

Happy Hookers on Sunset Boulevard

From Dr Susan Block web blog, August 8, 2008

Somehow, a few friends, fans and I managed to slip away from our crazy busy lives on a Monday afternoon to see the West Coast Premiere of Xaviera Hollander: The Happy Hooker, Portrait of a Sexual Revolutionary at the Dances with Films Festival .

Mae Victoria and Dr. Susan Block at Xaviera Hollander: The Happy Hooker premiere



All photos from The Happy Hooker premiere taken by Mar Sorell

This was my second full viewing (I saw the World Premiere at New York's Cinekink Film Festival where our Squirt Salon also premiered), and parts of it are better than ever, especially the haunting opening scenes that reveal the conditions of Xaviera's first couple of years on Earth in a Japanese concentration camp in Indonesia during World War II. The film has been shortened, which is good, though I was sad to see a few scenes I liked edited out. Well, at least they didn't leave my part on the cutting room floor. I, along with several other

sexologists, including Dr. Betty Dodson, Dr. Annie Sprinkle, Candida Royalle, Norma Jean Almodovar and Veronica Vera (all of whom have, at one time or another, been on my show!). All of us talking heads (or in the case of Dr. Sprinkle: talking boobs) comment on Xaviera's groundbreaking contributions to the Sexual and Feminist Revolutions. The film is filled with exhilarating and titillating sexual moments, including a scene in which I describe how Xaviera's underwater blowjob style greatly inspired one of my therapy clients, intercut with shots of Xaviera frolicking naked in the pool. Recently, the movie won the "Best Documentary" award at the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival and the West Hollywood International Film Festival.



Dr. Susan Block, Robert Dunlap, John Patti and Xaviera Hollander, "The Happy Hooker"

Produced by Xaviera's cousin, sexologist Dr. Patti Britton and directed by filmmaker Robert Dunlap (who happens to be Dr. Patti's husband), the film leaves no doubt that Xaviera is an important and rather unique icon in our cultural history, "the most famous madam of all time," even though she was only a full-time madam for a couple of years.



Dr. Susan Block and Dr. Patti Britton

Xaviera's effervescent aura, strong will and can-do attitude toward sex, writing, promotion, business and life itself, have made her an erotic legend and an inspiration to independent sexual women around the world. It certainly inspired me and my girlfriends to party in her honor.



Nina Hartley, Dr. Susan Block and Xaviera Holland, "The Happy Hooker"

“What becomes an erotic legend most?” asks the Washington Post. “Longevity. Sex symbols have notoriously short shelf-lives, and the few that endure loom large in our pop-culture consciousness: Liz, Marilyn, Madonna. In an age of fleeting sexperts and flavor-of-the-month porno queens, it’s nothing short of remarkable that after 30 years Xaviera Hollander is still a household name.”



Mae Victoria and Dr. Susan Block at Greenblatt's Deli

I took along another budding hooker/author, Mae Victoria, one of Xaviera’s spiritual daughters, author of *Hooker: A Beautiful Madness* and the Block Institute’s newest celebrity telephone sex therapist.



Mae Victoria, Dr. Susan Block and Sara Sioux Robertson

We hooked up (not literally) with famed international civil rights attorney Barry Fisher who several years ago helped me craft a winning pro per case against the LAPD when they raided the Speakeasy, expecting to find...hookers (they didn't)!

Dr. Susan Block and Attorney Barry Fisher at Dances with Films Festival

From the Laemmle Theater to Greenblatt's across the street to the Pleasure Chest champagne after-party where we met up with Speakeasy Girl Sara Sioux Robertson, it was a festive time.





Dr. Susan Block, Tania Amaral, dog, actors

Having recently grieved over the untimely death of another famous high-end madam, Deborah Jeane Palfrey, a.k.a., The D.C. Madam, it was sweet to celebrate the long, exciting life of a successful, respected, genuinely happy hooker who is still very much alive, even after several decades of enjoying multiple pleasures in many different arenas, from sex to travel to food to fame to friends to life itself.



Mae Victoria, Dr. Susan Block and Xaviera Hollander at the Pleasure Chest