

Dyke Chefs

Bad Girls

Gay Wrestlers

# CURVE

LESBIAN MAGAZINE

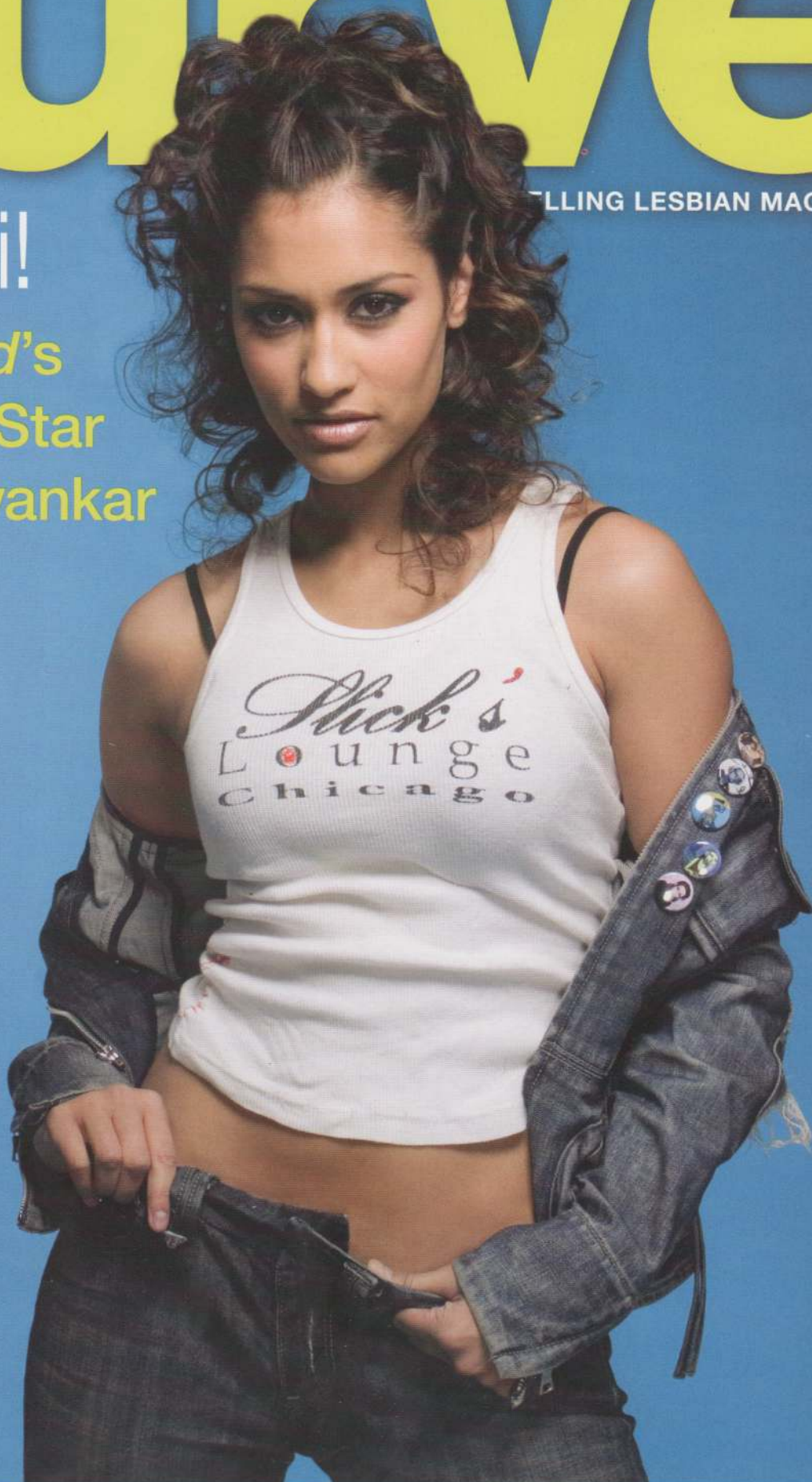
## Ay Papi!

The L Word's  
Sexy New Star  
Janina Gavankar

+ GET YOUR  
PASSPORTS READY  
7 LESBIAN HOT  
SPOTS ABROAD

+ 10 POWERFUL  
LESBIANS IN  
FILM & TV

+ MARINA, DANA,  
CHERIE: WHERE  
ARE THEY NOW?

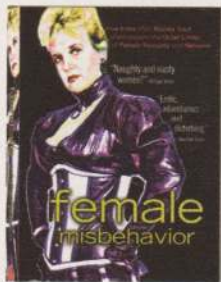


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### EDITOR'S PICK

**Female Misbehavior (First Run):** German lesbian writer-director Monika Treut's legendary collection of five films about the limits of female sexuality, *Female Misbehavior*, is finally on DVD, and it's as outrageous and compelling today as it was 15 years ago. Most notable among the stories of nonconformist women tearing down sexual taboos is *Annie*, an inside look (in more ways than one) at famed queer porn star and performance artist Annie Sprinkle. Worth the rental alone is the one feature-length film in the collection, *Didn't Do It for Love*, which explores the fascinating life of Eva Norvind, the blond Norwegian bombshell who was Mexico's Marilyn Monroe in the 1960s and New York's leading dominatrix turned therapist in the 1980s, and who passed away recently. ([firstrunfeatures.com](http://firstrunfeatures.com)) —

Diane Anderson-Minshall

# Who Makes the Rules?

And why are they so much fun to break? | By Candace Moore



Director Karen Everett (center) in *Women in Love*

Three new films tackle ladies falling in love outside conventions, whether with much younger co-workers, sisters-in-law or simply more than one gal at once.

### Notes on a Scandal (Fox Searchlight)

When "artfully disheveled" Sheba Hart (Cate Blanchett) arrives to teach art at a London secondary school, acerbic Barbara Covett (Judi Dench), a disciplinary fixture, remarks that it is "hard to read the wispy novice." But read her Covett does, and with literary relish. Diary entries in voice-over praise Hart's "beguiling" psyche and document their friendship through a pulpy Victorian lens: "In a different, better age we would be ladies of leisure, lurching together," Covett purrs. "We would be companions!" Covett wrests intimate truths out of Hart, excited in the "novice confessing to the mother superior," but it's not exactly the Inquisition; Hart is like a soft cashmere sweater, constantly shedding. When Hart admits to shagging a 15-year-old schoolboy, Covett is palpably jealous. So she uses her inside knowledge to blackmail Hart into being stroked by her like a "good girl." Director Richard Eyre's unflinching psychological thriller undoes its odd characters before our eyes and is made nearly compulsively watchable by the finesses of Ms. Blanchett and Dame Dench. Thankfully, the film doesn't equate lesbian desire with perversion, but Covett's particular predatory brand is villified, if only because she doesn't know how to express it consensually. Covett should be schooled in the fact that there are plenty of ladies out there pining away for a witty, seasoned domme! But that would be an altogether different movie. ([foxsearchlight.com](http://foxsearchlight.com))

### Gray Matters (Strand Releasing)

A cute coming-out story starring Heather Graham as Gray, a neurotic advertising exec who takes solace in her persistent singleness, assuming she just hasn't found the right guy. Gray is "closed for repairs," as she finally confides to her shrink (Sissy Spacek) in a session over bowling; besides, her brother and roommate Sam (Tom Cavanagh) hasn't found a life partner yet either, and both are over 30. The two siblings spend days and nights jogging, cooking, taking dance lessons and being generally codependent. Sparks finally fly with a gorgeous zoologist Charlie (Bridget Moynahan), whom Gray meets in the dog park, but she sets Sam up with her instead. Her brother not only gets the girl, he proposes. It doesn't dawn on Gray how much she likes to see Charlie in lingerie (and exactly what that means) until the night before Sam and Charlie's wedding. Hijinks ensue (as they often do), and it takes the affirmations of a saucy Scottish cab driver (Alan Cumming) and a sophisticate in a power suit (*The L Word's* Rachel Shelley) to help Gray develop pride in herself and her sexuality. ([strandreleasing.com](http://strandreleasing.com))

### Women in Love (Outcast Films)

Karen Everett's autobiographical documentary, which centers around her long-term commitment to primary partner Erin and their agreed-upon practice of ethical nonmonogamy, is brave, indulgent and ultimately endearing. This film is a self-reflective rumination on one queer woman's attempt to balance multiple loves: for the wry-humored Erin, for the camera (Everett's obsessive filming even warrants an on-screen intervention), for

*Who Makes the Rules?* continued on page 75

I don't think you are cheating because you can't be with one woman, I think you are unfaithful because you have ADD (Another Dyke Disorder). You only stay with one woman until you find the next woman you're going to stay with until the next woman comes along. At some point in this dumping, you are likely to give me some hokey metaphor about life being a journey and traveling with different companions at different stages of the trip.

What you really do is drive up behind an unsuspecting female, trick her into your scarmobile, lock the doors, rob her blind, suck her dry and then dump her out over an embankment when she fails to entertain you. Someday, somebody is going to take you to the junkyard, Christine.

I'm sorry, you're right. I keep interrupting. I'm sure you have a perfectly logical reason for cheating on me.

You know that boredom is one of the most tedious excuses cheaters can give for their actions. Boredom is a great reason to take a class or start a new hobby, but it is a piss-poor reason to bump naughty bits with a woman who is not yours. You're right, crying and going for days without sleep sure can be exciting. If you think I am having all of the fun, just wait until you try to collect your belongings from a 10-mile stretch of superhighway.

I just hate it when a girl I am with tells me that she is "in love" with another woman. If you try to tell me you are in love with anybody but me, I will stick an index finger in each of my ears and hum so as to drown out the sound of your pathetic drivel.

When you catch a woman cheating on you, you are entitled to be showered with apologies and flooded with buckets of teary remorse. The cheater is supposed to pledge her life to righting the wrong and the victim can pretend to ponder whether or not this relationship is worth the pain and effort. That is

how things are supposed to go. A scoundrel shouldn't be allowed to break a girl's heart and then take a crap on the little bleeding pieces by telling her how in love she is with somebody else. In that situation, you don't just feel wronged, you feel idiotic. Everybody wonders how come you didn't see what was going on. You feel so foolish that all you can do is yell and cry, which only makes you feel worse, which only makes you yell louder and cry harder. You are stuck in the mindset of saving the relationship, and your girl is already calling you an ex.

Well, you can wipe that phony sympathetic look off of your face, because you are not going to turn me into an emotional wreck.

And don't bother giving me that "confused" defense, either. You are not the least bit confused, you just got caught, and you are trying to figure out how to weasel out of facing your actions. "Confused" is lesbian code for "I want a wife, but I want to screw everybody else in the world, too. How about waiting for me until I get tired of sleeping around, or I get tired of you waiting for me to stop sleeping around?"

Besides, the cheater never chooses the wife in the end — anybody with Lifetime TV knows that — so I won't even pretend to fall for the confused bit.

I just had a terrible thought. What if it isn't a girl at all? What if you are one of those gals who feels she hasn't given dick a fair shake? What is it about me that makes women want to get chummy with chimichangas? There is nothing mysterious about a penis, Nancy Drew, so I hope you get over it quick.

But you better not be rolling around with one of your ex-girlfriends. I am not up to the challenge of the undead relationship. I think I'd rather deal with a new dick than an old puss.

If it isn't an ex or a boy or a wrong turn on the road of life, then I give up. Please tell me: Why are you cheating? ■

#### She's a Very Geeky Girl continued from page 68

the country's actual first gay rights riot (years before Stonewall), religious oppression, the founding of the MCC Church, the L.A. Gay Community Center and its position as the first gay entity to be granted nonprofit status by the IRS, Gay Liberation and the Lavender Left, AIDS, ACT UP, Queer Nation and much more. It's all here, exhaustively researched and documented into a thorough history of one of the most dynamic American cities and, by extension, a reflection of the entire U.S. LGBTQ civil rights movement.

Faderman, an award-winning historian, and Timmons, an accomplished journalist, combine forces here in true partnership, sniffing out thousands of enticing details from L.A.'s various gay and lesbian archives and interweaving all the voices that helped shape that great gay metropolis. And best yet, the book is thoroughly enjoyable, told in engaging prose interspersed with quotes from original interviews and research. Even if you don't generally read history, do read *Gay L.A.* to understand more about the formation and growth of not only a city, but the hopes, dreams and accomplishments of our entire LGBTQ community. ([perseusbooksgroup.com](http://perseusbooksgroup.com)) ■

#### Page Turners continued from page 69

**Romance for LIFE, Eds. Lori L. Lake and Tara Young (Bold Strokes Books):** This collection gathers 25 romantic shorts, many by Bold Strokes regulars, for a good cause — all proceeds from the book's sales will be donated to breast cancer research. If you need even more reason to buy this book and support your fellow women, consider this: While dominated by a fairy-tale mood of heartfelt bliss, these short stories differ from your average romance by offering you some character development and wry humor along with true love. ([boldstrokesbooks.com](http://boldstrokesbooks.com)) — EAA

**The Teahouse Fire, Ellis Avery (Riverhead Books):** Told through the voice of 9-year-old orphan Aurelia, Avery Ellis' first novel recounts the devastation of the Kyoto Teahouse Fire. Following Aurelia's adventures, the reader can catch an inside glimpse of Kyoto during one of the most fascinating times in Japanese history, the late 19th century. Through the highly charged social situations Aurelia finds herself in, the reader can understand the political and social effects of the refusal to observe Japanese traditional ritualistic customs, such as blackening one's teeth or participating in the highly ritualized Japanese tea ceremony. ([riverheadbooks.com](http://riverheadbooks.com)) — Kim Fujioka

#### Who Makes the Rules? continued from page 66

her best friend Phyllis Christopher (a famous photographer of lesbian sex and the film's most engrossing character), for close friends Jackie Strano and Shar Rednour (the frank and funny lesbian couple who filmed *How to Fuck in High Heels* and *Bend Over Boyfriend*), for those women and men who grace Everett's life for a few dates or more, and for the ecstatic, confounded state of being in love itself, an often fleeting phenomenon she sets out to capture, if only on video.

Everett whittled down more than 200 hours of personal footage into what now stands as an hour-long piece de resistance on lesbian polyamory. ([outcast-films.com](http://outcast-films.com)) ■

#### Other Licks continued from page 71

**GoGirls Music Fest 2006 (GoGirls Music):** Sisters are doin' it for themselves on this 17-track compilation put together by the oldest and largest online community of indie women in music, featuring Sarah Bettens, Jen Foster, Ellis, Divine MAGgees and many more. ([gogirlsmusic.com](http://gogirlsmusic.com)) — MC

**L Tunes: Music From and Inspired by The L Word (Columbia):** Peaches, Kelis, Nina Simone. Who can't find something to love? ([sonybm.com](http://sonybm.com)) — DAM