

Translation RTL Nieuws - Porna steeds populairder: 'Er is meer aandacht voor voorspel' - Palua Vaarkamp 2-24-22

Porna is increasingly popular: 'There's more attention to foreplay'

Female-friendly porn, more commonly known as porna, is growing in popularity. Why is this and how do companies and film makers respond to this? Four professionals talk about what makes porn different and what its appeal is. "Porn often focuses on the act, whereas porna is more realistic."

Porna is becoming increasingly popular, according to research by DUSK-TV. Female-friendly erotica, also called porna, is increasingly viewed not only by women, but also by men: "40% of the respondents find contemporary porn too surreal and flat. It also appears that 1 in 10 women feel insecure about her own body after watching porn." This is a good reason for viewers to switch to porna. But what exactly is the appeal of porna, and what makes it different from mainstream porn? Four professionals give their take on an alternative erotica.

Lauren Verster directed a porn movie in her attic

Lauren Verster: 'Nice, but uncomfortable experience'

Program maker Lauren Verster made an episode about porn in 2015. To find out what porna is - and why it was so popular back then, she produced a porna film herself, right in her attic at home. "It was a fun, but also very uncomfortable experience," says Verster, who eventually submitted the result to the Porna Awards. "My film wasn't the best entry, that's for sure. But for the TV show, it made for a great picture."

More focus on women

According to Verster, porna focuses more on women's needs, compared to mainstream porn. It's therefore not surprising that porna has become more and more popular in recent years. "There's more attention to foreplay, a better storyline and good tension building. Different models are also being cast: you hardly see sprayed lips or gigantic fake tits there, just like stereotypical porn things like cum in the face."

Although her film did not win, Verster saw the project as a fun challenge. "The porn world was completely new to me and I thought it was interesting to discover more about it. I took on both the casting and the directing of the film - and that turned out not to be so easy. For the castings I looked for decent men and women with a sweet appearance, but in the Netherlands I quickly found Kim Holland's models, with the standard porn looks. After an intensive search, we got a few suitable models together and we were ultimately quite proud of them in the end result."

Jennifer Lyon Bell: 'I make explicit erotic art'

Bell: 'There should be more room for diversity within the porn world'

Jennifer Lyon Bell is an explicit erotic film director and producer. She founded the platform Blue Artichoke Films, where she tries to convey the art of porna to the viewer. "In the professional field, we don't use the term porna, but instead we say ethical or alternative porn. From an early age I knew that I wanted to make a porn film that would deviate from what the standard porn films were: I wanted something with more depth and more spontaneity, where the chemistry between two people had to come to the fore."

She succeeded: in recent years Bell has made several erotic films, in which she mixes sex with art and filmography. "Some of my films have no choreography and rely on improvisation. The basis of the story is there, but I let the actors do what comes to their mind at that moment and what they feel about it. This creates super steamy scenes, which are explicitly erotic, but at the same time emotional and vulnerable."

Diversity

According to Bell, more attention should be paid to diversity in pornography. "There has to be room for all kinds of bodies. Bodies like mine or my friends. By making alternative porn I show that things can be done differently. At first I focused on women, but soon I saw in the statistics from my website that men also like to look at my work."

With its platform, Bell offers an interesting alternative to the traditional porn world. "My films are all different. You can watch them on your own, or with your partner. Depending on your mood, you choose a different film. Some of my clients watch a film several times because they like the story so much. My films are emotional and realistic. I want the viewer to be able to empathize with what the actor is going through."

Bell regularly hears from couples that they watch her movies together. "I even hear from some that my films are the beginning of a better sex life. That's the best compliment that I can get. Some say my movies inspire to try new things, while others like that alternative porn shows them that it really doesn't have to be as perfect as in mainstream porn."

'In one of my films there is a ballet dancer. Because he had once done a ballet performance naked, I dared to ask him'

When casting a new film, Bell looks less at the perfect body, and focuses mainly on the acting and empathy skills of the performer. "Daring to be vulnerable is a requirement. An actor must also feel comfortable on the set, because you see it reflected in the film if someone is not at ease. The result of a good casting is that the emotion of a performer also comes across as sincere on screen."

Castings

Finding the right actors is not always easy. "Nowadays you have actors who specifically offer themselves within the alternative porn world, but when I first started that wasn't the case. For my first productions I mainly worked with actors from the mainstream porn world who were eager to try something different. Sometimes I kicked people out. For

example, in one of my films there is a man who was a ballet dancer, but had no experience with erotic films. Because he had already done a ballet performance in the nude, I dared to ask him for the film. He turned out to be perfect for his role ."

For another film, Bell teamed up with a boy who was a hairdresser on one of her previous crews. "After our collaboration, he let us know that he would like to play in a production. At first I thought he was joking. We went for coffee and when I noticed that he was serious and felt we clicked, I gave him the part. "

In addition to looking good on screen, Bell believes it is important that the atmosphere behind the scenes is also good. "I think that's typical of the alternative porn world. We creators see ourselves as artists and not competitors, so we like to learn from each other and help each other along. We share ideas and make each other better."

Difference Between Alternative and Mainstream Porn Set

The big difference between an alternative porn set and a mainstream porn set? "I think the structure. We sometimes lack that. In mainstream porn there are often certain procedures and actions that have to be performed. Shots or acts are predetermined, which means that an actor comes to the set, does his or her thing and then can leave pretty quickly."

"With us on set there is always room for improvisation. A shooting day for a porn film takes longer than with mainstream porn. I don't necessarily need anything beforehand in my films. We do what we feel, what we like and like. at that moment. I think there is more demand for realism in alternative porn. As an actor you also have to be creative and be able to deal with freedom. For some people that works very well, but others prefer more structure."

Be inspired by Bell's favorites:

pinklabel.tv - Diverse platform with lots of alternative porn in all styles, including queer porn. The makers pay a lot of attention to ethics.

arthousevienna.at - A newer, more modest platform with good alternative porn.

aortafilms.com - This platform highlights the full diversity of race, body size, sexuality and types of sex.

afourchamberedheart.com - Beautiful, music-driven art porn.

brightdesire.com - Soft alternative porn, real couples, a voice over series of sexy male and female solo videos, and additional erotic short films and documentaries.

lustery.com - Specialized in real-life couples, where the couples film themselves.

getcheex.com - A diverse platform of naturalistic alternative porn, articles, workshops and more.

With her work, Bell wants to send a message to young and old: "Don't worry about the judgment of others - and on the other hand, try to judge less. We have more in common than we think," says the filmmaker, who is happy that more and more alternative porn

platforms are popping up lately. "There is really a change going on. New companies call me more and more often asking if they can put my work on their site and they are willing to pay fairly for it. That has sometimes been different."

According to Bell, there are also many erotic platforms and film festivals where you can find interesting content. "In fact, the term porna is slowly disappearing as a category as porn becomes more commonplace for all genders. It would be nice if in the future we no longer have to distinguish between porna and porn, but that all porn has so many flavors that everyone can enjoy it."

Eva de Visser launched platform with erotic audiobooks.

De Visser: 'I often think the women who play in porn seem sad.'

Like Bell, Eva de Visser plays with her company on the porn market. With Rouze she makes erotic audio stories that she makes available online. "In recent years we have seen an enormous growth in interest in our products," says the entrepreneur, who is pleasantly surprised that her listeners are not only women, but also many men.

The platform was founded on the personal needs of De Visser. "I used to watch regular porn, but I quickly fell for it. Ugly decor, unrealistic bodies. Not sexy at all. Instead of watching porn I decided to read erotic stories. Then I could use my own imagination. It seemed to me. It's also nice to be able to listen to these stories, but there were few options for that at the time. Rouze was born from that idea not much later."

No standard porn

The platform appears to be a success, if De Visser is to believe the number of members and the reactions. "Couples listen together, but men also listen alone. Recently I asked a man: what are you still missing on the site? Do you miss more 'real' porn or do you also like it to be fiction? likes that we don't offer standard porn because he had already consumed so much porn in the traditional sense. He was kind of done with that."

In addition to praising reports about the fact that Rouze is different, De Visser also receives special reactions. "Recently, a couple announced that they have built a routine around Rouze. They go into the woods and take a walk, while they listen to one of our audio fragments. Then they have sex in nature. That makes me really happy. there are many more examples that show that Rouze makes a positive contribution to the sex lives of listeners. Now we don't necessarily aim for people to have sex immediately after hearing our recordings, but when they do, it's super fun. are many couples who share an account together."

What does De Visser think of mainstream porn? "When I see mainstream porn, I often feel bad for the women who played in it. I think that says enough. I think: oh god, this can't be nice. It worries me that a lot of people think that's normal and exciting, when if they knew it could be done differently, a whole new world would open up for them."

'Whistling birds, background noise from a pub: anything can bring the fantasy to life'

The erotic stories on De Visser's platform contain a number of crucial ingredients. "A sultry, soft voice, but also beautiful soundscapes. Whistling birds, background sounds of a pub: everything to bring the fantasy to life."

Different perspectives

Several professional screenwriters contribute to the platform. De Visser once wrote a story herself, but she finds it important to highlight as many perspectives as possible. "I am white, in my thirties and straight. Although I am open minded, my perspective is limited in a way. We therefore consciously look for story writers with different backgrounds, ages and sexualities."

"Recently we made a story about BDSM. I wouldn't write something like that myself, but I know there are a lot of people who like it and that's why we make it. Every story can be told."

Which stories score the best? "Surprisingly enough, these are not necessarily specific subjects or genres. Short stories, which quickly turn into well-described sexual acts, are popular," says De Visser, who at the beginning thought that women mainly wanted a romantic story with a little something at the end, sex, until she realized it was way too soft. "Women really want full engagement. The actions described can sometimes be quite rough. Not everyone is waiting for a prince or princess on a white horse: we don't need to be saved, we just want sex. "

In addition to audio stories, De Visser also makes stories to read. "Some people want to fantasize as much as possible and find a voice too much. That's the beauty of this profession: everyone consumes sexual content differently. I'm glad I can contribute to that. It's important that there is something for everyone , just like you have many ways to have sex in real life. That need can vary by month, week, or day."

Spoelstra: 'Watching porn can lead to a distorted image of reality'

Porn vs. porna

Sexologist Jolien Spoelstra also agrees with the results of the study. "In my experience, women are increasingly opting for porna because it is more focused on the female market and they cannot identify with mainstream porn."

Watching porn can lead to a distorted image of reality, says Spoelstra. She herself sees that this also has consequences in practice. "Guys are starting to watch porn at an earlier age. From the moment they have a phone with internet, porn websites are eagerly visited. This, while the age at which men actually have sex is getting higher and higher."

The fact that men watch porn for years without ever actually having sex can lead to unpleasant situations. "Men find it difficult to have sex with a 'real' woman. Without fake breasts, squirted lips or a perfectly toned body. Because of porn, people think that a lot of penetration has to take place during sex and that the woman automatically starts screaming with pleasure. In real life it's a little different."

"When it comes down to it, one man is disappointed, while the other doesn't know what to do. By watching porn you don't learn how normal sex between two people really belongs and how you both enjoy it to the fullest. Sometimes it leads, watching porn even to erection problems or insecurities about one's own body."

More realistic porn

According to Spoelstra, in short, porn is 'more realistic porn'. "Mainstream porn is mostly focused on the sexual act and two people wanting the exact same thing at a certain moment, while in real life the needs often differ from each other. One wants something, which the other may not feel like at that moment. Those aren't exciting images, but in real life it's just a little stiffer or more complicated than what you see in porn."

But what can you expect from good porn? "Among other things, attention to foreplay, although I hope that in a few years we won't have to use that word anymore. Ultimately, we have to get to the fact that female sexuality is on the same level as male. Then it is no longer about foreplay or penetration, but everything falls under the heading of "sex". Foreplay is to women what penetration is to a man. Now sex is often seen as just penetration, but pussy eating and fingering are also sex. I would prefer to call everything sex and not discriminate anymore."

According to Spoelstra, the definition of the word 'sex' is still too focused on the male experience. Because: when is something sex? 'Real sex for many women takes place on the outside, on and around your clitoris. That's where most of the nerve endings are. So there is no need for anything to go into sex for women."

Spoelstra sees the increase in porn as a positive development. "You can watch that very well with your partner, because all needs are covered. Unlike mainstream porn, it doesn't dull men so much: they will learn that 'home-garden-and-kitchen sex' can also be very nice and exciting to be."

Spoelstra's favourites:

De Purple Empress - Webshop with good products and expert test panel.

Rouze.me - High Quality Erotic Audiobooks

Dipseastories.com - Erotic Audio Stories in English

OMGyes.com - Here you will learn masturbation techniques so that you can enjoy your own body even more afterwards.