

MARRYING ROSIE: THE KELLI O'DONNELL STORY

The #1 Lesbian Monthly

May 2004

Girlfriends

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Married with Children: Rosie's "other half" and their son and daughter, Blake and Vivi

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video & dvd

Sapphic Sexpots

These semi-porn DVDs will raise your eyebrow at least.

by Candace Moore

Raquel Welch was the dictionary definition of

"sexpot" in reefer-hazy 1970, the year she became Myra Breckinridge in Michael Sarne's X-rated cult classic of the same name. Myra—formerly Myron—a bisexual, post-op transsexual, coaxes Mary Ann (fuzzy peach Farrah Fawcett) into some affectionate spooning after strapping on a dildo and showing Mary Ann's bimbo boyfriend, Rusty, how to "take it like a man." Based on Gore Vidal's best-selling novel (Vidal understandably divorced himself from the picture) and stuffed with old-timers like Mae West and John Huston, the new DVD features

Myra Breckinridge

Michael Sarne, dir.
Fox Home Entertainment, 94 min.

flippant commentary from Sarne—whose goal, it seems, was to make a sensationalistic cinemascope in-joke on Hollywood. What a loony, campy, vintage mess this movie is—and it ultimately leaves us with a sour taste in our mouths. Grade: **C**



Welch gives good
trannie action.

I Wish You Would (Wolfe Video, 60 min.)

A rare bird among porn flicks—an erotic mélange intended for, made by, and starring lesbians: Thankfully, *I Wish You Would's* five sex segments, set among hokey milieus, do invoke a sense of authenticity sorely lacking in most "girl on girl action" films. The writing leaves something to be desired, however, and the dialogue stinks accordingly. But other forms of delivery—while erring toward the tame—might get your juices flowing. Unfortunately, a flight attendant sports my porn pet peeve: long fingernails. I can't fathom the inherent scraping that must occur. Will someone write in and explain? I wish you would. Grade: **C+**

Therese and Isabelle (First Run Features, 118 min.)

If only the first thirty minutes of this adaptation of Violette Leduc's steamy lesbian novel were not so painfully boring. When Therese (Essy Persson) and Isabelle (Anna Gael) finally discover how to satisfy each other and seek out locales in which to do so—a chapel, a sleazy whorehouse, a bed of forest twigs—the film picks up momentum. It's easy to accuse director Radley Metzger of exploiting his lesbian theme. But curiously, while the sex scenes contain nudity, they concentrate primarily on close-ups of the face of whichever girl is coming, with Leduc's erotica as voice-over. The end result emphasizes how intimate this love story is. Grade: **C+**

The Twilight Girls (First Run Features, 88 min.)

This film is perhaps the catalyst for Radley Metzger's obsession with lesbian schoolgirls. While dubbing Andre Hunebelle's 1957 film from French to English, Metzger spiced up the plot, which revolves around society teen, Catherine, her affair with young composer Dean, and her classmate Monica's painful crush on her. The racy material Metzger added includes girls undressing in the midst of an otherwise coherent, albeit melodramatic, romance narrative with undercurrents of lesbian desire. Metzger sliced 90 percent of the film's scenes with a teenaged Catherine Deneuve in her first screen role, but they're restored in this DVD version. Grade: **C**

THE GIRLS ARE COMING TO O HAWAII!

In the Family Way

With gay marriage all over the papers, how could it not be a strong theme in this issue? Some of our "in the family way" coverage wasn't as planned as it seemed, though. In our San Francisco office, we were caught off guard around Valentine's Day by our mayor's announcement that the city would issue marriage licenses to lesbian and gay couples. (Some of us, in fact, had actively campaigned for Mayor Newsom's Green Party opponent, and felt an instant need for some celebratory champagne with that humble pie.)



CINDY CHEW

Alice (right) and I beat Rosie and Kelli to City Hall by a few days.

The next day, we spotted the unimaginable on the Internet: a picture of local activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon holding the first legal same-sex marriage certificate ever issued in the United States. Wow! We'd been covering the ongoing legal drama in Canada and Massachusetts every month in *Girlfriends*; suddenly, it was happening in our own backyard.

Two hours later, Alice (my other half) and I shut down our computers, jumped on the subway, and met at City Hall. We said our oaths, got our license (complete with the newly amended "Applicant #1" and "Applicant #2"), and were married, with our buddy and Dinah Shore Women's Weekend promoter Mariah Hanson witnessing, by deputy assessor Ming Tao.

Getting married "for real" did feel a little weird, though. We'd had a big wedding on my mother's lawn six years ago. We've called each other "wife" ever since. So, while I clutched our green-lettered, gold-sealed certificate lovingly under my arm, I felt wary—I knew that the forces of darkness were gathering with the intent to render it, in the words of the California Family Coalition, "not worth the paper it's printed on."

So in honor of the pioneers in the Golden State, we've put together a wonderful spread of lesbian marriage photos on page 18. Also, as it's Mother's Day this month, matriarch Kelli O'Donnell, Rosie's "other half"—the term she used with contributing writer Carson Hunter—agreed to the revealing interview about lesbian motherhood you'll find on page 32. (Mrs. O'Donnell might be re-thinking that term, for as I wrote this, the O'Donnells wrote on their way to San Francisco to get married!) That other celebrity "other half" also honored the M-month by calling up Hunter to give her two cents on how she, Tammy Lynn Michaels, swept a dyke mom, Melissa Etheridge, off her feet.

Enjoy, and happy nuptials to the community.

Heather Findlay, Editor in Chief

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