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## Documentary Highlights Violence in Porn Videos

### 'The Price of Pleasure' Tours College Campuses, Provokes Tears

By **CHELSEY DELANEY**  
AUSTIN, Texas, Nov. 20, 2008



8 comments

A new documentary being shown on college campuses takes aim at violence against women depicted in the \$10 billion U.S. sexually-oriented video industry.

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The 2005 AVN Adult Entertainment Expo in Las Vegas. At the convention, porn performers promoted their videos and some, like this woman, gave out free DVDs. (Courtesy Christian Woods)

The film "The Price of Pleasure," was screened at the University of Texas last week, kicking off a five-month nationwide tour at 13 college campuses and community centers.

Filmmakers Chyng Sun, Miguel Picker and Robert Wosnitzer teamed up with University of Texas professor Robert Jensen and researcher Gail Dines in 2004 to document the Adult Video News annual pornography convention and to juxtapose it with trends of sexual violence. Sun invested \$60,000 into the movie for research and resource access. The remaining \$20,000 to produce the film was funded by a few donors and the NYU

Research Challenge Fund.

Jensen has researched the pornography industry for more than 20 years.

"I had used pornography like most men do in this culture and had a pretty normal experience with it," said Jensen. "When I went back to graduate school, I started reading feminist literature, and it opened a whole new way of seeing the issue."

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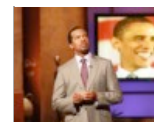


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### Graphic Violence

Last week, the film was shown to a packed lecture hall where UT students overflowed into the aisles. Some of the material presented in the film focuses on the subset of porn that includes scenes of graphic violence, mainly directed against women. The graphic scenes prompted some viewers to cover their faces during the movie. When the lights went up, Jensen appeared at the podium to address the silent audience.

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Rachel Willis, a senior at the college, wiped tears from her eyes as she spoke about what she saw.

"I have never watched porn consistently but I never minded it until now," Willis said. "I think the quote that resonates with me most is that 'When violence is sexualized, it becomes invisible.'"

Senior Amena Sengal, who works for UT's Gender and Sexuality Center as a research assistant studying pornography, said what she saw made her "more cautious" about watching porn."

"Actually, during the film, I was trying to analyze whether or not the films we were showing the participants [at the center] are in any way degrading," Sengal said. "Then I remembered that the films we show are the ones geared to women -- the 'femme'

production ones. So, I feel a little better, but still not that much better about porn in general."

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Given the findings of that film, it really isn't surprising that we STILL live in such a misogynistic culture. And it would appear that the other comments to this story are indeed products of such a



society.  
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I have a feeling this 'documentary' was just a way for these college kids to "study porn". And where did they get this "violent" material from anyway? All that's mentioned here is spanking, gagging and language used. Don't they know that all of this is done in a very controlled environment? Everyone involved knows what they are doing and since when is spanking and these other things considered violence? I seriously doubt anything in this film comes from anything truly violent. And yeah, this guy is now a feminist? What's up with that? This story's silly. Abuse agains't women is a serious issue and is no laughing matter but this is just silly.  
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