

Art Films You Should Watch Now – 2014

1) Mademoiselle (Tony Richardson) 1966.

Jeanne Moreau is a masochistic school teacher, prone to pyromania, whose suppressed lust leads to her poisoning a town's water supply and Italian lumberjacks spitting into her mouth for S&M fun. A screenplay by Jean Genet, later reworked by Marguerite Duras(!). God, imagine the production meetings.

2) Pink Narcissus (James Bidgood) 1971.

A landmark, historic, psychedelic underground movie hymn to male beauty directed by a one-time ball-gown designer turned mad genius. Watch it alone.

3) Kitten With a Whip (Douglas Heyes) 1964.

Anne Margaret in her first dramatic role. »Every inch of her spells EXCITEMENT!« the ad campaign screamed and it was no exaggeration. Is this film the camp classic its title implies, or actually a serious art film that comes close to working? You be the judge.

4) A Cold Wind in August (Alexander Singer) 1961.

Lola Albright as a has-been American stripper obsessed with beatnik bad-boy stud muffin Scott Marlowe. A black- and-white low-budget movie that played for almost a year in my home town and inspired a generation of Baltimore independent film lovers before there even was such a term.

5) Boom! (Joseph Losey) 1968.

Beyond bad, the other side of camp, so genuinely awful and beautiful there's only one way to describe this Elizabeth Taylor-Richard Burton starrer – perfect.

6) Powder (Victor Salva) 1995.

A ludicrous, un-intentionally hilarious sci-fi picture about a teenage hairless albino freak who resembles Michael Jackson in his »bleached« period and has electronically magnetic super powers after being struck by lightning while in his mother's pregnant belly.

7) Beefcake (Thom Fitzgerald) 1998.

Once upon a time young men, gay and straight, came to Hollywood to become movie stars but some, instead, ended up as masturbatory fantasies thanks to photographer Bob Mizer. This is his story.

8) Patty Hearst (Paul Schrader) 1988.

This real life heiress, kidnap victim and wrongly-convicted bank robber was always telling the truth and the director tells her side of the story starkly and convincingly.

9) Clean, Shaven (Lodge Kerrigan) 1994.

This film dares to ask the question »Can a schizophrenic be paranoid for good reason?« One of the creepiest, smartest movies ever made about mental illness, directed with perfect minimalist confidence.

10) Blow Job (Andy Warhol) 1964.

»Oral« porn at its sexiest, yet you don't see a thing below the waist.

by John Waters