

EIGHTIES (1981-1990) F-H
All reviews by Michael J. Weldon

FALLEN ANGELS (Shocking, 83) P/D Gregory Brown, P Wendy Apple, Richard Learner

Fox/Lorber hired the man who had already directed several groundbreaking hard X gonzo porn movies to make this phony (in many ways) anti-porn documentary (originally from Vestron). Actual modeling agents in Sherman Oaks, directors (Hal Freeman, Bruce Seven), and actors (a thin Ron Jeremy, young Tom Byron, Eric Edwards) talk about the "industry," and young women audition, talk and pose, and some do softcore sex scenes. The real star is "Kimberly" (porn star Kristara Barrington), who says she's Korean and demonstrates phone sex. Dyed blonde Chic centerfold Diana strips, sings (very badly), cries, rides with her biker boyfriend, and says she's not allowed in her home town anymore. One segment is the making of **CAUGHT FROM BEHIND**. Also with the giggling black Shauna (a visual high point), Kim (who says she's making money for her baby), and several other forgettable unknowns. Brown (aka Dark or Hippolyte) (PV # 26) manages to plug his **NEW WAVE HOOKERS** at the end (Traci Lords is seen at the Pussycat Theater premiere). Shocking also sells **WARM UP WITH TRACI LORDS**.

THE FAN (Par., 81) D Edward Bianchi, S Pricilla Chapman, John Hartwell, P Robert Stigwood

When I first arrived in NYC I got a job at Record City on lower Broadway near 8th St. back before all the Gaps, McDonalds, Starbucks and even a Kmart opened in the neighborhood. It was an excellent store (filled with new and out of print LPs) and a fun job but just after I was fired, the store was used as a location for this major Paramount release. Douglas Breen (Michael Biehn, who narrates) lives alone in a small apt. (as I did at the time) and has my job at my station in Record City. Unlike me, he's insanely obsessed with Broadway star Sally Ross (Lauren Bacall) and talks to himself like in **TAXI DRIVER**. He sends threatening typed letters to her, and slashes her personal secretary (Maureen Stapleton) in a subway tunnel. He kills her young friend while swimming underneath him at the YMCA pool and kills her young maid in her apartment. He picks up a guy in a gay bar and lets him go down on him (with the WTC in the background) before slashing him, pouring on gasoline, and setting the body on fire. He kills even more people backstage after the opening night of the (ridiculous) new musical that Ross stars in. Dick Smith worked on the slasher **FX** which must have shocked older Bacall fans. Ross doesn't want anyone to know that she's 49 (Bacall was 57 at the time). The recent Lennon murder was on reviewers minds when they trashed **THE FAN** and James Garner (who plays Bacall's movie star former husband) claimed that Stigwood tricked him into co-starring. Hector Elizondo is a concerned but useless police inspector, and Ana Marie Horsford is an undercover black lady cop. Breen's store co-worker (Dana Delaney in her first film) is excited about getting tickets to see **Nervous Rex**. Also with Dwight Schulz, Griffin Dunne, and Liz Smith on TV. The Pino Donaggio score is excellent and songs are heard by James Brown, Jr. Walker, and the Selector ("Do The Dog"). The musical numbers are by Tim Rice and Marvin Hamlisch. Cinematographer Dick Bush had shot Ken Russell movies. Bianchi had been second unit director for Stigwood's **TIMES SQUARE** (80). **THE FAN** was based on a novel by Bob Randall who later died of AIDS.

FATAL SKIES (AIP, 1989) D/S Thomas C. Dugan, P Peter Yuval

Buddy Doyle (Timothy Leary) runs a toxic waste dump in the desert. He works for the Axxo (remember the Exxon Valdez?) corporation and sends three idiot hillbillies out to battle local skydiving teens (led by J. Michael Esposito and Veronica Carothers) and a Nam vet plane owner who stumbled onto the illegal activities. Leary (or his double) has several fight scenes after hiding in the ladies room. He laughs a lot and says "Leave me alone, you little shit head!" Blonde Carothers, also in the **VICE ACADEMY** movies, has a nude scene and lines like

"Some retard got toasted!" It all resembles a DUKES OF HAZZARD episode. With Jay Richardson as the corrupt sheriff and Melissa Anne Moore in a bit part. The ads say "Strap In, Climb On, Drop Out!"

FEAR CITY (Thorn EMI, 84) D Abel Ferrara, S Nicholas St. John, P Bruce Cohen Curtis

A young psycho who keeps a diary and knows martial arts is slashing and killing strippers. The depressed Matty (Tom Berenger), a former boxer who has RAGING BULL style ring flashbacks, runs the agency the girls work for. His ex (Melanie Griffith) is a bi-sexual drug addict who has the main onstage nude scenes. The victims include Rae Dawn Chong, Ola (THRILLER) Ray, and Maria Conchita Alonso. With Billy Dee Williams (Italian hating cop), Michael V. Gazzo (strip club owner), Rossano Brazzi (priest), Jack Scalia, Jan Murray, and Lori Eastside. The theme ("New York Doll") is by David Johansen. This dreary movie reminds me of the early 80's Times Square with strippers at The Metropole, DOING IT and SKIN DEEP playing at The Circus and the old Popeye's Chicken electric sign (Popeye's face turned black at night!). The third feature by Ferrara, it was made for 20'th Century but released by Aquarius. His next, not counting TV movies, was CHINA GIRL (87).

FILMHOUSE FEVER (Vestron, 86) P/D/S Domonic Paris

Two slacker trash movie fanatic guys, Tony (Steve Buscemi!) and Vinnie (Mojo Nixon) with a wall of TV sets and posters everywhere get excited about a bargain movie marathon. After a slapstick L. A. driving sequence they settle in to watch scenes and trailers (many featuring gore or nudity) intercut with their comic reactions. This forgotten paste up obscurity features lots of Al Adamson and H. G. Lewis plus scenes from ROCKTOBER BLOOD, SNO LINE (Paul Smith and the gator), WARRIOR AND THE SORCERESS (David Carradine), SUBURBIA, and the comedy shorts TORA TORA TORA and Sam Raimi's b/w CAPTAIN SMITH BOUNTY HUNTER (starring Bruce Campbell). The rest of the audience turns out to be zombies. By the director of DRACULA'S LAST RIGHTS.

FIRECRACKER! (Monterey, 81) D/S Cirio Santiago, P Syed Kechik

Blonde Susana (Jillian Kessner), from L.A., does impressive backflips and high kicks as she battles drug dealing villains and avenges her sister's death in Manila. The arrogant Chuck (Darby Hinton), an Oriental woman and Grif (local horror movie regular Vic Diaz), work for Eric (Metcalf again). Susana has a sex scene with Chuck (they cut each other's clothes off first), and in the movie's classic scene, fights a bunch of guys in a warehouse while wearing only her panties. Kessner looks great (she also has a long running in her underwear scene) and she shoves a bad guy's (obvious dummy) head into a rotary saw blade. The Metcalfe character also runs illegal gladiator death battles and shoots drugs this time and Susana learns stick fighting. The locations include a native village and another street festival. The big end battle in a hotel also features Reymond King's Bruce Lee imitation. Additional scenes were shot by Alan Holzman. Kessner did more Philippines fu fighting in RAW FORCE the same year. Santiago remade this remake of TNT JACKSON again (!) (with Metcalfe again) in 92 as ANGEL FIST (PV #18).

THE FIRM (J 4 TH!, 88) D Alan Clarke, S Al Hunter, P David M. Thompson

Gary Oldman (with a mustache) stars in this BBC drama as Bex, a smiling sadistic Cockney soccer hooligan. He and his (interracial) chanting ICC (Inter City Crew) followers battle a violent rival group who like to vandalize and burn cars. When his lifestyle endangers his baby and his wife (Leslie Manville) throws him out (again), he visits his father (who had been just like him) and stays in his unchanged childhood bedroom. The ending effectively shows that these guys will never grow up or stop making England the worst country in Europe for mindless sports related violence. It's by the director of SCUM (80). With Philip Davis as the blonde rival Yeti and Dean Martin on the soundtrack. Oldman, of course, went on to play Dracula and Dr. Smith.

FORTY DEUCE (Shocking, 82) D Paul Morrissey, S Alan Bowne, P Jean-Jacques Fourgeaurd

Four boys work the streets for a man named Angie. The minimal plot deals with a John (Orson Bean) being tricked into getting into bed with a dead twelve year old boy. Ricky (Kevin Bacon) is a junkie "greaseball" who nods in a men's room. Blow (Mark Keyloun from GIMME AN F) seems to be the only one with a hint of humanity left. The others are played by Esai Morales (LA BAMBA) and Tommy Citera (UP THE ACADEMY), the youngest. It's based on an off Broadway play, so to break the monotony, the second half is all in split screen. Some scenes were filmed in the huge 42nd St. subway station and in the Port Authority bus terminal. Every other word is swearing or something about cocks. Marquees announce NICE DREAMS and GAMES WOMEN PLAY, playing when Bacon was still a GUIDING LIGHT regular. I remember Bean from TO TELL THE TRUTH and was surprised to see him here. It was filmed in-between the former Interview editor's even more obscure MADAME WANG'S (79) and his much better MIXED BLOOD (85). The music is by Manu D'Bango and the video has French subtitles.

GIRLS NITE OUT (Thorn EMI, 82) D Robert Deubel, P/S Anthony N. Gurvis, S Gil Spence Jr., Kevin Kurge, Joe Bolster

(THE SCAREMAKER) Someone in a black hood (then in a cartoonish bear costume) kills students at a college in Westville, Ohio. Angry head security guard Jim MacVey (Hal Holbrook from Cleveland) thinks it's the guy in an asylum who had killed his daughter. The bear (with steak knife claws) yells "Bitch! Whore!..." as it kills. Meanwhile oblivious students drink booze, smoke pot, try to get laid and kill time with a basketball game, a costume party and a scavenger hunt with clues from an oldies radio DJ. It's a mild cliché movie with POV stalking scenes, false scares, and a surprise ending, but with many fun hit songs by The Lovin' Spoonful, Tommy James And The Shondells, The 1910 Fruitgum Company and even the Kastanetz- Katz Singing Orchestral Circus ("Quick Joey Small"). With blonde beauty Suzanne Barnes, top billed Julia Montgomery (REVENGE OF THE NERDS), David (son of Hal) Holbrook as a jealous suspect, Rutanya Alda (AMITYVILLE 2, VIGILANTE...) as a concerned cafeteria worker, and James Carroll.

GUNHEAD (A. D. Vision, 89) D/S Masato Marada, S James Bannon, P Yoshishige Shimatani, Tetsunisa Yamada

(GANHEDDO) In the next century, Brooklyn (Masahiro Takashima), the only survivor of a multi-racial armed expedition to a huge abandoned robot factory on an island, manages to reactivate and pilot the Gunhead robot. Another robot attacks and a woman from his crew becomes a cyber killer. He's joined by the tough, soft spoken blonde Sgt. Nim (Brenda Bakke) and two kids named after their ages (7 and 11). The plotless Toho sci fi hardware co-production is aimed at kids but a character yelling fuck seems like an attempt for a more adult rating. Everything looks brownish, too dark and smokey and there's a plug for Pepsi. The tape is letterboxed. Bakke was also in the Japanese SOLAR CRISIS (92), which like this, is credited to director "Alan Smithee" (on the box).

HELL HUNTERS (New Star, 86) P/D Ernest Theumer, S James Dalessandro, Louis La Russo II

The young half German Tonio (Romulo Arantes), the blonde American Ally (Candice Daly), the tough kickboxing Nelia (Nelia Cozza), and boat captain Kong (Russ McCubbin) team up to take down the Nazi doctor war criminal Martin "Hoffmann" (Stewart Granger) busy planning a new master race in a secret South American jungle compound. Ally's Nazi hunter sister (Maude Adams) had been killed, along with her new husband (Wilhelm Berger), the nephew of Hoffmann. The surprisingly enjoyable movie was shot in Rio and other interesting South American locations and features cemetery shootouts, waterfall sex, topless

dancers, and a black dwarf. Eduardo Conde is a long haired hitman and George Lazenby has a tiny role as a Nazi.

HOLLOWGATE (City Lights, 88) D/S Ray Dizazzo, P Richard Pepin, Joseph Merhi
An Oklahoma kid is traumatized by his asshole drunken father at a Halloween party. Ten years later he (Addison Randall, who looks about 40) kills a couple that ridiculed him while he was pumping gas. He's ordered to live with his rich grandmother under medication but kills her too. On Halloween, two couples show up, so he puts on costumes (Nam soldier, cowboy) and hunts them and kills them in the woods. Pepin's kids act in the opening scene.

HOLLYWOOD COP (Celebrity, 86) D/S Amir Shervan, P Moshe + Simon Bibiyan
A bearded gangster (Jim Mitchum) orders the kidnapping of the son of Rebecca (blonde Julie Schoenhofer), the ex-wife of another criminal (Larry Lawrence). Hooded gunmen slaughter nearly everybody at a ranch, then the cute little blond son is slapped around, beaten and threatened with wild dogs. A tough talking police Captain (Cameron Mitchell) sends the tall, curly haired "Turkey" (star David Goss) and his comic relief black partner Jaguar (Lincoln Kilpatrick who was in SOYLENT GREEN and THE OMEGA MAN) to save the day. This is a prime example of crap with has-been guest stars produced fast and cheap to fill 80's video shelves. I consider it a "guilty pleasure," complete with Chinese kung fu fighters (credit names are Korean and Vietnamese), bikers, synth music, topless wrestling, a decapitation, puking, a flaming man, the attempted gang rape of a naked Oriental woman, a man shot in the balls, and a welfare check joke. And I nearly forgot Aldo Ray (as Fong!), and Troy Donahue (as a cop).

HOLLYWOOD ZAP! (Troma, 86) D/S David Cohen, P/star Ben Frank, P Bobbie Frank

Tucker (Ivan E. Roth) leaves his crummy job in the American South to search for his father in L.A. He meets a violent, nasty Wall St. dropout bum (Frank), obsessed with video games. The producer/ actor dominates the so called comedy, with his vaudeville style ranting and drag disguises (nurse and nun). The familiar (to some) actors are Claude Earl Jones as the motel owner uncle, big Chuck (PORKYS) Mitchell, as a lawyer, and Stan Ross as a crazed old drunk. Pacman screens at a Video arcade are shown and there's a topless dyed blonde (Annie Gaybis).

THE HOUSE OF CLOCKS (Video Vortex, 89) D Lucio Fulci, S Gianfranco Clerici, Daniele Stroppa

Pot smoking shop lifters Diana (Karina Huff), Tony (Keith Van Hoven), and the sadistic cat killing Paul (Peter Hintz) drive to a remote old house. They rob and accidentally kill the nice seeming old couple who live there. The old man (Paolo Paoloni) who talks to his vast collection of old clocks and his wife (Bettine Milne) are actually some kind of killer zombies who can revive the dead. By the end, it all turns out to be a dream Over ten years ago when this fairly gory, senseless, and mean spirited feature was made for Italian TV, it would have seemed way over the line for American TV. Now our network shows feature more believable autopsies and mangled bodies. With Fulci regular Al Cliver (ZOMBIE, SEVEN DOORS OF DEATH) as a servant. The letterboxed tape has Japanese subtitles.

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