

## Jeff Kirkendall's Thoughts For The Month Column

### Thoughts, Opinions, Reviews, Commentary & More!

Hello and Welcome! My name is Jeff Kirkendall and I'm an independent filmmaker and actor from the Upstate New York area. This is the section of the Very Scary Productions website where I write about topics related to independent filmmaking, digital video production, acting, movies in general, horror movies in particular, my own indie movies, as well as anything and everything related or in between.

I decided to create this commentary page because I find that I often come across things that either interest me, excite me, intrigue me, or maybe just bug me. Any topic related to movies and cinema is fair game, from the most mainstream to the most controversial. For example I'll often read about movie projects that I have a strong interest in or opinion on, for one reason or another. This page gives me a forum to discuss these things. It's all about discussion and furthering understanding of our pop culture. Anyone who has feedback concerning what I have to say here, feel free to contact me (see the contact link at <http://www.veryscaryproductions.com/>).

I'd also like to point out that the following is just my opinion, and everyone is free to agree or disagree with what I have to say. Enjoy, and to all the Indies out there: Keep on Filming!

SUBJECT: A look at the evolution of Underground Digital Cinema - A discussion of some of my experiences, insights and perspectives - Part 8 – November 2008  
(Note: See the October 2007 TFTM for Part 1 of this continuing column, the November 2007 TFTM for Part 2, the December 2007 TFTM for Part 3, the February 2008 TFTM for Part 4, the March 2008 TFTM for Part 5, the April 2008 TFTM for Part 6, and the September 2008 TFTM column for part 7.)

This month I'll conclude my talk about the Seduction Cinema line of indie movies by discussing one of their highest profile titles, namely the 2002 feature ***Play-mate of the Apes***. \* I call this ***Planet of the Apes*** comedy spoof one of their highest profile movies simply because of the fact that it became a modern Cinemax staple, much like B-movies of years past discussed previously. And like those earlier pictures, ***Play-mate of the Apes*** was shot on film. When I wrote about movies such as ***H.O.T.S.***, I was using them as examples of B-movie exploitation classics of yesteryear in an attempt to provide a point of reference in my discussion of modern underground digital cinema. Now writing about ***Play-mate of the Apes*** highlights how an underground independent company can eventually progress to the level where their movies can be shot on film and become regularly featured on pay cable networks such as Cinemax (like those earlier B-movie film classics). So with that having been said, let's take a look at this indie epic starring Misty Mundae, Darian Caine and Debbie Rochon.

The plot of ***Play-mate of the Apes***, as one might imagine, loosely follows the story presented in the classic ***Planet of the Apes***. Here Misty Mundae plays Commander Gaylor, an astronaut traveling through space with her two beautiful female cohorts. (I won't name the entire cast list because, like Commander Gaylor, the other character names are all goofy sexual puns as well). After one of her companions accidentally hits a wrong button (a "never press" button), Misty is forced to crash the ship on the ape-inhabited planet. Soon the ladies are taken prisoner by General Lade (as mentioned,

more sexual puns), the ruling primate who believes humans have no soul because they can't dance. However Dr. Cornholeous, played by an unrecognizable Debbie Rochon, is sympathetic to them and believes they do have a soul and only need to be given a chance. Darian Caine plays another human prisoner, and for the rest of the feature running time the lovely ladies indeed do a lot of dancing, while at the same time trying to escape the clutches of the ruthless general and his cohorts.

Like the previously discussed ***Mummy Raider***, this feature showcases lots of bare skin and lesbian escapades. Here however these lengthy scenes are interspersed throughout the movie rather than placed all at the end, which acts to slow things down in an otherwise briskly-paced picture. That having been said, there is also lots of over-the-top humor which is tough not to laugh at. This is a film with a large cast of crazy characters dressed in ape, half-ape, caveman, and other silly costumes running around the woods screeching, dancing, singing, and even rapping. There is also lots of frenzied camera work (such as snap-pans to extreme close-ups of silly expressions) on display, and entertaining CGI graphics and effects as well. The sight gags and jokes, like the character names, are obvious and sometimes groan-inducing, but overall effective in keeping the laughs coming. And who can help but chuckle at full-cast dance scenes featuring songs such as *Hey Hey We're the Humans* (a spoof on the Monkees song *Hey Hey We're the Monkees*) and *The Ape Man Disco Song*. ***Play-mate of the Apes*** really does build upon the foundation set down by ***Mummy Raider***, and takes things to the next level in a movie that has a bigger budget feel. Watching these crazy escapades one can't help but think the producers must've had fun making the film, and how this surely had to have been one of the key movies that helped cement Misty's status (and probably Darian Caine's as well) as an indie B-movie starlet. Stay tuned for the next installment of this continuing column series...

\* Although I'm singling out ***Play-mate of the Apes*** as one of the highest profile Seduction Cinema movies, the company has gone on to produce other independent comedy and horror spoofs as well. Some of these titles include ***Dr. Jekyll and Mistress Hyde*** (a horror spoof), ***Lord of the Strings***, ***The Girl Who Shagged Me***, ***SpiderBabe***, and ***The Sexy Adventures of Van Helsing***, to name but a few. And most of these movies, as one might expect, star Misty Mundae and/or Darian Caine.

And see the December 2007 Thoughts For The Month column for discussion of the ***Emmanuelle*** series of films, and the February 2008 column for discussion of ***H.O.T.S.***, ***The Beach Girls*** and ***Confessions of a Window Cleaner***.