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**Behind the Scenes with Madness Pictures**

**Director Devan Cypher talks about dating in the industry, getting into the business, and how to dispel the stereotype that only men crave sex**

by Layla Revis

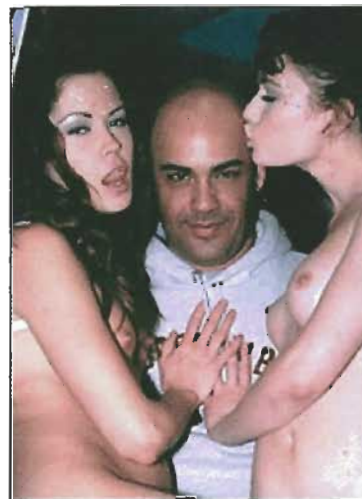
**SexHerald:** How did you get started?

**Devan Cypher:** I had no work after graduating college and doing odd jobs before I got into porn. A close friend of mine who ran the L.A. Bondage scene convinced me to help out on a few of his shoots, and I thought I would write a novel about the whole thing. The next thing I knew, eight years had gone by, and I had written over 200 porn flicks that had been shot, been married and divorced to a porn star, and done everything I could think of in the business. I had a lot of experience producing and being a writer, so it was a natural evolution to take that next step and start directing, to start trying to use the ideas that I had for myself, instead of pimping them out to other people and letting them get all the glory and the money. By this point most of the people I had worked with were already successful on their own and they weren't as threatened by the idea of me doing my own thing. They actually wanted to help me. So here I am, having some fun with it all, and definitely not taking it too seriously.

**SH:** What's a typical day on the job?

**DC:** The typical day of shooting is as frenetic as a train pulling into a busy station at rush hour and exploding, in reverse. Everything happens all at once first thing in the morning, and then you're left with a series of production problems that you have to think your way around rapidly, while trying to keep the entire machine of the shoot moving forward towards the finish line. You can make all the notes you want, but things just go wrong, and it's on you to somehow make them right, and make them even better, by not letting it all fall apart.

Believe it or not, you get used to it, and to some degree, how you handle it is an art. Days spent shooting are fraught with excitement, peppered with sarcasm and cruel jokes, and brindled with dynamic moments that test the limits of your patience, your interpersonal skills level, and your wit. Somewhere in the middle of it all, I always manage to have fun, flirt with the girls, and make light of the worst of it all. I am always exhausted when it's all done, but if we've done what we set out to do, I'm happy with the results. It



**Favorite Actors:** Barrett Blade, Lee Stone, Evan Stone, Randy Spears, Talon, and Brandon Iron

**Favorite Actresses:** Hannah Harper, Justine Joli, and Nautica Thorn

**Favorite Scene:** Natural girls that are enjoying themselves

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beats working in a cubicle, even if the dental plan isn't as good, because the view is infinitely better.

I like to start with a lot of coffee, some soothing music, and then move on to mercilessly teasing my crew about their character flaws and quirks. They love that. Then I try to shoot some anal. I always try to end with the lesbian sex if I can, because you don't have to wait for some guy to get wood with his face turning red, stroking himself in the quiet darkness, huffing and puffing, while your overtime hours are racking up and you want to die.

**SH:** Tell us about your work with Madness Pictures.

**DC:** I started working with Andre Madness several years ago doing production, and we just made a very good team. We worked for six different companies for many years, doing freelance projects and shooting everything from cheap gonzo movies to high end adult feature titles. Eventually I burned out and left so that I could work on my writing. Then one day Andre called me and told me that he was interested in having me pursue an idea for a specific line that I had brought to him about a year ago. I went to his new office, and we sat and talked, and I told him that I was interested in the gig. Having worked together for so long, we had an implicit understanding of what we were both capable of creating. I feel honored, in a way, that he would consider me right away to direct for his inchoate company, that he was confident enough in my ability and my ideas to let me take the wheel and do it my way. That was a selling point for me. And because he has such great trust and faith in me, I have worked very hard not to let him down.

**SH:** Is your family in the adult video business?

**DC:** Not even remotely.

**SH:** Do you date in the business?

**DC:** I do. They say that you date people where you work because it's where you meet people and I think that's true. I was married to Bunny Luv for several years, and when we divorced (amicably I might add), I ended up with my current girlfriend Justine Joli. It's difficult to date women outside the industry anyway, because all day I am buried up to my eyeballs in naked, slutty women, and quite frankly, civilians - the term we use for people outside the business - have a hard time understanding that when I'm working I'm not having a good time fucking all these hot chicks. It can create some real trust issues. Girls inside the business know that there is very little spare time on set for romantic dalliances. Most of them are not only in tune with their own sexuality, but they are far more open to alternative lifestyles, less judgmental, more experimental, and generally more experienced. Now if I could just keep them from spontaneously combusting.

**SH:** What challenges do you face while shooting?

**DC:** Aside from the ones I previously mentioned, I think the greatest challenge for anyone who directs porn is knowing when to let go and say "good enough." There are a great number of limitations involved in making a porn movie, such as the performers' ability to carry dialogue, the art department's non-existent budget, and an apathetic pool of labor - some of which are dramatically under-experienced and miraculously underpaid. It's hard not to care about what you do for a living - in my opinion - and hard not to want to create the best products you can. However, that being said, there is a fine balance between the desire to walk on water each and every shoot, and the realization that the talent cannot remember the entire monologue word for word (the homage I have carefully crafted to Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*), and that all of the actors in my period piece have tattoos and their genitals pierced, and that they just want to fuck and go home. I try to find that balance; I count a lot on set and say the Serenity Prayer.

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**SH:** Are you working on any new lines or genres?

**DC:** Right now the only gonzo line I'm shooting is the Legal Tender series for Madness Pictures. I'm very comfortable with the coming of age, loss of innocence, legal teen debutante genre. I've seen it explode in the last few years, and I've shot for Barely Legal and Dane, two of the best, for years. I understand the formula and how not to cross the line. I won't shoot the extreme sex act porn that is taking over the gonzo market right now, not because I morally object to the decisions of consenting adults to make transgressive masturbatory material, but because it is a genre I have never been fully into or understood. You have to make what turns you on, or else you are a fraud and it shows. Other than that I'm making plot driven feature movies and dabbling in what some call artcore or gloss.

**SH:** What are your favorite types of scenes?

**DC:** I prefer to see cleanly lit, well-shot, steady camera work that does not move around a great deal but instead allows the viewer to become a part of the scene. My favorite types of scenes to watch always feature the most beautiful, young, natural girls performing decadent sex acts with well endowed men and enjoying it immensely. I believe it is important to show women as sexual creatures, to remove the crippling stereotypes inside of our culture that only men crave sex, and to liberate women from the bonds of being seen as the keepers of virtue and chastity.

**SH:** Who are your favorite actors and actresses?

**DC:** My favorite guys to use are Barrett Blade, Lee Stone, Evan Stone, Randy Spears, Talon, and Brandon Iron. My favorite actresses are Hannah Harper, Justine Joli, and Nautica Thorn.

**SH:** What's the best way to shoot?

Quickly, but thoroughly, so that you're ready to capture it when it happens, and the talent doesn't have to wait on you. It's a gamble, shooting porn, and often times if you're not paying attention you can miss some of the best stuff, the stuff that makes the difference between an average movie and a stellar one. Roll every rehearsal, because hysterically funny takes come from them too. BehindtheSceneswithMadnessPictures

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