

**SEVENTIES (1971-1980) O -P**  
**All reviews by Michael J. Weldon**

**OCTAMAN** (Video Gems, 71) P/D Harry Essex, S Leigh Chapman, P Joel Freeman Essex, who had written the 3-D hit **CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON** nearly 20 years earlier, made this cut rate PG rated ecology minded retread and chose his son David Essex (no, not the "Rock On" guy) as one of the stars. Radioactive contamination in Mexico results in an octopus monster (a floppy Rick Baker created suit) that lives in a lake. It eventually traps six people in a cave (Bronson Canyon). Long-haired Indians relate flashbacks, we see monster POV shots and much of the footage is too dark. Kerwin Mathews stars as a scientist. His 39 year old Italian co-star Pier Angeli (the twin of actress Marisa Pavan) OD'd during filming. Jeff Morrow (PV #16), who has one scene, and Buck Kartalian (PV #33), both were both also in **LEGACY OF BLOOD** the same year. Essex followed this with **THE CREMATORS** (72) which was picked up by Corman.

**OPEN SEASON** (Shocking, 74) D Peter Collinson, S David Osborne, Liz Charles - Williams, P Jose S. Vicuna  
**(RECON GAME)** After sex with three waitresses in a hotel, three suburban Nam vets kidnap a couple and keep them captive at their remote log cabin. Peter Fonda (PV #7) , John Phillip Law (PV #12), and Richard Lynch (in glasses and doing movie star impressions) all laugh and joke as they drink (a lot), sing, and blow away many small animals with rifles. After Fonda has sex with the beautiful drunk Cornelia Sharpe (later in **S\*H\*E\*** and **VENOM**), they set her and her angry humiliated lover (Albert Mendoza) loose for a deadly **DELIVERANCE/MOST DANGEROUS GAME** chase. Flashbacks reveal why a father (William Holden), first heard on a tape loop, eventually shows up for revenge. Collinson also had a band of psychos in his **THE PENTHOUSE** (67). The Panavision Italian/ Spanish/UK production (released by Columbia) was filmed outside Madrid. We also received this from Just For The Hell Of It. Both are letterboxed and in English with Danish subtitles.

**ON THE AIR WITH CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT** (IUD, 77) P/D/S Ferd + Beverly Sebastian  
**(ON THE AIR LIVE)** Laid back Ziggy (frizzy haired Tracy Sebastian, son of the southern born filmmakers) starts a pirate radio station with his chubby technut friend Gargan (Barry Greenberg). They cut classes, steal electrical parts and cruise L.A. in Ziggy's shiny black van playing cassettes of Ted Nugent (including his biggest hit "Cat Scratch Fever") and Rod Stewart. Ziggy's whole likeable nutty family goes to group shrink sessions and an FCC agent (John Ireland, also in the Sebastians' **DELTA FOX**) tries to shut down the popular but illegal broadcasts. It all ends with Ziggy parachuting into the Magic Mountain theme park where some forgettable real band does "Do The Nasty." With Mia Kovacs as the blonde girlfriend, Dena Deitrich and Ted Gehring as the parents and another Sebastian son as the brother. This (G rated?) family project comedy is simple and slow moving but it probably influenced **PUMP UP THE VOLUME**. When British and NYC punk rock was at its peak, this is what the American music scene was really like. **ON THE AIR** was once owned by Paramount, but they didn't bother to release it.

**PANORAMA BLUE** (Alpha Blue, 74) P/D Alan Roberts, S/music Steve Michaels  
 A softcore sex takeoff of **THIS IS CINERAMA** (52), this claims to be in 70mm (like **THE STEWARDESSES**). After an intro with a series of (faked) tinted early sex shorts, the host (executive producer Richard S. Ellman) introduces eight sequences. Rene Bond and Sandy Dempsey have sex with drivers during a figure 8 race. A model (Linda York aka Brittany Lane of **ANGEL ABOVE, DEVIL BELOW**) "dreams" of sex with John Holmes (his face is obscured) and others. Cyndee Summers (from **POOR CECILY** and 80s X movies) and Rick Cassidy do it on a bed surrounded by a classical orchestra. A Beverly Hills orgy (also with classical musicians) includes Uschi, Sandy Carey, a black woman and William Margold. An

impressive beach sex scene was shot from a helicopter. It all ends with the only really outrageous part. A happy athletic couple do it during a rollercoaster ride (rear projection techniques were used). Roberts went on to make THE HAPPY HOOKER GOES HOLLYWOOD (80) and movies as recent as SAVE ME (PV #18).

PHANTASMES (Threat, 75) D/S/act Jean Rollin  
(ONCE UPON A VIRGIN) This features the same atmospheric real tombs and crypts as earlier Rollin features plus a lot more sex, some hard core. At least it's more imaginative than any American porn. The man of the castle takes in a cute young blonde after a guy (in an Alcatraz T shirt) tries to rape her. They eventually have a marathon sex session on a beach and marry, but meanwhile we discover that he keeps naked women in underground cages for orgies. A woman strips and dances in a dark room under a swinging light, women in see through gowns wander with candelabras, and the usual Rollin blonde pigtail schoolgirl twins (Catherine and Pony Castel), strip and spank each other. There's sex on a slab, lesbian scenes and a threesome. Rollin says he only directed part of PHANTASMES, but went on to make other X movies using a pseudonym. With Mylene D'Antes, Jean-Louis Vattier, Rachel Mhas, and Monica Swinn. This is in French only. It was followed by LES RAISINS DE LA MORT (78 - PV #15) and FASCINATION (79 - PV #16), both available from VSOM.

PHOBIA (Par, 80) D John Huston, S Lew Lehman, Jimmy Sangster, Peter Bellwood, P Zale Magder  
Dr. Ross (Paul Michael Glaser), a corporate backed ice hockey playing psychotherapist, helps patients on parole confront their phobias but many of them are dying in various strange ways. Disturbing scenes of people freaking out, crying, being killed or killing themselves take up much of the time. An agoraphobic woman loses it on a subway and a rape victim watches a film of a gang bang. A man is crushed by an elevator and a thief afraid of heights jumps off a construction site. A snake attacks a rabbit and a baby falls off a building. John Colicos is the mean, scary inspector on the case. With Susan Hogan (THE BROOD), Patricia Collins and Alexandra Stewart. This Toronto shot movie was a disappointment after Huston's WISE BLOOD (79) but is worth seeing. Cinematographer Reginald Morris often worked for director Bob Clark (BLACK CHRISTMAS, MURDER BY DECREE...) and shot MURDER BY PHONE (PV #34), which, like PHOBIA, must have been influenced by Cronenberg movies.

PIGS (Home Cinema, 72) P/D/S/star Marc Lawrence, S Fanya Foss  
(DADDY'S DEADLY DARLING) A huge L.A. Times headline reads DAD RAPES DAUGHTER - DIES OF KNIFE WOUNDS. Lynn (Toni Lawrence), the killer, escapes from a state mental hospital and becomes the live in waitress at a dive café near an oil field run by Zambrini (Lawrence), a former showman. He kills people, chops them up, and feeds them to his squealing pigs (a scene later copied in HANNIBAL!). She has a nightmare that he slashes her with a razor, sobs, cries, screams, talks to her dead father on the phone, and also kills. Zambrini says "Everybody's sick. Everybody's running away from something" and disposes of the bodies. It's obvious that both of them are out of their fucking minds, but the local sheriff (Jesse Vint) doesn't even suspect them and humors the neighbor lady (Katherine Ross) who knows. Lawrence (who had been blacklisted) wrote this odd uncomfortable family movie with his wife and they cast their daughter in the lead. With Jim Antonio as a hospital representative and Walter Barnes (from many Euro movies) as the local doctor. It was filmed in Utah and has 60s style rock/pop songs on the soundtrack. The still prolific composer Charles Bernstein did scores for HEX and INVASION OF THE BEE GIRLS (both 73) next. There's more about PIGS in PV #29 (Lawrence) and #34 (Vint).

A PLACE CALLED TODAY (Monterey, 72) D/S Don Schain, P Ralph T. Desiderio  
(CITY IN FEAR) A black attorney (J. Herbert Kerr Jr.) runs for mayor as the city (L.A. ?) is hit by a series of radical terrorist bombings. A liberal activist (Lana

Wood) helps with his campaign. Her TV news director boyfriend (Richard Smedley) is also the secret lover of a shameless blonde (Cheri Caffaro) who helps her rich father back the do nothing puppet mayor. Media manipulation, political corruption and the reasons for revolutionaries (a folk song is heard while we see slum scenes) are explored but this very cynical and reactionary movie has a multiple twist end. The intelligent understanding compassionate Afroed candidate is the one behind all the bombings and killings! And all the main characters die! Wood has topless scenes and Caffaro (as in her GINGER movies) is naked, bound and gagged and is raped. Despite the exploitive elements, Schain (Caffaro's husband) forgot to make this fun to watch, filling it with endless speeches and political discussions and angry debates shot in the one person at a time DRAGNET TV style. It was rated X when first released by Avco Embassy. Also with Timothy Brown. 5' 2" Wood (Natalie's sister) is aka Svetlana Gurdin.

POOR CECILY (Threat, 73) P/D F. C. Perl, S Cedric Malone

An upper class 18th century British girl (Angela Field, who narrates) becomes a ward at a French castle. After several lesbian scenes with Lady Hamilton (they wear white wigs), she's forced to serve ale at orgies at the nearby castle of a Countess, then is arrested. In a dungeon where suspected witches are tortured, she's put in an iron maiden, whipped and raped on the rack. Back with the countess, she has to join in orgies for 6 months and decides she's "enjoying a life of total debauchery." The (soft core) sex scenes are hot but many viewers would be horrified by the surprisingly graphic and believable looking torture chamber scenes. With Sandy Dempsey and Lacy Stewart (also both in hard X features) and the impossible to miss Uschi Digart (bound on a rack). Characters (Brit and French) have bad English accents. Period scene stock footage helps give this very low budget movie (based on some STORY OF O type book) an impressive look. About a minute of the tape (during the main orgy) is defective.

PORNOGRAPHY IN HOLLYWOOD (Alpha Blue, 72) D John Kirkland/Carlos Tobalina

A heavysset, grey bearded, ponytailed, cigar smoking guy interviews a porn shop manager (with serious sideburns), nude dancers (including some full monty guys), a reverend and porn actors. He also interviews Tobalina (he has a heavy accent), who shows hard X scenes on a Moviola from his "educational" 101 ACTS OF LOVE (71). He says he had made 5000 TV commercials. A young woman is heard talking about her acting skills while we see her giving a blow job. Yes, it's a self serving, phony documentary that even includes a hard X gay sex scene that would have cleared the theater, making room for more unsuspecting patrons. You might love the outdoor soft core sex scenes starring Uschi and blonde "Malta" (backed by electric guitar leads) but hopefully will not love the bestiality photos. We also see (fake) female anti-porn protesters and an angry guy in drag delivering a speech on how racism and hate are the real obscenities. Hollywood theater marquees announce VALLEY OF THE DOLLS, PATTON and TORA! TORA! TORA! The print is worn.

PORTRAIT OF A HITMAN (Program Hunters, 77) D Allan A. Buckhantz, S Harold "Yabo" Yablonsky, P James R. Rokos, Andre Krakowski

Hitman/painter Jim Buck (Jack Palance in his first American movie in years) is paid by Max (Rod Steiger) to kill neurosurgeon Dr. Richards (Bo Svenson). Buck warns the doc (who had saved his life) and tries to find out why and who wants him dead. Meanwhile Richards has an affair with Buck's live in lover/model Cathy (Ann Turkel) and Buck makes a deal to kill black gangster Coco (Richard Roundtree with a Jamaican accent) instead. He intrudes on Coco, in bed with his naked hos, breaks his glasses and leaves him standing naked in front of his guards. Charlie, (singer Herb Jeffries) who owns the Kit Kat topless club, helps

hide Buck after he's wounded, and Mr. Wong (Philip Ahn in his last role) advises him. After Buck flashes back on the whole damn movie, it ends in a very unlikely happy way at Jim's very successful art opening. Steiger and Palance each have an opportunity to switch from quiet intense acting to loud ranting. During a major dialogue scene the boom mike is visible. Cinematographer Charles Correll (ANIMAL HOUSE) is the son of the creator of Amos 'N' Andy and led the surf band The Cornells. Yablonsky had directed Mickey Rooney in THE MANIPULATOR (PV #16).

PRIME TIME (Paragon, 77) D/S Bradley R. Swirnoff, S Stephen Feinberg, John Baskin, Roger Shulman, P Marc Trabulus  
Swirnoff had co-directed TUNNELVISION (76) and in this similar comedy followup the weak President (George Furth) panics when network TV is taken over by unseen subversives. Much of PRIME TIME is political, politically "incorrect" or just in bad taste which may have kept it off screens. Oil Companies, Ireland, South Africa, India, Puerto Rico and most major religions are targets. Warren Oates plays a hunter who shoots people from the Austin Tower in "The Charles Whitman Invitational." Jesus (Kinky Friedman) sings "If I Were A Carpenter" and Friedman also does a cocaine song. News reports are on old people recycled as dog food and abortions being OK'd for children up to 5 years. Commercials deal with treatment for unwanted erections and urge you to "fire the handicapped." FRONTIER GYNECOLOGIST is a new series. Others in the oddball cast are Mel Carter, Joanna Cassidy, Fred Dryer, Stephen Furst, Mousie Gardner, Larry Gelman, Peter Kastner, Roseanne Katon, Marvin Miller, Nancy Parsons, Harry Shearer and Haris Yulin. Also with some nudity, a dwarf on a leash and music by Area Code 213.

PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY IN THE ORIENT (Alpha Blue, 73) D Jan Tershak, P Kevin Kirkpatrick  
Many hardcore X rated "documentaries" were released around 70/71 as a way to get around then unpredictable censorship laws. This was the first (and only?) one to feature all Asian women. Our host and narrator is a bearded guy with a tape recorder who interviews several women (not the ones in any of the other scenes). The first segment "in Taiwan" is just a porno loop. The Japanese part features a dance club (the music is "Shake" by The Shadows Of Knight!), many naked beauties in a public bath, a massage parlor worker with a man (then with a woman), an outrageous lesbian show in a "private club," and another couple in a room. The Hong Hong part goes back and forth between three scenes of lucky western guys with local women. In another club, they dance to "Shake!" Although it features interesting travelog and semi mondo scenes, I imagine all of the sex scenes (the real attraction of course) were shot in L.A. This was probably a hit with all the soldiers who had been stationed in Japan, Korea and Viet Nam.

PSYCHED BY THE 4D WITCH (SW, 72) D/S Victor Luminera  
Several characters provide lots of narration for this wacky made in L. A. "psychedelic freakout from the underground," filled with nightmares, visions and FX. Eyeballs and monster faces are seen, film is layered on top of film, parts are seen through a kaleidoscope and part is upside down. Blonde Cindy ("Margo") has many voiceover conversations with Abigail ("Esoteria"), "that Salem witch bitch." At one point Cindy's brother goes to Chinatown and becomes a vampire. It ends with Cindy ("Did somebody spike my orange juice with LSD!?" ) having sex (and her first orgasm). It's too long and the lighting is bad, but at least the humor is on purpose. It's more of a drug movie than a sex movie, although there is some nudity. The theme song is a rock song but the rest of the music is classical. A Frank Henenlotter Sexy Shocker.

PSYCHIC KILLER (Embassy, 75) D/S Ray Danton, S/act Greydon Clarke, S Mike Angel, P Mardi Rustam

A black prison inmate (Stack Pierce, later on V), who believes in voodoo, kills himself, passing his out of body powers to the innocent Arnold (Jim Hutton) who has been convicted of murder. Arnold, who has b/w nightmares and flashbacks, seeks revenge while seeming to be asleep. Police Lt. Morgan (top billed Paul Burke from THE NAKED CITY) tries to figure it all out with the help of a prison Dr. (Julie Adams) who he falls for, and a professor (Nehemiah Persoff). The death of a butcher (Neville Brand) is gory and the death of an opera singing contractor (Joe Della Sorte) is comic. A sadistic blonde nurse (Mary Wilcox from LOVE ME DEADLY) dies taking a shower. It's strange to see Hutton (who died young in '79) basically playing a zombie. Also with Whit Bissell (womanizing shrink), Clarke (also a producer, as a cop), Aldo Ray (Morgan's partner), Rod Cameron (warden), and Della Reese (angry woman on welfare). I first saw this at the Hippodrome in Cleveland.

PUNK ROCK (Alpha Blue, 79) D/S Carter Stevens, S Al Hazard

A Mike Hammer type (Wade Nichols, who narrates), searches for the killer of his partner (when he's not enjoying sex). The terrible Stilettos (probably inspired by the group of the same name that Debbie Harry had been in), feature topless dancers and play one whole song (which inspires an orgy). One of the black guys in the band is supposedly Neon Leon, who supposedly was the last person to see Sid Vicious alive or something. Otherwise, this horrible NYC porno detective spoof has nothing to do with punk music. It does feature lots of talking (some characters talk to the camera), bondage and lesbian scenes. With R. Bolla as a cop, Bobby Astyr as a pimp, Susaye London, Jean Sanders, Crystal Sync, Eric Edwards, and Al Livetsky. The print is worn.

THE PYX (Prism, 72) D Harvey Hart, S Robert Schlitt, P Maxine Samuels, Julian Roffman

(LA LUNULE, THE HOOKER CULT MURDERS) In this dark, slow moving movie (based on a novel) Montreal detectives (Christopher Plummer and Donald Pilon) investigate the murder of Elizabeth (Karen Black), a Catholic drug addict prostitute who sings. Scenes go back and forth in time as a supernatural sacrifice angle is unveiled. During a ceremony, religious music and Gregorian chants are heard at the wrong speed. Other characters are a madame (Yvette Brind'amour), johns, nuns, and various gay, addicted and suicidal cast offs. With Jean-Louis Roux and Terry Haig (ILSA, TIGRESS OF SIBERIA). Black also sings the theme song. Cinerama released it. New Yorker Hart had directed DARK INTRUDER (65) and many TV shows, and Roffman made THE MASK (60).

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