Mutantes
Punk Porn Feminism

France / 2009 / 91 mins. / Color / 1.85:1 / Dolby Digital / in English

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A FILM BY
VIRGINIE DESPENTES

INTERVIEWS BY
VIRGINIE DESPENTES AND MARIE-HELENE BOURCIER

SUPPLEMENTARY INTERVIEWS BY
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Interviewees:

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CATHERINE BREILLAT
SIOBHAN BROOKS
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NINA ROBERTS
CANDIDA ROYALLE
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MICHELLE TEA
CORALIE TRINH THI
BETONY VERNON
DEL LAGRACE VOLCANO
LINDA WILLIAMS
MADISON YOUNG
ITZIAR ZIGA
'Mutantes‘ is a documentary on pro-sex feminism by Virginie Despentes, originally conceived as an audiovisual complement to her book ‘King Kong Theory’.

Unlike the abolitionist feminist movement, the pro-sex feminist movement, which began in the United States during the 1980s, asserts that representations of the body and of pleasure are areas that must be taken over by women and sexual minorities and that pornography must not be subject to control by the patriarchal state. It also calls for the legalisation of sex work; female sex workers, porn actresses, strip teasers and lesbians have begun to speak out and to talk about themselves, generating a new culture that includes articles, books, films, documentaries, music, comics, artistic performances, etc.

Made up of about 20 interviews filmed in the United States, France and Spain, the documentary gives the floor to pro-sex activists and follows the evolution of the movement from the 80s to the present, from its pioneers and its successors to its proactive activists in France and Barcelona. It also reveals previously unknown images directly tied to the subject (excerpts from films produced by activists, updates on their activities, archives of their works, performances and street demonstrations, etc.)

Whether it’s referred to as Pro Sex, Post Porn or queer, the movement is a creative and revolutionary one that calls on us to reflect on what a pornographic image is, what sex work is, what gender is, and what the whole point of feminism is. Disturbing, provocative and innovative, ‘Mutantes’ aims to play a saving role as it splits from popular discourse, which would have it that sex is best practiced in the bedroom, that women’s dignity depends on their ‘good’ behaviour and passivity, that the only feminist themes to be debated are gender violence and the wearing of headscarves.

‘Mutantes’ allows us to see that activists are already occupying other playing fields, inventing other ways of having sex and of thinking of sexuality and gender.
About Virginie Despentes

BIOGRAPHY

Publishes Rape me (aka Fuck me) in 1993 and turns it into a film seven years later, co-directed by Coralie Trinh Thi and released in cinemas. Receives in 1998 the Prix de Flore, -a French award given to young promising authors- for her third novel entitled Pretty Things. Translates Poppy Z. Brite, Dee Dee Ramone and Lydia Lunch. Occasionally works as a journalist for French music and culture magazines Rock'n'Folk and Technikart. Directs in 2009 Mutantes, Punk Porn Feminism, her first documentary film. Is currently filming a cinematic version of her fifth novel, Bye Bye Blondie, featuring Béatrice Dalle, Emmanuelle Béart and Pascal Greggory.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1993  Baise-moi/ Rappe me (Florent Massot; translated from the French by Bruce Benderson, Grove Press, March 2003)
1995  Les Chiennes savantes (Florent Massot)
1998  Les Jolies Choses (Grasset)
1999  Mordre au travers (Librio)
2001  Trois Etoiles. (Collaboration with Nora Hamdi, Editions Diable Vauvert)
2002  Teen Spirit (Grasset)
2004  Bye bye Blondie (Grasset)
2006  King Kong Théorie / King Kong Theory (Grasset; translated from the French by Stephanie Benson, Serpent’s Tail, January 2009)

FILMOGRAPHY

1993  Rape me (original title Baise-moi; adaptated for the screen by Virginie Despentes, directed by Virginie Despentes and Coralie Trinh Thi)
2001  Pretty Things (original title Les Jolies Choses; adaptated for the screen and directed by Gilles Paquet-Brenner, featuring Marion Cotillard, Stomy Bugsy and Patrick Bruel)
2007  Teen Spirit (original title Tel père, telle fille; adapted for the screen and directed by Olivier De Plas, featuring Vincent Elbaz, Elodie Bouchez and Daisie Broom)
2009  Mutantes, Punk Porn Feminism, (documentary film written and directed by Virginie Despentes).