE WORM EATERS flubs his lines. With Anthony Eisley as a Senator and Rafael Campos as a local drug addict. This has enough characters and plot ideas for a whole season of CHARLIE'S ANGELS, the series Mikels says ripped it off.

DRACULA (MPI, 73) P/D Dan Curtis, S Richard Matheson
 Curtis' followed his dull TV movie productions of DORIAN GREY and FRANKENSTEIN by directing this more impressive horror retread. It was filmed in England with lush locations, the scary looking soft spoken Jack Palance starring, and a British cast. It's basically a tame version of the familiar story though with a few changes and ideas from Hammer films. The Count is said to be Vlad The Impaler. Van Helsing (Nigel Davenport) and Arthur Holmwood (Simon Ward) are the vampire destroyers. With Fiona Lewis from THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS (Lucy), Penelope Horner (Mina), Murray Brown (Harker), and Sarah Douglas, Virginia Wetherell, and Barbara Lindley as Dracula's wives. The original ABC broadcast was delayed by Nixon's speech announcing that Agnew was resigning. The tape is the 98 min. theatrical version. This is also available on a double DVD with Curtis' THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE (68) also filmed in England and starring Palance.

DRACULA BLOWS HIS COOL (Private Screenings, 79) D Carlo Ombra, S Grumbach/Rosenthal, P Lisa/Barthonia
 (GRAF DRACULA BEISST JETZT IN OBERBAYERN) A photographer (Johnny Garco) owns a tourist attraction family castle in the Alps. He photographs sexy models to

help promote the new disco there. One model (blonde Georgina Steer) takes a shower, strips while dancing and leads three other beauties running around naked outdoors, then (in the most memorable scene), driving through the village naked in a Volkswagen convertible. Twin black women in revealing chain dresses sing a Dracula song. The comic Peter Lorre voice Boris brings blood to the count and countess (Betty Verges and Garco with an echo voice) in their coffins. Other cliché comic characters in the harmless sex horror comedy are a Sicilian mobster investor, the local mayor and a female descendant of Van Helsing. With references to Mickey Mouse (and Rooney), Superman and Vamparella. It was made around the same time as LOVE AT FIRST BITE and NOCTURNA.

EMANUELLE IN EGYPT (Continental, 76) D/S Brunello Rondi (VELLUTO NERO, NAKED PARADISE, BLACK EMANUELLE, WHITE EMANUELLE...) Laura (Laura Gemser), the "world's most famous model," works with a hateful "pure art" photographer (real life husband Gabriele Tinti) who likes to pose her next to dead bodies (animal and human) in the desert. She finds some relief running around naked with Pina (Annie Belle with short silver hair), the daughter of the decadent European Crystal (Susan Scott). The blonde surfer stud look prophet Horatio (Al Cliver) hypnotises Laura, who freaks out after drinking goat blood and has sex with Pia in the (actual) tomb of the Pharaohs by the Nile. All of them plus a nympho (Ziggy Zanger -!?), the mute Ali and a philosophical old gay actor stay at Crystal's palace, ponder the mysteries of life and visit other ancient monuments. The soundtrack is chanting and synth music. Bruno Mattei was the editor. Dimension released it here as SMOOTH VELVET, RAW SILK.

ENTER THE DEVIL (SW, 72) D/S Frank Q. Dobbs, S/act Dave Cass, P/cine. Michael F. Cusack

A deputy sheriff (Cass) is sent to a Texas border deer hunting lodge owned by his friend (Josh Bryant) to find a missing person and discovers the hooded, chanting Disciples Of Death who sacrifice victims in an old mine. A doctor (Irene Kelly) explains that these cultists are even worse than the Penitentes. There's some good plot twists, some violence (people are blown up and a woman bound in barbed wire is burned to death), lots of beer drinking and many Mexican characters. It seems like most of the victims die because they loved (or tried to force themselves on) Mexican women. The stars, who are very good, all appeared in smaller roles in bigger budgeted 70s movies. The Frank Henenlotter Sexy Shocker release was filmed in Terlingua, TX. The print is worn. Dobbs also made UPHILL ALL THE WAY (85) starring country singers.

EVIL IN THE DEEP (Alpha Blue, 74/6) P/D Virginia Stone, P/S J.A.S. McCrombie (TREASURE IN JAMAICA REEF) This Todd AO 35 widescreen adventure stars Stephen Boyd (who narrates - a lot) as an L.A. cop who assembles a team to dive for a treasure in Jamaica. Originally rated PG, framing scenes concerning the cursed map were obviously added on later, along with a shark biting off a hand. One surreal part shows a nude blonde thrown in the ocean wearing "cement shoes" being attacked by a shark. A lot of time is spent on beautiful scenery (it was filmed on location and in nearby Grenada), driving (in an old beer barrel shaped truck), flying, coral reef diving, and comic chase scenes. Big friendly boat captain Rosey Grier teaches tiny blonde Cheryl Stopplemoor (Ladd) to dive. Her husband David Ladd co-stars, with game show host Chuck Woolery, and Darby Hinton and Art Metrano, both later in MALIBU EXPRESS. The print is letterboxed. By the director of RUN IF YOU CAN (87).

FEMALE CHAUVINISTS (Alpha Blue, 74) P/D/edit Jay Jackson, S Jack Hotzman
A dozen (usually naked) feminists (led by a militant older woman) stay at a remote house with a pool. Roxanne Brewer (a redhead with an impossible bust)

goes “undercover” to help expose the group (and takes a slo mo topless horse ride). Her boyfriend poses as a mute gardener and a photographer friend sneaks around. This sex comedy is filled with lesbian and/or outdoor sex scenes. Uschi Digart has a dream about a sperm bank and token black Deborah McGuire masturbates with a Dr. Pepper bottle. Also with Candy Samples and eight other lesser known beauties (with more average figures). It would be a soft core classic for fans of women with huge breasts, but is ruined by (lots of) badly edited in additional hard X inserts and scenes. The print is dubbed in German (!?) so maybe they were added in Munich.

THE FIFTH FLOOR (AEC, 78) P/D Hikmet Avedis, S Meyer Dolinsky
Kelly (Diane Hull from THE MAGIC GARDEN OF STANLEY SWEETHEART) has a seizure on a disco floor and is wrongly sent to a hospital psycho ward. Female inmates are terrorized by the cheery gum chewing Carl (Bo Hopkins). Kelly eventually escapes with the pregnant Patti D'Arbanville and friendly Robert Englund (who does Dracula and Brando impersonations). Sharon Farrell takes acting honors as a cynical depressed inmate and John David Carson (PRETTY MAIDS ALL IN A ROW) is Kelly's oblivious fiance. With (offscreen) rape, shock treatments and suicide and (onscreen) inmate disco parties. The perfect for 42nd St. all star cast includes Mel Ferrer (shrink), Julie Adams (nurse), creepy Anthony James and, wasted in the background, Michael Berryman. Hull has a nude shower scene and Pattie Brooks does a number in the disco. It's all “based on a true story.” The Alan Silvestri soundtrack was on Casablanca.

FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE (Monterey, 77) P/D Robert A. Edelson, S Straw Wiesman
Three inmates escape from a police van in NYC, head to Hudson, NY and take over the remote home of middle class black reverend Ted Turner (Robert Judd) around Halloween. The deadly cons are Hispanic with headband (Daniel Faraloo), Oriental rapist (Peter Yoshida) and their long haired Southern psycho hillbilly leader Jesse Lee (William Sanderson). Jesse goes on about his impoverished background and tough life in jail, spews non stop racism, makes the father dance and sing, beats him with a bible (in slo mo) and attempts to hang the mother. A by the book cop (David Cargill) eventually looks the other way, while Turner and his family members finally avenge themselves. A (white) neighbor kid has his head bashed in and blonde family friend (Bonni Martin) has a romantic flashback and runs topless before her death. Many people probably felt very uncomfortable and/or outraged watching this, as executive producer and grindhouse distributor William Mishkin tried the descriptive alternate titles HELD HOSTAGE, GETTING EVEN, and BLOODBATH AT 1313, or FURY ROAD, and even STAYIN' ALIVE. The theme is a soul ballad.

THE FINAL PROGRAM (Thorn EMI, 74) D/S/design Robert Fuest
(LAST DAYS OF MAN ON EARTH) This cool, ahead of its time sci fi movie is based on a Michael Moorcock novel. In the “dark age” future, Jerry Cornelius (Jon Finch from FRENZY and Polanski's MACBETH) is a sarcastic angry, long haired heir to a fortune. Three doctors (one is George Coulouris) working in a secret Lapland lab plan to merge Cornelius with bisexual computer programmer Miss Brunner (Jenny Runacre) and the preserved brains of famous geniuses into a “self reproducing hermaphrodite.” With colorful scenes in negative, junkies, needle gun fights, nudity, a human pinball machine and a wrestling dinner party (copied from THE TOUCHABLES?). The excellent cast includes character actors Hugh Griffith as a Hindu professor, Patrick Magee, bearded Sterling Hayden, and Harry Andrews. Sarah Douglas and Julie Ege have small roles. The music by Beaver And Krause

includes electronics, sitar, rock guitar and a Gerry Mulligan sax solo. Corman's New World released a cut (R) version here. Fuest (an AVENGERS director) made it (in Spain) after the DR. PHIBES movies. Moorcock (the father of cyberpunk?) also wrote songs for Hawkwind.

THE FINAL TERROR (Vestron, 80) D Andrew Davis, S Jon George, Neill Hicks, Ronald Shusett, P Joe Roth
(CAMPSITE MASSACRE, FOREST PRIMEVAL, BUMP IN THE NIGHT) A bus of youth corps workers arrive in the woods (the California Redlands) to clean up a river, are killed one by one, find a hand in a jar, try to escape on a raft, then set a trap for the mystery killer. They include Daryl Hannah, Rachel Ward, Akosua Busia (THE COLOR PURPLE), John Friedrich (he eats mushrooms), Adrian Zmed (from GREASE 2) as the one after a pot crop, Ernie Harden Jr. (THE JEFFERSONS) and Lewis Smith. Joe Pantoliano is the angry, hyper ex mental patient bus driver. Mark Metcalf (the leader), and his blonde girlfriend (Cindy Harrell) are the first to go (during sex, of course). This was originally presented by Samuel Arkoff, just after FRIDAY THE 13TH. Davis, always good with action scenes, is doing better than any of the actors these days (he directed THE FUGITIVE).

FIVE ANGRY WOMEN (Alpha Blue, 72) D/S Kent Osborne, P/S/music Clancy B. Grass III

Five women escape from prison, take over a guy's house, talk a lot, cry and argue. One, disturbed by flashbacks, hangs herself. The rest leave in a truck full of mattresses and kill the driver. Blonde leader Baby discovers her female lover is marrying a pimp, so shoots him. The angry black JC borrows money from a pimp in a nightclub. Many die but there is only one topless scene. Carolyn Judd and Teri Gusman star. The soundtrack music (mostly country ballads) are by artists including Johnny Green and The Green Men, Priscilla of The Paris Sisters and Sammy Vaughn. Osborne was a protege of Al Adamson. The print is worn. Parts of this Virgo release are similar to FIVE LOOSE WOMEN (73) and TEN VIOLENT WOMEN (79).

FLASH AND THE FIRECAT (JFHI!, 75) P/D/S/cine. Ferd Sebastian, P/D/S Beverly Sebastian

Flash (Roger Davis from The ALIAS SMITH AND JONES TV western series) convinces his blonde girlfriend "Firecat" (Tricia Sembera) to briefly kidnap the son (Tracy Sebastian) of a local California town bank president (Philip Bruns, the dad on MARY HARTMAN). The funloving dune buggy riding couple hide out at a Mustang Ranch style whorehouse while the corrupt sheriff (Dub Taylor who rants and growls), his thick deputy (Newell Alexander), and a big angry L.A. cop (Richard Kiel) chase after them and the bank loot. With Joan Shawlee as a helpful but money grubbing madame and Buck Flower as a mechanic. The theme song is Billy Preston's #1 "Nothing From Nothing." In the low budget tradition of Arch Hall Jr. and Tim Ormond, Tracy returned to star in his parent's next drive in comedy, ON THE AIR WITH CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT (PV #27). Both have Paramount logos, but weren't reviewed by Variety and aren't in most review books. The FLASH print is excellent.

FOXBAT (VSOM, 77) D Po Chih Leong, P May Lim

A secret super Russian MIG invades Japanese air space, setting off an international crisis. Rogue CIA agent Mike Saxon (Henry Silva) would rather stay in bed (or a bath) with Japanese women, but he's ordered to active duty. He adjusts his removable hi-tech camera eye then is attacked by a killer zombie sumo wrestler (!), the result of Japanese experiments wanted by the KGB. In Hong Kong he meets beautiful black American fashion designer Toni Hill (Vonetta McGee from HAMMER) and a cooking teacher (James Yi Lui) who falls for her swallows a piece of candy (actually a valuable device) and is chased all over town by agents wanting to cut him open. Various bad guys are Communist (Russian and Chinese), and Japanese and American. It all ends with wild car chases, shootouts, large explosions and some brutal kung fu battles. I always like watching Silva, who can

be fun, likable and scary at the same time. With Rik Van Nutter as a blonde CIA man, Roy Chiao (INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM), and Shirley Lee. This forgotten feature (not in any of the expected reference books) includes noodle making, Broadway dance numbers, early computer games, naked women, and Nam and Watergate references. The Bond style score is by Roy Budd and Terence Young was a script consultant.

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