

Made in Secret

The Story of the East Van Porn Collective

— Synopsis —

Made in Secret is an engaging, inspiring and deliciously perplexing labour of love, made over the course of three years by a group of friends who wanted to make a documentary about their local anarcho-feminist porn collective. The only problem was, that collective didn't exist. And so, in order to make the film, they actually *became* the anarcho-feminist porn collective that they so passionately wanted to document. So is the resulting film a documentary? A fictional drama? Even the collective doesn't know anymore. And ultimately, it doesn't matter, because the movie isn't about what happened or what didn't happen—it's about what's possible. And the possibilities are huge, transcending the quest for egalitarian porn and touching at very heart of how we engage with others and with the world around us.

“This enthralling movie is something of a minor miracle, tackling some very weighty subjects with an ease and humor that belies the importance of its concerns. It's an unparalleled depiction of a collective at work; a vehicle for airing issues about sex and porn and representation and body image and consumption and filmmaking; and an inspiring portrait of a really smart, lovely, unlikely group of people pushing themselves way out into the unknown. And it just might start a little revolution: May a thousand porn collectives bloom!”

—Tod Booth, *San Francisco Independent Film Festival*



Made in Secret. This is what democracy looks like naked.

———— **Cast & Credits** ————

Muffy LaRue
Hugh Jorgen
nerdgirl
JD Superstar
Mr. Pants
Monster
Professor University
Godfrey
Film is a collaborative art.

———— **Music** ————

All music contributed by lovely East Van artists.

“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”
1000 Times No

——— Reviews ———

“A no-budget doc of the highest order.”

Jason Lewis, *FFWD Weekly*

“A no-budget doc of the highest order, *Made in Secret* proves that there is drama to be found everywhere as long as you look for it. On the surface the film discusses concepts of body image and sexual hegemony, topics every member of EVPC feels strongly about. But what this film does best is use the titillation of porn to suck audiences into an exploration of group dynamic. As the EVPC evolves, they stay true to their mandate of consensus, even when it becomes difficult to achieve. Making a good case for DIY documentary filmmaking, *Made in Secret* is smart, intimate and, above all, interesting.”

“These people are heroes.”

Diva Magazine, U.K.

“*Made in Secret: The Story of the East Van Porn Collective* is one of those gems that are easy to miss if you aren’t careful, but it’s exactly the kind of film the festival exists to show. It features brave intelligent queer people exploring complex issues of social responsibility and group dynamics on a very local scale. Bored with the porn options on offer, a group of friends – straight and gay – create a collective to make their own films for the private consumption of the group. This film documents the process. Don’t let the ropery video quality initially put you off; this will quickly mesmerize you. These people are heroes and their work is inspirational.”

“A little bit of utopia does actually exist in the world.”

Cheryl Eddy, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

“Forget for a second that the word “porn” is in the title – it’s the concept of “collective” that makes this doc extraordinary. Ostensibly a fly-on-the-wall look at the cuddly Vancouver creatives who work together to make “sexy movies” – i.e., DIY porn – *Made in Secret* is more compelling for its depiction of working by consensus instead of by majority rule. It’s fun watching the group members plan and film their latest opus (a “pan-sexual romp” dubbed *BikeSexual*), and everyone involved belies their cutesy nom de porn (Muffy, Mr. Pants, etc.) by being hyperarticulate. One member explains that the goal is to make “positive propaganda against the negative propaganda in the hegemony of porn.” But when another member creates a stir by suggesting *BikeSexual* be shown at an alterna-porn festival – which would mark the first time one of their films would be shown to a non-EVPC audience – the ardently fair approach the members take when dealing with conflict illustrates that a little bit of utopia does actually exist in the world.”



—— **Festivals** ——

San Francisco Independent Film Festival (February 2005)
London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (April 2005)
Calgary Underground Film Festival (April 2005)
Festival of Forbidden Fruit (excerpt, May 2005)
Vancouver Queer Film & Video Festival (August 2005)
Film Pop Montreal (September 2005)
Lost Film Festival (October 2005)

—— **Awards** ——

Ambiguity Appreciation Award

(An award invented by the staff of the San Francisco Independent Film Fest
when they couldn't decide in which category to vote for Made in Secret.)

The Erotic Awards Independent Film of the Year

(An awards banquet fundraiser for the National Sex and Disability Helpline.)

—— **Publicity Stills** ——

High and low resolution production stills are available on the web site and on disc.
Caption information is provided below:

Key art: Monster in China Creek Skate Bowl.

Horizontal colour: Monster.

Vertical colour: Monster (top) and Mr. Pants.

Horizontal black & white: JD Superstar (left) and nerdgirl.

Vertical black & white: JD Superstar (left) and nerdgirl.

—— **Contact** ——

We'd love to hear from you.

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