



The Erotic Awards: 'Silken Sleeves'

By Tuppy Owens on 10 Aug 2007

This column is about the films selected for the Erotic Awards, describing the films and explaining why they were selected.

The Erotic Awards is run by a Grand Jury of Conspicuous Sexuality, to honour people who choose to work in sex, as well as erotic books, films, websites, events, etc. We also raise funds for the Outsiders Trust, where disabled people find partners. You can see all about us on www.erotic-awards.co.uk.

The Erotic Awards are now in our 14th year, and are hoping soon to be running an Erotic Film Festival, to be sponsored by Strictly Broadband. We are currently waiting to hear back from the ICA as to whether they will host this event.

You may be wondering what makes a film worthy of one of our Awards, and how this is different from the porn awards and other industry reviews.

Although we are not arts based, we do look for films which break the porn mold, and provide more than a turn-on for a wank. We feel that the general public want their sex movies to be as high quality as other genres, and we wish to encourage film makers to move on from the formulaic, predictable, cliché, low-budget, lowest common denominator, mindless soul-less product normally sold.



We also want to promote the fact that anybody can be sexy. Silicone tits and cosmetic surgery are crimes against nature, putting the health of person at risk unnecessarily. We believe that porn stars should be treated respectfully, like any other worker, and should be provided with a safe environment and assured safer sex. Porno film makers refusing to pay for "the medical check up" before the porn shoot is outrageous. We would like to see the actors in porn more representative of the adult human population: including ethnic minorities, with 10% of being disabled, some older, some large, some shaved, some hairy, and all sorts.

There are such treasure out there. We find them, and select the best as finalists. Some have been lucky enough to have been shown in film festivals, but none, as yet, sit on the shelves of Harrods, other department stores or arty shops waiting to be purchased as Xmas and Valentines presents, which is where they belong. Many of the film makers are little know and penniless and we aim to change all that. **Silken Sleeves** is an excellent example of a film that rises above most porn. It is made by Maria Beatty, veteran American creator of fetishistic film noir. I showed *Silken Sleeves* to a friend who dislikes porn and she insisted on seeing the film all the way through to the end. The film is unusual in that it contains four different scenes each in a beautiful film-set reflecting the four seasons; Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The sex play is between two women engaged in tender, intricate bondage and domination. There is something very powerful about one woman dominating another woman, especially elegant women who seem intelligent and inventive.

We expect women to compliant and gentle with each other, and when they become vicious and cruel, it seems truly shocking, especially when mixed with sensitivity, affection and humour. This film is an excellent example: it is totally engaging and erotic.



Midori, the dominant, larger woman, is forever playful and skillful, as she binds the delicate Mayan, turning her, toying with her and tormenting her, using netting, wax and knife play, caning, flogging and dildoes. Evocative music heightens the tension and sensuality.

In the first season, Autumn, Midori and Mayan appear in red Kimonos. In winter Midori wears a white lace dress while Mayan is naked and suspended by rope. Midori weaves neat knots and then binds Mayan in plastic wrap and tortures her with melted wax and an icicle.

The Spring scene is very pretty with pink blossom on the trees. The bondage and torment continues, prettily.

In Summer, Midori makes Mayan into a human swing where she is flogged and penetrated with a handle that brings her to orgasm with a gush of ejaculate.

The timing is amazing, slowly moving from shock and fear of what might follow, to laid back laughter and prankish fun. The erotic tension between the two women is remarkable.

The DVD includes a photo gallery, trailers of Maria's other films, and a 10 minute bondage lesson, with knots and manoeuvres. It's available from **Bleu Productions**.