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STUDFLIX[®]

THE GAY VIDEO MAGAZINE

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**BIG GUNS
SOLO VIDEOS
WRESTLING
NEW REVIEWS
& MORE!**

THIS MAGAZINE IS INTENDED
FOR MATURE READERS
OVER THE AGE OF 18



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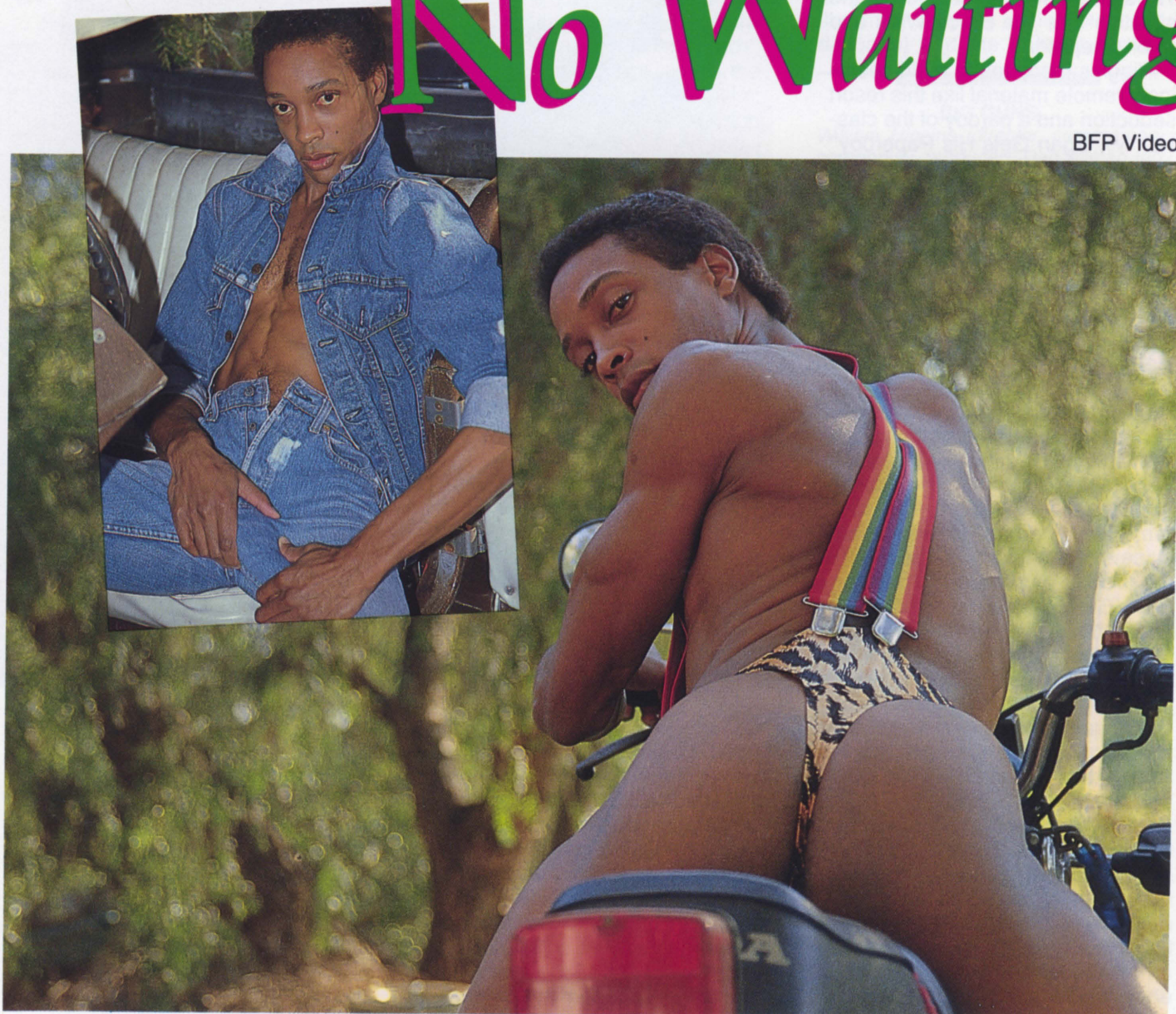
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Solo: One Hand, No Waiting

BFP Video



Once upon a time, the solo jack-off video was relegated to a nearly undefined nether-world composed of either non-gays who wouldn't be caught dead in a gayporn video even looking at another man, or of peculiar situations involving items like women's panties, neckties and radishes.

All that has changed.

Today the "solo" or "J/O" video is much more intergrated into mainstream commercial porn and has taken creative flights of fancy all over the known sexual universe: from self-abuse to highly specialized tapes composed of only Blacks or only Hispanics or, even, only hairy-chested men. Soon you can expect to see a tape of solos featuring only guys with beards. There is no limit to the possibilities.

Beyond the surface differences, certain solo videos offer more than jacking-off, the idea being that anything a man can do alone is grist for the mill. A small, independent company has experimented with limited marketing of a solo video in which all the models perform auto-sodomy on themselves.

The kind of men who appear in solo videos have changed as well. Now you can expect to find just about everyone. Half of the cele-



Mike Cox/Man2Man 104

brated *Portrait of Jeff Stryker* was a solo. Porn stars like John Rockin, Johnny Davenport, Jason Lowe, Michael Christopher, Frank Vickers, Jim Bentley and Mike de Marco have appeared in solo videos.

While the traditional format has been to group a number of men into an anthology of J/O scenes, video itself allows for some interesting experimentation.

French Company's *An Entire Evening With Leon* was probably the first commercial solo tape featuring a single model. It was a format that indeed had an audience, since it was immediately followed by *Leon*,

Part II, Inside Eric Ryan, Portrait of Oscar, Portrait of Bobby, Cli-Max, etc.

A West Coast leader in solo J/O videos, Old Reliable, experimented with a two-hour solo titled *Five Days With Phil* in which the popular and incredibly endowed young Phil went from one session to another, offering the viewer multiple orgasms as well as an exhausting examination of his boyish physique.

Although Old Reliable pioneered the solo J/O anthology, it was quickly followed by a rash of imitators: some creative, some not.

When a trend becomes assim-

lated into the mainstream it has passed the commercial test of durability. *Rock Hard* (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) is the solo J/O video packaged by Madison Avenue for consumption in Kansas City. What we'll look at here is the raw stuff, unpasturized.

One of the rewards of new video technology is how it has let narrow interest material get to the marketplace. Not everyone might possibly be interested in a hairy-chested Italian cowboy who likes to pout while he strokes his dick. Or in watching an ex-Royal Canadian Air Force sergeant wearing a gas mask while he rubs a loaded pistol across his chest and jacks off with the other hand. Or in seeing a black bodybuilder shoving *ben wa* balls up his ass for the first time in his life. Or in spending two hours watching old 8mm film transfers of a legendary stallion like Big Bill Eld.

But all these things appeal to some people. Independent videographers, most of whom are motivated by personal satisfaction rather than the financial rewards, can exercise their own fetish-filled imaginations and, hopefully, strike a responsive chord among the public.

The newest independent videographer working in solo J/O videos is Man2Man, a company that specializes in extreme fetish material: the RCAF (Mike Cox) gun-waver and the Italian cowboy (Bruno) both come from this house. The format varies from single subject tapes to double features, running times from 50 minutes (*Big Bruno*) to 105 minutes (*Dick Day Afternoon*).

Man2Man's technical skills are far above average: good, crisp images, clean editing, a fluid camera that caresses each subject, offering ample and varied perspectives. The idea seems to be to let the subject dictate both the mood and the running time. In *Big Bruno* you find long, unhurried stretches of real time. The camera cuts only when a real change of situation occurs. In the Mike Cox segment of *Dick Day Afternoon* the action is more frantic—as is the subject, constantly changing from one fetish item to another—the videography subsequently more complex.

Sometimes a feature-oriented video company will add a solo tape to their line, which is the case with BFP Video. Usually crafters of origi-

nal and interesting all-Black narrative features, BFP Video has released two solo J/O tapes, the second called simply *Solo II*.

The roots in narrative features are obvious in this video. No isolated men jacking off for the camera here—instead, well-thought-out short vignettes in which characters see, dream about or imagine other men which are, in turn, the catharsis for the masturbatory episodes.

The men, all Black, run the gamut: young and beautiful, mature and handsome, muscular and hung, slender and overly-hung; if you can imagine such a condition. BFP's videography is exceptional, beautifully crafted perspectives about showcasing each of the actors.

It may be difficult to determine who came first to solo J/O videos: Old Reliable or French Company. Suffice it to say that both appear to have started in commercial video production about the same time (although the man behind French Company has been making 8mm films for decades). Old Reliable is the acknowledged master of the anthology J/O video and comes from the West Coast (with its own particular sensibilities) while French Company specializes in exhaustive examinations of individuals, with tapes running two hours or more *per person*. And, working on the East Coast, the sensibilities of French Company tapes are equally particular.

A quick aside should anyone be even slightly confused about the name French Company. It has no connection of any kind to the L.A. photographer Jim French. Mr. French (L.A.) gets upset when people think he makes videos. French Company is headed by a man also named French. On top of that, they are not personally related, either.

French has developed a style based on the static camera principle—Andy Warhol did the same in a film where the camera *never* moved, only the characters moved in and out of the frame. French establishes a master shot and only varies it for close-ups and extreme close-ups, but always from the same dead-ahead perspective. Because he also isolates his models, he keeps them in constant view—like specimens. It allows him to concentrate on the two topics constant in his work: the J/O and the violation of the

asshole. The latter is, unquestionably, his favorite.

French is working on an ongoing series of tapes featuring the male strippers and live-sex performers of New York's 42nd Street grind houses. Other than that, he favors competition-sized bodybuilders. While the sex-performer tapes are interesting in their own right, as well as being culturally significant, it is

THE ANIMAL

Man2Man 101, Palm Drive Video (producer); 1987, 90 minutes; stars: Jason Steele. Palm Drive Video, Box 3653, San Francisco, CA 94119. Brochure available.

DICK DAY AFTERNOON

Man2Man 104, Palm Drive Video (producer); 1987, 105 minutes; stars: Mike Cox, Jose del Norte. Palm Drive Video (see above).

BIG BRUNO

Man2Man 105, Palm Drive Video (producer); 1987, 50 minutes; stars: Big Bruno. Palm Drive Video (see above).

INSIDE BIG BILL ELD

French Company (producer), 1987 (video release date), 120 minutes; stars: Bill Eld. French Co., Box 530 Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276. Brochure available.

ERIC RYAN'S GRAND OPENING

French Company (producer), 1987, 120 minutes; stars: Eric Ryan. French Co. (see above).

VIVA VLADIMIR!

French Company (producer), 1987, 120 minutes; stars: Vladimir. French Co. (see above).

ELEMENTARY INSERTIONS

French Company (producer), 1987, 120 minutes; cast uncredited. French Co. (see above).

SOLO II

BFP Video (producer), 1987, 70 minutes; stars: Al Delphus, Chris Williams, Chris Page, Monroe, Iguana. BFP Video, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. Brochure available.

YOU WANT MUSCLES?

Old Reliable VT 63, David Hurler (director), Old Reliable (producer); 1987, 120 minutes; stars: Michael Lee, Chris McDonald, Matthew Marks and others. Old Reliable, 1626 N. Wilcox #107, Hollywood, CA 90028. Brochure available.

the tapes of bodybuilders that strike at the rawest sexual nerves. Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Europeans—if the muscles are big enough, he will ask them to strip down (partially), pose, strip some more, flex some more, get naked, get sweaty, jack off—and then he convinces them to shove assorted objects up their rectum. All