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MISS exotic OREGON 2026

Q&A WITH THE
CROWN

MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026

Daphne

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HAWTHORNE STRIP

THE RETURN OF
TALES FROM THE
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Daphne
FROM
HAWTHORNE STRIP



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Miss Exotic Oregon 2026
Hawthorne Strip



INTERVIEW WITH THE CROWN

introducing miss exotic oregon 2026
page 14 | by bryan a. bybee



TALES FROM THE DJ BOOTH

your favorite column is back after half a decade
page 20 | by dj hazmatt



ALBUMS TURNING 20 THIS YEAR

making the case for time dilation and sorcery
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TERRIBLE TOOTHPASTE

the worst dental creams imaginable
page 44 | by wombstretcha the magnificent

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AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CROWN

INTERVIEW BY
BRYAN/A. BYBEE

PHOTOS BY
HYPNOX

MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026 - DAPHNE



Congratulations, Daphne! You absolutely slayed *The Finals*! Your theme was one of the most unique we've seen to date! Tell us why you chose the theme you did, and why it won out over the other themes you contemplated.

I knew I wanted my theme to be sci-fi, and at first, I considered doing a take on Frankenstein or the movie *Species*. However, those fell short of the originality I was looking for. Themes of sentient, disobedient machines and artificial intelligence have interested me for quite some time, and to me, they feel especially (and terrifyingly) relevant to our current day. I also wanted an opportunity for transformation! This theme felt very personal to me.

Focusing on the time during your actual performance, what do you remember thinking about or feeling while on stage?

Toward the beginning of my performance, I remember feeling the audience's eyes on me and realizing that I had their full attention. You could've heard a pin drop. I was just thinking: *Do what you rehearsed, don't get in your head, you've got their attention now—don't lose it!*

This is your first *Exotic* cover! We're excited to feature you! Was being featured on our cover something you thought about in the past? Did the cover photo shoot feel different from the *Exotic* ad photo shoots you've been to in the past?

Being on the cover is an honor! Being on it isn't something I ever counted on, but sure, I thought about it!

These things come with time and timing, and I haven't been dancing too long. The cover shoot with HYPNOX felt more personal and relaxed than other shoots, and it was cool to have a good chunk of time set aside to really settle in. We'd worked together before, so it was very comfortable and fun!

Describe your other experiences competing in events—including Miss Exotic Oregon 2025, where you placed fourth—and how they shaped your preparations for Miss Exotic Oregon 2026.

The experiences of competing in other events eased my nerves quite a bit. I think there's a huge benefit to having an idea of what to expect—what the judges look for, what the competitions feel like, the level of artistry and creativity that is possible... When I got second place in my first-ever competition last year, Best Breasts of the West, I realized I might just have what it takes to go for gold. Competing in *Miss Exotic Oregon 2025* helped me game-plan something really special this time around.

Despite being redundant, we never miss the chance to ask these next two questions! What advice would you offer to other performers who are looking to win it all at an Exotic event?

Miss Exotic Oregon is an incredible opportunity to showcase your creativity. Put your attention into the details. Be original

and refined. Tell a story! And make sure you command the hell out of that stage. If there's ever an opportunity to go all out, it's at an *Exotic* event.



If you could travel back in time and talk to baby stripper Daphne, what advice would you offer?

To be honest, I'm still kind of a baby stripper! But when I was just starting out, I'd remind myself to stay true, be humble, not become a workaholic, and take advantage of every opportunity.

What if our readers are interested in seeing you perform? Where can they catch you on shift? Drop your socials, too!

You can catch me at Hawthorne Strip during the second half of the week. I'm not currently on Instagram, so you can find my schedule on Hawthorne Strip's website (hawthornestrip.com), as well as on my personal website (daphneduval.com), where you can also find my contact info, other appearances and events I'm involved in, and all kinds of other goodies and updates.

Tell us all about some of your future aspirations, industry-related or otherwise...

I am always looking for creative performance and leveling-up opportunities—burlesque, featured performances, showcases, music videos, etc. I also have some workshop ideas that I'm absolutely dying to bring to life.

Lastly, what consumes your time when you're not killing it on the pole or otherwise kicking ass on stage?

Off the stage, I'm often cooking something, making music, or off on some adventure. In the winter, you can find me wandering through antique stores or cozying up in my home. In the summer, I'm sweating in the garden, driving to estate sales, and otherwise tinkering. And I'm always surrounding myself with the best, sweetest, most supportive people—my girls!!



1st PLACE

Daphne
HAWTHORNE STRIP

MISS EXOTIC OREGON 2026

THE FINALS!

PHOTOS BY RALPH FOTO & **HYPOX**
PHOTOGRAPHY

Melody
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2nd PLACE

Blossom
KIT KAT CLUB

River
THE LOUNGE

Belladonna
GUILTY PLEASURES

3rd PLACE

Jupiter Haze
CASA DIABLO

Matilda Blu
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Brodie Grody
DEVILS POINT
& KIT KAT CLUB



Persia

Lina
SECRET LOUNGE
& SWEET ILLUSIONS

Eris
GUILTY PLEASURES

Sky
THE DOLPHIN

Valentine
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Happy New Year, folks! We made it...2025 is in the books. 2026 is already looking great, with lots of exciting events and new industry offerings slated to take place. In fact, we have one to announce right out of the gate! The Sunset Strip is back...now called The Sunset Strip VIP Gentlemen's Club. It's at a brand new location: 10860 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy in Beaverton. Be sure to give them a proper industry "welcome back" by stopping in!

Nothing like a plethora of birthdays to ring in the New Year! It all starts with Rain's Blue Birthday Party at Guilty Pleasures on Saturday, January 10. Then, make sure to stop by Baeristas Vegan Espresso for Boss Lady Benzi's Birthday Shift (5 a.m. to noon). [Editor's note: Folks, if you haven't checked this place out yet, you're missing some of the best smoothies, treats, and caffeinated delights available! It's located in the front parking lot of Casa Diablo, so you can't miss it!] Our next birthday is on Friday, January 16, with Pinky's Snow Bunny Birthday Party at Stars Cabaret (Bridgeport). Then, on Thursday, January 22, it's Cherry and Pixie's Birthday Bash at Lucky Devil! Wrapping up our January birthdays is Priestess's Sexy Magic Birthday Party at Hawthorne Strip on Friday, January 23. A very Happy Birthday, ladies, from all of us at Exotic!

Moving on to other industry events...on Saturday, January 24, it's Winter Wonderland at Stars Cabaret in Salem, with exciting drink specials and brand new menu items. Make sure to close the month out right with Devils Point's Music Video Madness on Saturday, January 31. They'll have 2000s music video-themed sets all night long, and what's more? It's Axel's Birthday Party! Happy Birthday, Axel! ♥

Now we can't have a proper start to a new year without a DJ Dick Hennessy event...that would be unheard of. So we're happy to announce The 12th Annual Pirates of the Caribooty, kicking off on Thursday, January 8 at Acropolis! You can check out the dates for all seven rounds and the finals on page 22. See you there!

MISS EXOTIC 2026

All hail the new crown in P-town! A special congratulations goes to Miss Exotic Oregon 2026, Daphne, representing Hawthorne Strip!

I'd also like to recognize the incredible performances by Blossom from Kit Kat Club, who placed 2nd, and Jupiter Haze from Casa Diablo, who placed 3rd!

Be sure to check out the exclusive interview with Miss Exotic Oregon 2026, Daphne, on page 14, and full coverage of The Finals starting on page 16, to see photos of all the finalists in action during their performances.

Here's to a simply astounding 2026!

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eroticcity spotlight

THU 08 – ACROPOLIS – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 1)

FRI 09 – FLESH AND BONES
PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 2)

SAT 10 – GUILTY PLEASURES – RAIN'S BLUE BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 10 – SECRET LOUNGE (SPRINGFIELD)
PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 3)

THU 15 – BAERISTAS ESPRESSO
BENZI'S BIRTHDAY SHIFT (5AM-NOON)

FRI 16 – ACROPOLIS – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 4)

FRI 16 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
PINKY'S SNOW BUNNY BIRTHDAY PARTY

SAT 17 – THE LOUNGE
PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 5)

THU 22 – LUCKY DEVIL – CHERRY & PIXIE'S BIRTHDAY BASH

FRI 23 – HAWTHORNE STRIP
PRIESTESS'S SEXY MAGIC BIRTHDAY PARTY

FRI 23 – STARS CABARET (BRIDGEPORT)
PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 6)

SAT 24 – AJ'S – PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (ROUND 7)

SAT 24 – STARS CABARET (SALEM) – WINTER WONDERLAND

SAT 31 – DEVILS POINT – MUSIC VIDEO MADNESS

SAT 31 – THE LOUNGE
PIRATES OF THE CARIBOOTY (FINALS)

HAPPY HOURS

- AJ'S – 10AM-5PM
- CABARET – 2PM-6PM
- CLUB 205 – 10:30AM-6:30PM
- DEVILS POINT – 3PM-6PM
- DESIRE – 6PM-9PM
- DV8 – 12PM-3PM
- GUILTY PLEASURES – 12PM-8PM
- THE LOUNGE – 11AM-4PM
- LUCKY DEVIL – 3PM-6PM

TALES FROM THE DJ BOOTH

BY DJ HAZMATT

12 RULES FOR STRIPPING



This year, as inflation rises and we head deeper and deeper into the consequences of the Printer Go Brrr economic era, I will be releasing a different “rule for stripping” in this magazine each month, with the intent on making millionaires out of at least a handful of the dancers reading this column in the dressing room, when they should be on the floor. All I ask is that you CashApp me some lunch money (\$RayRaysPhone) if you end up adding a comma to your net income as a result of these columns.

Rule 1: Learn to “Dance” to Anything

There’s no such thing as a bad economy. The economy goes to shit when people spend more than they can afford, and if the economy is shit, that means people are spending more than they can afford. How do you get them to do so? Simple: stop overthinking everything and focus on whatever the quickest route is from their wallet to your wallet. When it comes to what type of dancer most customers prefer, the easiest-to-cast, widest financial net is music—not how one dances to it, but simply what is coming out of the speakers while naked boobs are hypnotizing financially irresponsible men with disposable income.

You cannot pay your rent with props, nods, applause, social media likes, and go-girls. If your goal as a dancer is to show off your skills (and monetize them), I recommend competing in a pageant hosted by *Exotic* and/or Dick Hennessy, or getting into the more burlesque-adjacent shows like *Sinferno Cabaret*. These audiences will appreciate your dance moves because these venues and/or event themes are catered toward appreciating dance moves. Plus, there is upward mobility in these environments, as the crowd is more likely to be made up of industry connections and/or fellow burlesque/pole/actual dancers, who can recognize and appreciate your art form. By telling industry-typical strip club dancers to put music before dance moves,

I’m not trying to take away from the burlesque legends, *Miss Exotic Oregon* and *Polerotica* winners, or the dancers who are legitimately good at dancing. It’s just that this column is about making money at the club when everyone’s wasted and there are ninety other girls on shift.



In the adult industry, where poles and holes are concerned, the term “dancer” is less a descriptor and more of a politically correct way of saying “stripper.” Yes, a lot of dancers are phenomenal at dancing, and I’m not gonna pretend I’m not constantly impressed by those of you with mad skills—I can barely do two pull-ups, so when I see a chick finish off an alcoholic beverage, extinguish a cigarette, walk to stage and then perform acrobatics like they were video game inputs, I’m in awe. But, I’m not turned on or inspired to get a private dance—I enjoy pole tricks for the same reason I enjoy drag shows, meaning that I have a ton of respect for the art, but am not interested in handing over my rent money in exchange for nudity (plus, those gigantic foam tits that queens wear take forever to remove). On the other hand, a topless woman and the right Type O Negative song can have me in short-term financial ruin within a matter of minutes.

The Venn diagram between men who are attracted to watching naked women bounce to Mötley Crüe and men who are attracted to the art of dance is basically a pair of fake boobs. I’m not saying to ignore your gay friends or yoga instructor if and when they come to watch your performance, but rather, to focus on the bulk of customers, made up of intoxicated straight men with disposable cash (we are simple, simple creatures). For the vast majority of dollar-wielding customers at the stage, the choice of music for entertainers is just as (if not exponentially more) important as dance moves. A stripper saying she “can’t dance” to [insert Cannibal Corpse song] is like a dude saying, “Oh man, I bought her a ring, but got down on the wrong knee when I went to propose.”



Even as a dancer in name only, the fact that you even bother catering to the crowd’s musical taste will balance out any missed dance moves or off-beat twerks. If I hear Wu-Tang, I head for the ATM, end of story—I could care less if the girl dancing to it is performing an off-beat Cabbage Patch. If the local biker club comes rolling in and you, the 22-year-old TikTok influencer (whose musical playlist consists of nothing but two-minute

songs about drinking lean and eating ass), decide to throw on some ZZ Top or AC/DC, you will make rent money within minutes. Can't dance? No problem. Lean against the pole, smile, crawl around and talk to guys at the rack, twiddle with the dollars, and make sexy faces. You *will* make money by being the girl who doubles as a jukebox. It may take a few sets (folks know when they're being pandered to, shout out to the old (club) Exotica DJ who threw on Nickelback when me and a couple of other white dudes walked in one night), but it will work.

The "dancing isn't the most important part of dancing" mantra applies to my job as well. When I DJ bars and nightclubs, I like to show off my "DJ" skills with mixes and transitions. But, when I'm spinning random industrial slime and the table of drunk girls sends their ambassador over to request A\$AP Ke\$ha or whatnot, I'm not gonna make tips if I refuse to play their request because it's not a good mix. Instead, I let the Skinny Puppy crash out (no one will notice anyhow) into a rough cut to "Vape Juice In My Booty" or whatever garbage these girls want. And then, for the rest of the night, I take their tips as I slowly introduce enough Mac Dre and/or Tupac to get back into a genre I appreciate. The paying customers are not in the club to hear my slick transitions and watch a middle-aged guy in an ICP shirt show off his appreciation for the finer arts of turntablism and beat-matching. The drunk girls want SZA, and the dudebros want that Creed song about being close to an edge. This applies *most* of the time, but I've always said that being a good DJ is like being a terrible cop: don't think—just profile, judge, and pull the trigger immediately. Assuming that the 60-something black dude with a mustache prefers Bill Withers over Skrillex isn't ageist or racist—forcing someone of his demographic to listen to shitty techno is.

If it's Tuesday afternoon on the edge of Gresham, and the only customers in The Sticky Kitten 2 are wearing overalls and Carhartt, refrain from connecting your phone to bluetooth, do your wallet a favor and ask your DJ (or jukebox) to play "Young Lust" by Pink Floyd, "Sweet Emotion" by Aerosmith and "La Grange" by ZZ Top. If it's a Friday night and the club is full of Gen Z dudes who require constant reminders to put their phones away, instead of your festival promoter boyfriend's underground downtempo vaporwave technoslut superhouse drugstep set, play "They Not Like Us," whatever that new version of "Rack City" is, and anything by Bad Bunny. If you can't find the beat, don't worry—customers aren't timing your ballet

routine. Most of these dudes are living out a music video in their head, and instinct will lead them to make it rain, just to show off in front of their friends. Plus, when they're out of cash and you want them gone, you can just tell the bouncer they're taking photos again.



As a bonus tip (especially for day shift dancers), make friends with the gopher-looking dude in the tan sports coat and New Balance sneakers, and let him be your DJ liaison. This guy is divorced, lonely, and willing to part with every nickel in his fanny pack. You just have to listen to his stories for the duration of a smoke break, before he starts treating you like a jukebox with a twenty-per-song fee. Talk about how his daughter won't come to Christmas anymore, laugh at his Facebook-tier jokes, and agree with his extremely bad takes on the latest social justice issues. Then, tell him you're going to be on stage soon and that you need help picking music. Also, you're late for rent, and your daughter needs new clothes (make this clear). Be warned: this dude likes the worst fucking music on the planet—Steely Dan, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Wings, latter-day Van Halen, and that weird genre of '90s techno that features an unknown guy rapping poorly in the middle of the song. Is it worth it? On the rare occasion, no, you just ruined the vibe, and now the other girls on shift hate you. But, most of the time? Yeah, it's worth it. He may end up sending you some Venmo loot, taking you out to dinner, throwing some rent money

at you, etc. However, he's safe, and he usually understands boundaries, because most dancers don't even talk to him. I've known a few dozen iterations of this guy, and he's usually entirely aware of the transactional nature associated with "naked girl half my age dances to Sugar Ray for my entertainment while I treat her like my personal therapist." You're not using him—you're using each other.

The best (and worst) part about musical selection is that it often balances out any attractiveness meter being used to judge a naked performer. If a chubby, asymmetrical girl with meth mouth and mom-bob hair does a set to golden-era '90s rap music, she might as well be *Baywatch*-era Pamela Anderson (hell, even *Naked Gun 2025* Pamela Anderson...I wonder what she eats). On the same token, if Sydney Sweeney did a pop-up guest spot and danced to that new Will Smith song, I'd have to have a long, honest talk with myself about how the world is a cruel lie full of dead ends and broken dreams, while getting a dance with the fat girl from earlier, and telling her to sing Misfits songs to drown out the stage music.

My goal with this potentially ignorant take is not to piss off those dancers who take the term "dancer" to heart. I'm a middle-aged white guy, so my knowledge of dancing is limited to whatever I do while waiting in line to pee. But, let's be honest—no bachelor party has ever crawled into the back of an Uber while talking about how awesome it was when the one dancer swung around the pole with her ankles. Instead, they're making fun of Jeff for spending so much money on the girl who got naked to Gwar.

Of course, all of this requires a DJ who reminds customers that performers rely on (and, in the case of song requests, require) tips for their efforts. Any professional DJ will be the first to tell you that all of the above is a given, but there are a few of us/them who are stuck in the same mindset as the girl who insists on playing Cardi B for the Elks Lodge crew. So, this column is for DJs as much as it is for dancers. Trust me, as someone who can no longer listen to his favorite music without starting to panic at the three-minute mark, you do not want to mix business with pleasure. Play the stuff you like for buffer music, and limit the stage sets to overplayed garbage that makes drunk people throw money.

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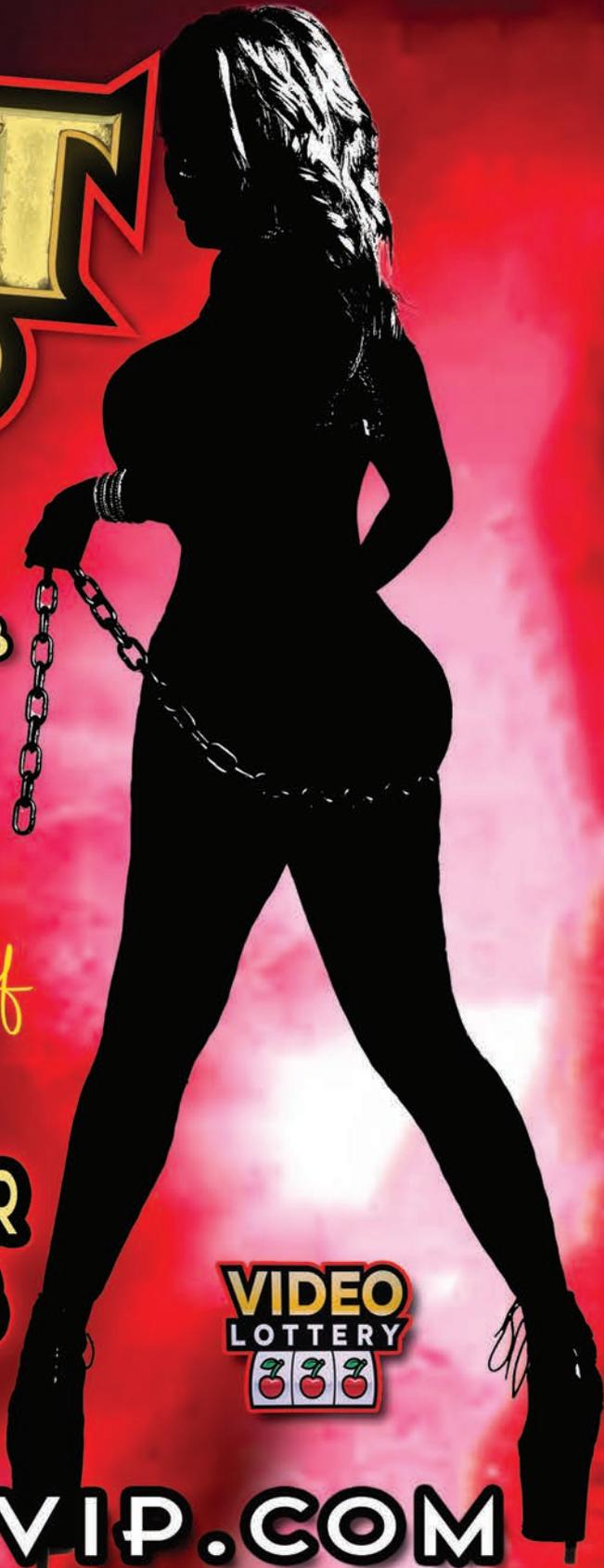
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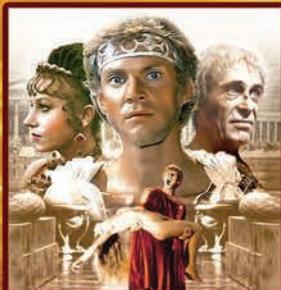
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CALIGULA

1979 (UNCUT)

The Final Review

by Ian Sellwood



Well, dear readers, it appears our time has come to an end. I figured this fate befalls all those who speak truth to power.

I was summoned to the Editor-In-Chief's office, a truly gawdy affair. For those of you who want to peek behind the curtain of this Portland staple, our dear leader's office sits atop Big Pink. All the way at the top. The 42nd floor is dedicated entirely to the Editorial Suite. The whole thing is covered in gold leaf, with an incredible view of the city. All our ad space sellers work on laptops, reclining on velvet couches, while being fanned by eunuchs, and blown by tattooed girls in pleasers. The big man himself sits on a golden throne, behind a desk made of bronze stripper poles.



Before I could ask why I didn't get to have one of the fanning, blowjob desks, I was told to shut up and sit down. I can't remember why, 'cause I wasn't paying attention, but the gist was that I was being fired.

I guess my reviews were too much of a bummer, since I was constantly poo-pooing movies. I always thought the most successful movie critics were the ones who did the most poo-pooing.

What I do remember him saying was something I'm still mulling over as I write this. "People don't watch movies for the nudity. They watch it for the plot."

I'll probably never understand what he meant by this. I was completely demoralized. What was he talking about? I was still stunned when he said that...because they had already sold the ad space, I could deliver one more piece. Despondent, I left Big Pink and checked Fandango, but was once again disappointed to see the offerings. The voice of the Editor-In-Chief was in my head, shaming me for giving too many bad reviews.

Then, I walked past one of the many artsy theaters that downtown has to offer. Probably the last one I wasn't kicked out of. I noticed they had posters from some older movies. One in particular had a bunch of gaudy costumes that reminded me of the *Exotic* editorial offices, down to the boss's purple cloak. I'd never heard of it before, but the aesthetic reminded me of those sword and sandal TV shows that had a whole buttload of nudity in them, so I figured it was fair game. I've done retrospective reviews before, and this was technically in the theater.

Well, dear readers. I'm sorry if I brought down your mood in the last few issues. So let my last piece in here bring you right back up. I'd never heard of this film, but it put those Showtime and HBO shows to shame. Hopefully, it's still in this little art theater by the time it comes out.

SPILERS AHEAD

So I was well aware that '70s movies are way more horny than they are today. Even more so than the Anora-era horny resurgence. But I didn't realize that there was just straight-up *porn* in mainstream movies back then. I kept checking my phone in the theater, much to everyone's displeasure, to confirm, but this 1979 film was considered mainstream, like in regular theaters. I mean, I was in a theater watching it now.

Not only do we get boobs and bush within the first few minutes, but like...not soon after, there are full-on penetration shots. Like, not even any way it could be simulated. Or if it was, I don't see the point. You straight up see giant erect cocks going into hairy '70s pussies.

There is a scene with dudes jerking off into a bowl for some chubby, naked gal in a bathtub to drink. Absolutely nothing left to the imagination. I was honestly so shocked that it took me a while to get turned on. But luckily, this movie was like 4 hours long, so after I got used to the aggressive, gratuitous nudity, I still had plenty of time to rub one out.

And good thing, because they saved the best for last. If some of you have seen this before, you know the scene I'm talking about.

The infamous orgy scene. When I was a kid, I thought the orgy scene in *Eyes Wide Shut* was a real hog-cranker. Good god, that scene is *Teletubbies* compared to this one. Some nudity, yes, but nothing even remotely graphic. This is a proper orgy, topping it off with two gals blowing one of the biggest dicks I've seen, to completion.



I am pretty sure that's real cum at the end, and if not...it still did the job for me. And there was still like an hour of the movie left!

I noticed that the stars never did any of the unstimulated stuff, but they didn't need to. There's barely a frame in this film that's not decorated with naked flesh. I think there might be more penetration shots in this movie than in some online porn shorts.

I'm glad this is my last review, because it totally validates what I've been saying about movies for the year or so I've been writing for this magazine. You *can* chock a movie full of boobs, bush, erect cocks, and fucking, and be taken seriously. You can basically make a porno, but have like...expensive sets and famous actors in it. It is possible, and I'm tired of hearing otherwise.

This is Ian Sellwood signing off, asking us to look to the past to find the future for film.

5/5 eggplants



Ian Sellwood is a voice actor, comedian, and certified Sigma Male from Lake Oswego. He frequently contributes content to Mr. Skin and is highly active on 4chan. He can no longer be reached at iancel@xmag.com, but you will likely see him on the sidewalk in front of Big Pink, with a cardboard sign that reads "will write for lube."

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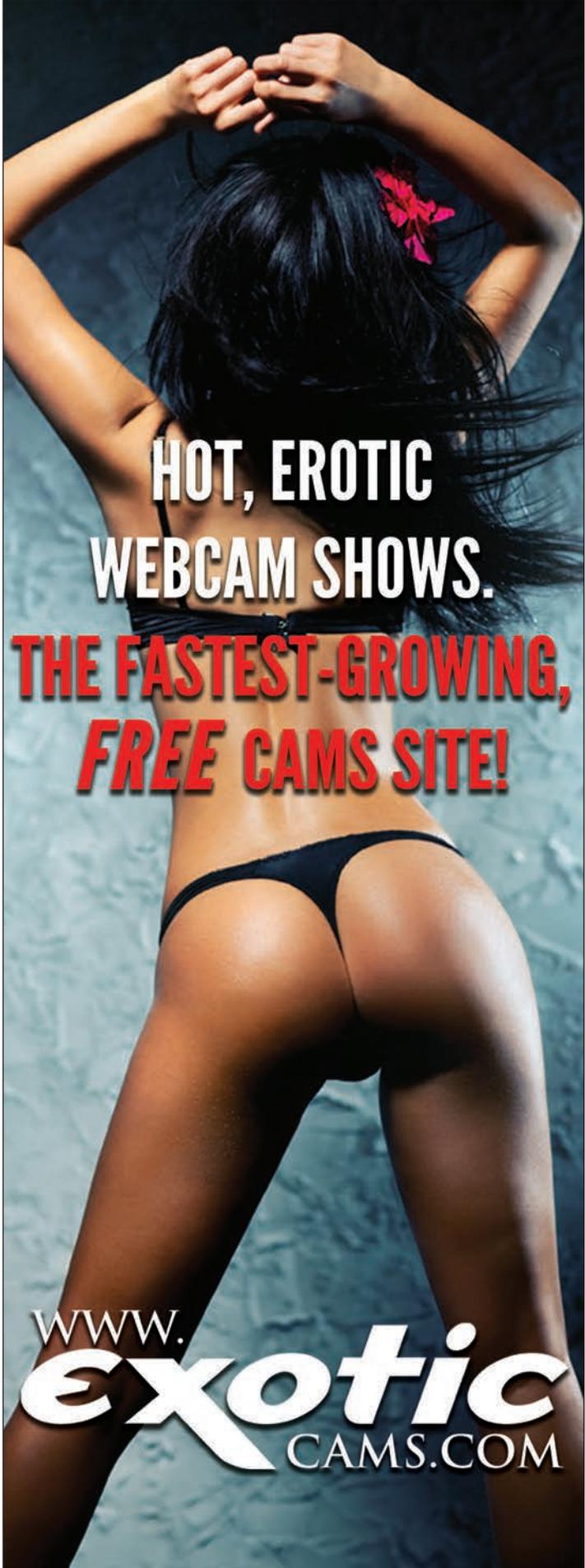
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Inanimate Object Photos From My Phone

BY HANNAH ONE CUP

Do you ever notice yourself perusing your phone's photos for no particular reason? And then you come around some images of objects and events you had completely forgotten existed or occurred, until that very moment when memory came back with a vengeance? Had you going "Oh, man...yeaaaaah I forgot about that! Hehehe" or not "hehehe" but "awe shoot (sad face)." Well, I do. Quite frequently. My family is a hoarder of many popcorn barrels' worth of old family photos, and we still like to go through them once in a while, so reminiscing is just kind of a thing we do as a family, apparently.

As I was going through my phone's photos, I realized that I take a lot of photos of inanimate objects. Cups, keyboards, buildings, toilets (lots of toilets), and bathroom mirrors (lots of bathroom mirrors), as examples. There are a lot of animate objects, of course, but an oddly large proportion of inanimate objects exist here. Before you all go thinking I'm some sort of serial killer with an eye for beauty in the obscure, let me actually share with you a handful of the photos and explain why they were taken. Give your opinion on what my current occupation (other than writing these articles for you, pretty people) really is after that.

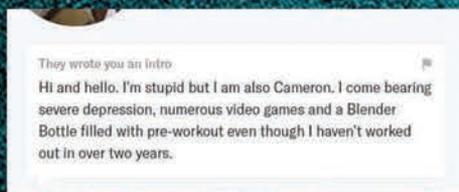


A Cup o' Joe – This is a photo I took early in the morning, while I was temporarily living at a friend's house. I sent this photo to them, explaining that I had accidentally put cumin in my coffee instead of cinnamon, and then

blamed them for the poor kitchen lighting. The coffee was actually not that bad. I'm not saying you should try it, but it wasn't that bad...



Partially Peeled Orange – I believe this was one of the tiny oranges sent to me by my work for a Christmas present one year. The oranges weren't great, and I really had a hard time peeling them. I already hate peeling oranges as it was, so instead, I just let it sit on my desk for a day and drew a scared face on it. I eventually ate it, but only after a lot of complaining.



Dating Intro – Apparently, I liked taking screenshots of intros sent to me from a dating website, back when I wasn't with my current partner. This was probably one of the most honest intros I'd received. I don't remember responding. Again, I'm not great at response times, and have no idea how I keep friends, or how I was able to find a long-term partner who appreciates, or at least understands that.

Grape in a Cup – I was having a weird ADD moment one day, and ended up tossing all these loose grapes into my ice machine in the freezer. I remember closing the freezer door, throwing away the empty grape bag, and thinking I'd done something I was sup-



posed to. The next day, I went to grab a glass of water and found a terrifying black object in my ice. It was a grape.



An Ugly Couch – I saved and spent 80 dollars on this couch, which I bought many years ago. It was massive, filled with springs, and slightly off-blue. I had to move this couch with a heroin dependent, co-dependent, unemployed dill hole, on a 100-degree day. While they're going through this hugely exaggerated rant to the skies of how upset they are that they had to help me move a couch I bought us into the apartment, all I could think was that I should just leave the couch on the sidewalk for them to sleep on. But I didn't want to feel like I wasted 80 dollars buying this POS an outdoor sleeping arrangement. So yeah. Ugly couch.

Snacks – More specifically, pears and eggs. I have a friend who never comes empty-handed in terms of snacks. Sometimes it might be a whole pie, sometimes it's popcorn, bread,



and an avocado that needs to be eaten yesterday, or sometimes it's a bowl of pears and eggs. One thing's for certain, you'll never go hungry when you're around them.



Frozen Goods – Spinach Soufflé, anyone? Like, what the hell even is that? It looks like it's exactly what it says it is. A brick of shredded spinach meant to be heated in the oven and served for your enjoyment. Whose enjoyment? Who eats this? Why do you do these sorts of things to yourself?

Okay, well, we're gonna end there, since I'm sure that this article is already too big for its spine's britches, what with all my descriptive photos from moments in time never to be replicated by anyone else. Thanks for going through a mini time warp with me, and looking through what appears to be important history to me, based on all these ridiculous photos (and some with duplicates at different angles—I didn't mention that).

Hannah One Cup can be found looking through various old USB drives for more proof that her life happened the way she claims it did. Still looking to fill a lot of gaps, and much remains open to interpretation. Email her at hannahbird6@gmail.com or follow her on TikTok @thursdaynight_depression.

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ALBUMS TURNING 20 THIS YEAR...

TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU ARE DEAD AND THIS IS HELL

by Blazer Sparrow

Happy New Year! 2026 will mark the *Twentieth Anniversary* of my life as an Oregonian, after decamping from the Bay Area. Saying this number out loud made me think about the cruel, relentless nature of time itself.

2006 can't possibly be 20 years ago. It was just a few years ago...we're still in the 2000s, right? In terms of music, there's the '50s, the '60s, the '70s, the '80s, the '90s, and the nows. I feel like I woulda remembered three distinct decades of music. I look on paper and see there are also '00s, '10s, and now '20s, but...the math ain't mathing.

In disbelief, I decided to look back at some of the landmark records that I swear came out when I was just starting college. Except that doesn't make sense, 'cause that would mean I started college 20 years ago. That can't be right.

Either way, to celebrate my *ninth year* with *Exotic* and my (*vomits in mouth a little*) twentieth year in Oregon, I thought I'd use this issue to look back at these six albums that are—against all reason and justice—turning...20 this year.

Arctic Monkeys – *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not*



I remember when this album came out, thinking it was the future of guitar-based music. Yes, I know The Strokes broke the door down, and The White Stripes pushed past them and grabbed the torch, but for me, this album was *the* rock album of the 2000s. Although it was at the tail end of the garage rock revival, I thought it shone a light forward. Boy, did I not anticipate the stomp-clap-hey left turn rock music was gonna take soon after this record came out. Not only is this album passé, but if a baby were born when it came out, that baby could now easily get into the strip club you're sitting in with a fake ID, and then legally get into that same club next year. What is time,

right?

Clipse – *Hell Hath No Fury*



I coulda sworn that the timeline from this album's release, to the group's disillusion, to Pusha T's *legendary* verse on Kanye's "Runaway," to T's illustrious string of solo albums, to Clipse's triumphant comeback album last year was...like 6, 7 years tops. Boy, was I way off. Apparently, this record came out 20 goddamn years ago. Look up from this magazine to the stage. There are dancers on that stage who were born *after* this album came out. This is clearly some sort of clerical error on Father Time's part.

My Chemical Romance – *The Black Parade*



So this is a weird one, because this band is currently on tour. They are selling out stadiums. They are also touring...this album. That's right. My Chemical Romance is touring the world (should be in South America by the time this comes out) to promote *this* album...playing it front-to-back, in the same outfits and stage design, military drip and all. You would think that such a massive, successful tour, attended by an alarming number of teenagers, would be for a recent album. You would be wrong. This album came out before many of those teenagers in the audience were even born. How's that for something to scare the living shit out of you?

Justin Timberlake – *FutureSex/LoveSounds*



I'm not even a huge Justin Timberlake fan, but I swear to God I still hear "SexyBack" and "Losing My Way" in the club. It's probably play-

ing right now, wherever you're sitting. Now, call me old, but I feel like most folks wouldn't think, "Oh, they're playing oldies," when either of these bops comes on. However, in 2006, I guarantee that if you were dancing in the club and they started playing Steve Winwood's "Higher Love" or Berlin's "Take My Breath Away," the first thing you'd think is, "Oh, they're playing oldies." Like, you could *hear* that 20-year difference. Again, proof that the last 20 years are some kind of time dilation fuckery. There is no way I am this old.

Gnarls Barkley – *St. Elsewhere*



When I try to think of the best songs of the decade, there's no way "Crazy" off this album doesn't find its way into the top five. Oftentimes, it makes its way into the number one spot. Then I realized that "Crazy" didn't come out this decade; that was the last decade. Then I realized *that* wasn't correct either; it was the decade before that. Then I have to lie down.

Amy Winehouse – *Back to Black*



Ms. Winehouse tragically joined the "27 Club" 15 years ago. The last single released while she was still alive was 19 years ago, and this album (if I'm reading this right) came out 20 years ago. If I'm the only one who thinks this doesn't sound right, I shall hang up my pen and retire with the rest of the geriatrics, making room for the next generation of writers. However, I am positive a large swath of you see this album cover and hear the phrase "20 years ago," and are equally perplexed. It can't just be me. Please. I can't afford to retire. Rent won't stop going up. Help.

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From All of
Our Beautiful Kitties*



Abigail Rhys



*Angelina
Noth*



Max A. Million



KitKat

*Feature
Shows at 11pm
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Portland's
Only True
Show Club*



Rheia



Ducati

THE MONTHLY
COLUMN
BY WOMBSTRETCHA THE MAGNIFICENT

TERRIBLE TOOTHPASTE



Oral hygiene is important. We, for the most part, all brush and floss and use mouthwash regularly. However, let us consider the world of toothpaste. They make special toothpaste for the kids, which is flavored in various ways (Crest Sparkle Motion, anyone? Man, I miss the '90s sometimes), and those for adults, which are bland and functional, and those organic toothpastes, which do jack shit and cost ten bucks. That said, we're going to dive into a realm of what the worst possible toothpastes might have to offer. Buckle up, because apart from a few real-life examples, we're digging deep into what could be, but definitely what should never be.



Summer Concert Port-a-Potty

Truly, the bouquet of aroma you want wafting out of your mouth. Thousands of inebriated music fans exploding inside a single plastic venue not meant to handle that sort of volume, now in convenient plaque-fighting form. Definitely the best way to wake up. The only worse way is Folgers.



Equine Flatulence

Yes. Horse farts. I'm not entirely sure how one might synthesize such a thing, but it most

certainly would be up there in the realm of the worst possible flavors. Now, if you've never experienced a horse farting, I can only say it is a profound experience. Horse butt cheeks flapping, as they trot around and produce an odor that would floor any normal person. Dunno how the cowboys deal, but they're a strong breed of humans, with an extreme tolerance for gaseous horse effluent.



Garlic & Onion

This is a classic and robust flavor combination. Two members of the allium genus for plants that will have your teeth ripe with savory smells. In addition to your oral health, this will ensure you don't trouble your co-workers with coffee breath, but rather leave them with a whole new wonder of cleanliness and a mouth redolent of an Italian kitchen! Mama mia!



Shrimp

As duly hygienic people, we choose to put

our best face forward. In this case, with the simple, clean taste of shrimp. As we know, shrimp are known for their healthy qualities and contain many helpful things, such as high protein and significant essential nutrients, including selenium and iodine, which benefit everyone by improving immune function and thyroid health, but are oddly more helpful to women than men. Certainly, shrimp toothpaste would be a best-seller.

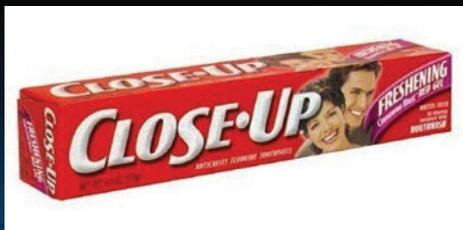


Carolina Reaper

The benefits of eating hot peppers have been studied extensively. Apparently, the hotter the pepper, the more good it does for your heart health, pain relief, and lower cancer risk. Let us fold that into our toothpaste and reap the benefits of clean teeth and several minutes of drinking milk to dull the fire, which is good for your bones. This one has it all!

Dog Breath

For all the animal lovers out there, we know our furry fuzzi-butt do not exactly use Listerine. Have you ever tried to brush a dog's teeth? It's an endeavor of madness. So, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em. The dog's breath toothpaste comes in wet food or dry food* flavors.



Close-Up

Who the hell decided toothpaste should taste like Hot Tamales? Well, Close-Up did. Feels like you're brushing your teeth with cinnamon bears. You come out of the experience with one thought: "Was this actually good for me?" because it doesn't taste like it. Please do us all a favor and stick to mint flavors.



Tide

The clean-smelling laundry detergent, now in toothpaste form. Truly, the way to go, as now your mouth can smell like clean clothes. They say you must dress for success, but they don't mention that your mouth can, too!



Cigar

Ah, the classic taste of a good Cuban rubus-to. The smoke rolls around your mouth while you play poker in a seedy, illegal casino. Well, what if you could bring that flavor home and

have it clean your teeth? That's basically the opposite of smoking a cigar, but with the same taste, and no tobacco bits stuck in your mouth!

Anus

Anus. That is all. Pretty cheeky, if you ask me.



Mawashi

This is the actual name for the weird, diaper-looking loincloths that Sumo wrestlers wear. Given that Sumo are revered in Japan as great celebrities, I feel as though we could expand the market into the East. After all, who wouldn't want to brush their teeth with the flavor of the Yokozuna's loincloth?

Methamphetamine

People who have drug habits like meth, well, they are not known for having great teeth. Meth mouth is a thing. But if we made a toothpaste that tasted like meth, but had good fluoride and anti-cavity properties, maybe we could stave off the rotten dentition of the people who use such drugs. I mean, we still have to put up with them, but we do that anyhow, and could do so better with them having fresher breath while they poorly try to shoplift from WinCo.



Twizzlers

Surely, this candy, which is, I'm pretty sure, made of some kind of plastic, could be made into a delightful toothpaste. With the red and the plastic, this would be an absolute hit! An

iconic candy flavor, coupled with the thing to help if you eat too many, and you have the red crud stuck in your teeth. This could also work with Red Vines, but those are just sugar and flour, whereas Twizzlers were invented by a mad scientist, disciplined in the dark candy arts.



Black Licorice

Sent from hell by the devil himself. Black licorice toothpaste would deploy consternation to the senses and dazzle your brain with suggestions to slip into madness. This would be what serial killers would brush their teeth with.

That's my list, so brush well, but not with any of those. Additionally, you Close-Up people, are nuts.

Have good oral health,

-Wombstretcha

*As a kid, I ate the dog's dry food once. It tasted like Oaty-Os, which are (were?) the generic Cheerios you'd get in the big sack on the bottom shelf of the cereal aisle.

Wombstretcha the Magnificent is a toothbrush owner, unapologetic black licorice hater, Twizzler fan, writer, and retired rapper from Portland, OR. He can be found at his website, wombstretcha.com, on Twitter/X/whatever as @wombstretcha503, and on MeWe and (begrudgingly) Facebook, as "Wombstretcha the Magnificent."

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