

Viva LA SEXPLOITATION!

FILM AUTEUR ANNA BILLER UNREELS A MINOR MASTERPIECE OF VINTAGE BAD TASTE, RIOTOUS IMAGERY AND SEXUAL SUBVERSION.

The storyline is quintessential B-grade: Uplight suburban housewife Barbi flees a failed marriage, gets sucked into the sexual revolution by her happy-hooker friend and falls prey to a seedy world of horny predators, drugged-out nudists and kinky swingers.

Cinematographer C. Thomas Lewis and director Biller envision the '70s:



Anna Biller, the brains and voluptuous body behind Cult Epics' hilarious new DVD release *Viva*, has mastered the art of cinematic simulation. Her setting is 1972, two years before HUSTLER

Magazine emerged to challenge *Playboy's* dominance among men's sophisticates." Biller nails the tacky look and awkward cominess of pre-hard-core sleaze so well, her flick could be mistaken for a lost grindhouse classic.

The lounge world of negligees and cocktails that followed the flowery '60s may look innocent now, but as Barbi discovers, "free love" has a dirty little secret: It's a handy way to get a chick's panties off. Luckily, Biller doesn't spare the flesh. As the writer-director explains, "I wanted to offer up all the spectacle and lurid promise of exploitation while talking about what women really go through—their fantasies and sexual trials."

Portrayed by Biller herself, Barbi quickly learns that her playful fantasies are a long way from the carnal fixations of the men around her. In an escalating string of outrageous scenes and costume changes (not to mention some tie-curling double entendres), clueless Barbi is striped, drugged, groped and transformed into Viva, a vicious, confident diva who lords over a debauched orgy and gets pleasure on her own terms.

It's a utopian vision, and Biller's longing for that lost promise of sexual liberation is what gives her movie its



Viva's groovy world is full of wild orgies...

Bored housewife Barbi (Anna Biller) transforms into...



unique charm. "Many of our pleasures aren't politically correct or are just plain embarrassing," Biller asserts, "but we don't have to feel guilty about them. Like exploitation, my film relies on the spectre of taboo, but with a sense of comedy and nostalgia. I'm nostalgic for the days when the sex movement could ally with causes like feminism and civil rights. Exploring sexual roles is part of what creates pleasure and civilization."

With *Viva*, Biller blends striptease and her personal brand of lipstick feminism to tackle a timeless question: Can a woman be an object of desire and an equal partner in the sex game? It's a tricky balancing act, but the filmmaker pulls it off. (Corny entendre intended)

For more information go to CultEpics.com and LifeOfaStar.com.

—M.J.



...free love...

...ultimate vixen Viva!



...and sexual fulfillment!

