

Alive Mind CINEMA

Mutantes

Punk Porn Feminism

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

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from
Kino Lorber, Inc.
333 W. 39th St. Suite 503
New York, NY 10018
(212) 629-6880

Press Contacts: Rodrigo Brandao
Kino Lorber, Inc.
(212) 629-6880 ext. 12
rodrigo@kinolorber.com

Matt Barry
Kino Lorber, Inc.
(212) 629-6870 ext. 35
mbarry@kinolorber.com

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CREDITS

A FILM BY
VIRGINIE DESPENTES

INTERVIEWS BY
VIRGINIE DESPENTES AND MARIE-HELENE BOURCIER

SUPPLEMENTARY INTERVIEWS BY
VIRGINIE DESPENTES

CINEMATOGRAPHY
VALERIE BARDIN
JERÔME RAGEYS

SOUND
JERÔME AGHION

EDITING
VERONIQUE ROSA

SOUND MIX
JULIEN LEYDIER

ORIGINAL MUSIC
VAROU JAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
CATHERINE ROUAULT

PRODUCED BY
GERARD PONT AND GERARD LACROIX

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Interviewees:

NORMA JEAN ALMODOVAR
MARIA BEATTY
LYNNEE BREEDLOVE
CATHERINE BREILLAT
SIOBHAN BROOKS
SONDRA GOODWIN
SCARLOT HARLOT
MARIA LLOPIS
LYDIA LUNCH
POST OP
BEATRIZ PRECIADO
CAROL QUEEN
QUIMERA ROSA
B. RUBY RICH
NINA ROBERTS
CANDIDA ROYALLE
ANNIE SPRINKLE
JACKIE STRANO
MICHELLE TEA
CORALIE TRINH THI
BETONY VERNON
DEL LAGRACE VOLCANO
LINDA WILLIAMS
MADISON YOUNG
ITZIAR ZIGA

Mutantes

Punk Porn Feminism

'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.

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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/ Rape 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; adapted for the screen by Virginie Despentes, directed by Virginie Despentes and Coralie Trinh Thi)
- 2001** *Pretty Things* (original title *Les Jolies Choses*; adapted 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).