

MONSTER INVASION

THE FANGORIA FRIGHT FILE OF UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWSBREAKS AND OTHER HORRIBLE HAPPENINGS

"SWEET PRUDENCE & THE EROTIC ADVENTURES OF BIGFOOT"

Sex and the single Sasquatch

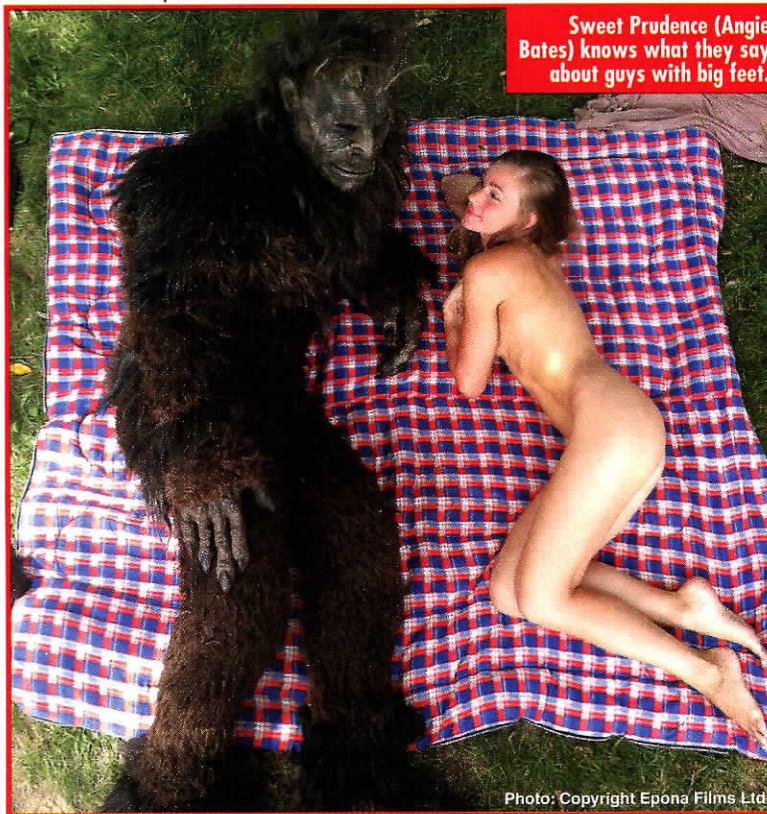
Adult cinema has often relied on the tactic of coupling an average, everyday Joe with an otherwise unattainable, gorgeous female partner. It's all part of the masturbatory illusion, the fantasy that if *that* guy can get laid (hello, Ron Jeremy!) than, goiter be damned, so can I!

But in the case of William Burke's new soft-core monster picture *Sweet Prudence & the Erotic Adventures of Bigfoot*, the riff on the beauty-and-the-beast theme soars to freakishly absurd heights. The film sees the comely lass of the title (Angie Bates) falling fine-ass-over-teakettle for the legendary, extra-large, hirsute myth, with bizarre and cheerfully smarmy results.

"Being very much an indie piece, I just let the script get strange," says writer/director and unabashed monster-movie enthusiast Burke, who cut his creative teeth making softcore shows like *Forbidden Science* and *Lingerie* for Cinemax. "So there are a lot of personal, fun things in the film, from the monsters right down to my enjoying yoga, so that even wound up in *Prudence*—albeit yoga dragged down to my inner-14-year-old-boy level."

And what 14-year-old boy wouldn't thrill to *Prudence*, which was filmed for a ridiculously low budget on a ridiculously short shooting schedule at a real nudist camp in the otherwise benign city of Newmarket, Ontario, just outside of Toronto? While the sex and horror are indeed, well, ridiculous, there's a truly quaint, retro-Russ-Meyer vibe running through it that makes it a fluid-drenched joy to watch.

"The nudist-camp setting is also a throw-



Sweet Prudence (Angie Bates) knows what they say about guys with big feet.

Photo: Copyright Epona Films Ltd.

back to the sexploitation of the late '50s and early '60s," Burke says. "The '60s sensibility went through every aspect of the film; even the original temp score was entirely made up of Les Baxter exotica lounge tracks that fit the tone perfectly. We've kept that sensibility in the new original music, sort of agreeing that it would not feature any instrument that didn't exist in 1963...plus, you just don't hear enough therein these days."

The film—which also sports a cameo by the Loch Ness Monster—is like a jazzy version of Valerian Borowczyk's notorious maiden-mating-monster masterpiece *The Beast* by way of Meyer's *The Immoral Mr. Teas*. And while it never strays beyond a hard-R rating in its depiction of simulated

sex, it certainly does feature plenty of nudity, a given based on the location. "Given the short summer in Ontario, no nudist resort would actually shut down for a film, so it was in operation when we were there," Burke reveals. "Fortunately, the crew was allowed to wear clothes while shooting; the nudists referred to us by the derogatory term 'textiles.'"

"About halfway through the first day," he continues, "much of the cast abandoned their clothes off camera as well, partially because it was a unique experience, and they were comfortable. I also think they were supposed to be naked in the smoking area, which may have influenced their decision. The film's outtakes are filled with many elderly, kind of leathery nudists wandering into frame as they were attempting to lay out on the great lawn or on their way to the inevitable volleyball game."

Beyond the nubile, sexually active humans in *Prudence*, the main attraction is, of course, the big hairy brute played by "long-suffering and sweating" actor Daniel Moshe Johnson. "While others raced around naked, Daniel was covered from head to toe in yak hair, fiberglass and latex—and it was hot," Burke recalls. "He was such a trouper."

Sweet Prudence & the Erotic Adventures of Bigfoot will be premiering in the U.S. on Cinemax in April, with home video and other exhibition options being discussed as of this writing. In the meantime, to get a better eyeful of the picture's lurid charms, visit www.sweetprudence.com and www.facebook.com/MySweetPrudence.

—Chris Alexander