



Made in Secret: The Story of the East Van Porn Collective

This film was a collaborative effort. It would not have been possible without the following people:

Aaron Pettigrew
Anna Purcell
Evan Sutton
Godfrey
Katie Hindmarch-Watson
Matt McCarron
Matt Piifold
Nadine Carew
Sarah Levine
Todd Peterson
Cast:
Muffy LaRue
Hugh Jorgen
nerdgirl
JD Superstar
Mr. Pants
Monster
Professor University

Songs:

'Leaving Song': Naomi Sider
'Long Hard Rush': Evan Sutton
'Perfect Stranger': Cornelius Experimental
'Disclosure': C.R. Avery
'Lately All I Do Is Fall': C.R. Avery
'Summer': Naomi Sider
'Malaise Days': po'girl
'Piggy Pile': The WetSpots
'Wheels Are Taking Me Away': po'girl
'Do You Take It?': The WetSpots
'The Kinky Neighbor Song': The WetSpots
'Porny Variations, 1-8': A Thousand Times No
Canada 2004
86 mins

World Cinema

Made in Secret: The Story of the East Van Porn Collective

Made in Secret is a thought-provoking look behind the scenes of what might be the world's only underground, DIY, anarcho-feminist porn collective.

Notes for before the movie...

The festival programme refers to *Made in Secret* as a documentary, which, overall, is a perfectly valid interpretation of the film. But like most binary labels (male/female, gay/straight, etc.), the term *documentary* can leave out as much as it reveals about the true nature of what it describes. So, what would *we* call the movie? We honestly don't know. We have wracked our collective brain for months trying to find a term that accurately places the movie within the documentary/drama dichotomy, but have finally come to the conclusion that *Made in Secret* must exist outside of that framework. It isn't fact. It isn't fiction. It isn't even the typically Canadian 'somewhere in between.' It's something else altogether. And if we could ask one thing of you as you watch our little movie, it would be that you try to create a new category for it in your mind. Or better yet, a non-category. An amorphous, permeable space for other ways of being and seeing and knowing.

Notes for after the movie...

'We must become the change we wish to see in the world.' (Gandhi)

Made in Secret is a pure labour of love, made over the course of three years by a group of friends who wanted to see a documentary made about our local anarcho-feminist porn collective. The only problem was, that collective didn't exist. And so, in a post-modern twist that Gandhi may never have foreseen, we *became* the anarcho-feminist porn collective that we so dearly wished to see in the world, simply in order to make a film about it. In other words, we didn't document what we were doing; we did the things we wanted to document. Or, it's equally true to say, we set out to make a fictional film and in the process, ended up living the story we were trying tell.

Both interpretations are true, for as we grew more and more immersed in the constructed reality of the film, the layers of reality and meta-fiction began to feed off each other. Eventually the process and the product became so conflated that it was no longer possible to distinguish between the movie and real life. *Made in Secret* is an ambiguous, but undeniably genuine artefact of this life-transforming experiment. Which is why, whether the movie is perceived as fact or fiction or none of the above, ultimately it's all true. The trust we built, the intimacy we shared, the risks we took, the mistakes we made, the care we took of each other, the relentless perseverance we showed in finding solutions that worked for everybody... they are all on the screen because they were really happening, both in front of and behind the camera.

And in that sense, the film does feel to us like a documentary. It's just not the

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World Cinema: remaining screenings

Girl Play Sun 3 April 14.00 NFT2
Butterfly (Hudie)
Sun 3 April 18.15 NFT1; Tue 5 April 13.00 NFT1
Palindromes Sun 3 April 20.45 NFT1
El Pulover Mon 4 April 16.00 NFT2
Far Side of the Moon (La Face cachée de la lune)
Mon 4 April 18.20 NFT1; Sat 9 April 20.40 NFT2
The D Word
Tue 5 April 18.30 NFT1; Wed 6 April 15.50 NFT2
Positively Naked Wed 6 April 18.10 NFT3
Race You to the Bottom
Wed 6 April 18.30 NFT1; Mon 11 April 14.30 NFT1
The Joy of Life
Wed 6 April 20.40 NFT2; Thu 7 April 14.00 NFT1
Annie Sprinkle's Amazing World of Orgasm
Thu 7 April 18.20 NFT2
The Tasty Bust Reunion
Fri 8 April 15.45 NFT2; Sat 9 April 15.50 NFT3
A Few Good Dykes Fri 8 April 18.10 NFT3
The Ski Trip
Fri 8 April 18.20 NFT2; Wed 13 April 18.15 NFT2
Make a Wish
Fri 8 April 22.40 NFT1; Mon 11 April 20.40 NFT3
Little Man Sat 9 April 16.00 NFT1
Drag Kings on Tour Sat 9 April 1
8.20 NFT2; Wed 13 April 16.00 NFT2
Dorian Blues Sat 9 April 18.30 NFT1
Is It Really So Strange?
Sun 10 April 14.00 NFT1; Tue 12 April 20.30 NFT3
Inescapable
Sun 10 April 18.30 NFT1; Wed 13 April 20.40 NFT2
Beautiful Boxer
Sun 10 April 20.30 NFT3; Mon 11 April 20.30 NFT2
Jeggary Junket – New films from the Asian Diaspora
Sun 10 April 20.40 NFT2
D.E.B.S.
Mon 11 April 18.30 NFT1; Wed 13 April 18.20 NFT1
The Heart Is Deceitful... above All Things
Mon 11 April 20.45 NFT1
In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannine Gramick's Journey of Faith Tue 12 April 18.00 NFT1
Hellbent Wed 13 April 20.45 NFT1

documentary it appears to be. Beyond that, we're not inclined to say much about exactly where the various realities intersect and diverge. We prefer to let the ambiguity remain open to each person's interpretation. Besides, we couldn't tell you if we wanted to. Even amongst ourselves we don't entirely agree on where the facts stop and the fiction starts. But that's okay. Because ultimately, the movie isn't about what happened or what didn't happen; it's about what's possible. And we think the possibilities are huge. Not just in terms of reclaiming erotic film from corporate control, but in terms of reclaiming our entire culture.

This movie was made by a group of people with little or no filmmaking experience, and for only a few hundred dollars. It was incredibly hard work, but it was also surprisingly do-able. Throughout the process, we were constantly amazed at how possible it really was. The power to tell our own stories and create our own realities is entirely within our hands. It's time to seize it.

Love and Kisses,
The East Van Porn Collective

Dialogue

This film is an extremely personal expression of ourselves. We are absolutely thrilled to have this opportunity to share it with you, but it does feel somewhat strange to bare ourselves in this way without even being there to see your lovely faces and talk with you afterwards. For that reason, it would mean a great deal to us to hear from you. We would love hear your comments, questions, thoughts, challenges, criticisms, yummy recipes, or whatever else you feel like sending our way. You can write to us at madeinsecret@eastvanporncollective.org.

We'd also be very keen to hear your take on what makes for an erotic film. You've seen what we think is sexy. Now we want to know what *you* think is sexy. What's the sexiest thing you've ever seen in a movie? What's the sexiest thing you've *never* seen in a movie? What will your movie be like?

We can't wait to find out.

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The NFT Café is open daily from 10am to 9pm offering morning coffee and cakes, lunch and dinner.

National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 8XT.
Box Office 020 7928 3232. www.bfi.org.uk/nft.

The NFT bar is open from 11am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 12 noon to 10.30pm Sundays. Enjoy riverside views, fine food and drinks.

Programme notes and credits compiled by Filmographic Services, *bfi* National Library.
Notes may be edited or abridged. Questions/comments? email prognotes@bfi.org.uk.