

= S & Man =

S & Man (pronounced as Sandman) is a 2006 pseudo @-@ documentary film that examines the underground subculture of horror films . It contains interviews with indie horror filmmakers and other horror experts , including Erik Marcisak , Bill Zebub , Fred Vogel , Carol J. Clover , and Debbie D. , as well as a scripted plot that comes into focus in the film 's second half .

The film discusses why some people enjoy underground horror films involving fetishes . Although the film is classified as a documentary , there is a fictional subplot which helps advance the film 's theme by showing what some people really think about the genre .

S & Man was shown at the reRun Gastropub Theater in New York City , film festivals , and released on home video . The film has received praise and criticism ; although some reviews are strongly against the nature of the film , most reviews were positive .

= = Summary = =

S & Man is about voyeurism as it relates to underground films . Interviews with horror film directors and Carol J. Clover , a writer on the horror genre , are weaved between clips from horror films . In the beginning of the film , clips show the directors and Clover commenting on a horror film that is not shown onscreen and with the title not mentioned . The film then moves on to Petty 's meetings with Eric Rost (Erik Marcisak) , Bill Zebub , and Fred Vogel . He interviews these men and actress Debbie D. , while clips from horror films and facts and opinions provided by Clover about the genre are interspersed .

The film has a fictional subplot , which questions whether or not Rost 's works are actual snuff films . Petty 's real life friendship with Marcisak takes a fictional turn in the film ; Petty gets close to discovering Rost 's secret . At this point , Petty is a performer in his own film , and tension arises between him and Rost . During filming , Petty begins to suspect that Rost 's work , in which women are " bound , gagged , tortured , and eventually butchered " shows actual snuff .

As Petty gets further into his investigation , Rost 's answers become more evasive . Petty suspects that Eric actually kills women for his snuff films , a suspicion further exacerbated when Rost says that he will relay Petty 's contact information to the women instead of giving their contact information to Petty . It is not clear at the film 's end whether Rost 's films are actual snuff in the fictional subplot 's context . However , it is known that he spies on them for a long period of time before asking them to participate .

= = Analysis = =

Some context is added about sexual deviancy and about the role of gender in horror films . To demonstrate the motivations of people involved with these types of films , Petty shows gory clips that Nick Schager of The Village Voice described as " repulsive " and " absorbing " . Opinions from experts in the field say that horror films are both sadistic and masochistic while discussing paraphilias ; they state that most voyeurs may seem creepy , but are not dangerous .

= = Cast = =

J. T. Petty is a film director , producer , editor , and screenwriter . His films include Soft for Digging and he wrote the books Clemency Pogue : Fairy Killer and The Squampkin Patch .

Bill Zebub , one of the interviewees in the film , is the director of low @-@ budget fetish exploitation films such as Jesus Christ : Serial Rapist . He has directed twelve films and acted in two . Bill Zebub is shown saying , " I don 't shoot movies to make art ; I shoot movies so perverts will give me money . "

Fred Vogel , another interviewee , is the head of Toetag Pictures . He began his career as a special effects artist and later directed August Underground and August Underground 's Mordum .

Erik Marcisak plays the part of Eric Rost , one of the main characters and interviewees . In the film ,

Rost is the director of the fictional S & MAN video series . The actual Marcisak is an actor , comedian , game designer , writer , and producer .

Debbie D. is an actress who stars in low @-@ budget fetish exploitation films ; she is interviewed along with a sexologist and her husband , a forensic psychologist .

Carol J. Clover , the author of Men , Women , and Chainsaws : Gender in Modern Horror , is featured providing facts about horror filmmaking . Clover is a professor of rhetoric , film , and Scandinavian history . Her books include The People 's Plot : Film , Narrative , and the Adversarial Imagination , Old Norse @-@ Icelandic Literature : A Critical Guide , and The Medieval Saga .

= = Production = =

S & Man 's director J. T. Petty originally intended the film to focus on a man who lived near his childhood home ; the man often spied on , and filmed , his neighbors . The footage led to an indictment towards " the peeper " , who recorded 191 videotapes of Petty 's childhood neighborhood . The indictment implied the footage should be viewed in court , but the people in the neighborhood opposed this owing to privacy concerns . Petty said of the 191 videotapes , " I admired the peeping tom ; he had made movies that were frightening and titillating and real . " The idea of using a camera to record his neighbor 's house for hours fascinated him so much that he decided to direct a film about it . Although he had already secured funding , Petty was left without a subject since " the peeper " wanted nothing to do with the film . Petty decided to focus on three directors , who did not direct films aimed at the general public ; they directed simulated snuff films , involving murder and sexual assault . Petty found the directors ? Zebub , Vogel , and Marcisak , Petty 's friend who played the fictional director Rost ? at the Chiller Convention , an underground horror event .

The film 's title comes from the fictional S & Man video series directed by Rost . In the videos , Rost stalks women for a long time and , after learning about them , he asks them if they want to be a part of his films . All of the videos are first person with no dialogue . The film references other films , including Peeping Tom , The Texas Chain Saw Massacre , Henry : Portrait of a Serial Killer , Kill the Screem Queen , and The Crucifier .

= = Release = =

= = = Film festivals and theater = = =

S & Man premiered in the Toronto International Film Festival 's " Midnight Madness " , a section which features a variety of films from new directors , in 2006 . Although Twitch Film reported that the film 's release at the Toronto International Film Festival caused controversy both offline and online , TMZ reported that the film was popular at the film festival . It was shown again at South by Southwest in Austin , Texas , in 2006 , and UnionDocs in Brooklyn , New York , in 2009 . S & Man had a theatrical release at the reRun Gastropub Theater in New York City in 2010 .

= = = Home video = = =

The DVD and Blu @-@ ray of the film were released on October 12 , 2010 . The DVD and Blu @-@ ray release each include two commentary tracks , one with a conversation between J. T. Petty and Erik Marcisak and the other with Bill Zebub . There are also deleted scenes , extended scenes , The Complete S & Man ? Episode 11 ? a fictional film partially incorporated in S & Man ? in its entirety , a clip from the underground horror film August Underground 's Mordum , and film trailers .

= = = Reception = = =

Jeannette Catsoulis of The New York Times called the film " a queasy glimpse into bargain @-@ basement sleaze . " DVD Talk critic Adam Tyner was indifferent about the film while watching it , but

later concluded that the film is " pretty brilliant " . Gordon Sullivan of DVD Verdict thought that the film is ambitious and offers " interesting insights into the modern consumption of horror . " Joe Leydon of Variety described the film as an " uncomfortably close look at underground horror " , and speculated that it may gain a cult following . David Harley of Bloody Disgusting called S & Man a " must @-@ watch " for anyone that has been scared while watching a horror film without being able to describe why . In response to the film , Richard Corliss of Time questioned whether we can always believe what we see .

Allan Dart 's review of S & Man for Fangoria was mixed . Although he described the film as " thought @-@ provoking " , he did not like the focus on whether Eric Rost 's films are actual snuff . Casey Broadwater of Blu @-@ ray.com also disliked the fictional portion , but said that " S & Man delivers an occasionally insightful dialectic about the psychological nature of horror .

Meg Hewings from Hour Community described the film as " a doc that flails in a dark , nihilistic pool " and deemed its fans " geeky " , " twisted " , " unstable " , or " delusional " . A TMZ article stated that S & Man " impolitely asked horror genre aficionados to question just why they so enjoy watching human suffering so much . "