

ROBERT BOGGS SHOWS AN IDEALIZED PICTURE OF MALE FRIENDSHIP/CAMARADERIE IN HIS AYOR STUDIOS ADULT MOVIES !

ESSENTIAL QUOTES :

« Reality porn is half adult movie, half documentary ! »

« What takes me one day to shoot, others botch it up in one hour ! »

Robert Boggs was 30 when he landed in gay porn. This was almost 13 years ago and he's spent this time dedicating himself fully to his Art ! He loves life and its pleasures and beauties, but he is also a hard worker, making movies for German, French and American distributors under a diversity of names, before he finally decided to create his own company in 2004 : AYOR Studios (AYOR as in AT YOUR OWN RISK). His characteristic approach is to celebrate male friendship/camaraderie/comradship, to capture on screen how desire appears and grows between men, and his goal is to male the sexual alchemy that ensues not just visible but his viewers must share it. Robert Boggs' magic touch has to do with the true closeness which comes to exist between his models, but this takes time and requires a lot of work before the actual shoots. Some have tried to mimic his style, but they only managed a caricature. And it is that style that's made him a collaborator of BAOL for the last 2 years and a half. His best models have something of angels (they seem to be forever young and once you see them it's hard to forget their angelic beauty) and something of gods (because of their perfectly muscled and athletic bodies), and he likes to mix them with with more « ordinary-looking » types. In his series, *BUDDIES*, *TALES* and *MORE TALES*, he has invented a new concept, « reality porn », which is half adult film, half documentary on his actors' lives (family, school, work, sport, hobbies, loves and sex life...). The third instalment in his « More Tales » series is being released now, with a wonderfully sexy cast : Ariel Vanean, Randy Quaid, as well as a newcomer, Tommy Michaelo who appears to have a hearty appetite. Along with this, Robert is working on a collection of documentary projects (25 min, to be shown on PINK TV all along 2010) about some of his favorite models. The first instalment will focus on the love affair between Kevin Kraus and Adam Zarsky, and on their coming out : Kevin worked as director's assistant on Robert's « Follow Me » last year, and Adam had a scene in that movie. Both young men can be seen also in « MORE TALES 3 » which aired just once as an exclusive preview on PINKX, Sunday September 20. Our whole team would like to thank Christian Fournier for his work as a go-between on this interview.

What did you do before directing gay adult movies and how did you come to this activity ?

I started my career working for State-controlled TV in Czechoslovakia, from the mid-80s to the early 90s. At first, I was assistant camera, then worked on sound for some TV movies and news shows. After that, I took time off and I worked in the restaurant business as bartender and waiter. THAT's where I ran into Roman Cernik, who was an early director of gay porn films in the Czech Republic for Man's Best. He asked me to help him with writing and shooting films. At first it was fun and new, then it got more complicated as we didn't agree on the work. He just wanted to shoot quickly and make money. After one year, I decided to split and continue on my own. That's when I started to work on my first personal project and to shoot for myself.

In those times, you would shoot for many different studios ?

For eight years, I produced films for German distributors who used for me the name Robert Sonntag. Then I was able to diversify my activities finding French and American distributors. The latter (Bronco Studios and Tribal Pulse Productions) came up with the new name of Alain Éclair. Starting in 2004, I also made films for Eurocreme under the Blöc Hardcore label. In 2007 was released *Factory Fuckfest*, my last film for them to date.

So when and why did you decide to set up AYOR Studios ?

I started AYOR in 2004. There were quite a few problems with all those earlier distributors. To make a long story short, there were sometimes money problems, whether to actually get paid or because they would offer insufficient budgets. Also they didn't always understand my way of making movies. With AYOR, I wanted to clearly focus on quality, and develop projects with a realistic approach to gay themes. For the distributors, what mattered was cheap « just sex » movies, made as quickly as possible. Furthermore, the Americans always refused to have subtitles in my films, so that the story became impossible to understand. Distributors would also come up with new stagenames for me and my models, or sometimes give me no credit at all. So this was becoming too frustrating. That's when I decided to set up my own company and distribute my films myself, so that I could get more money and reinvest it for quality projects.

One gets the sense that the Czech Republic and Slovakia are a real treasure trove for actors ?

Well, it's become more difficult to find models today than it was in the past. Right after 1989, actors would be happy with not so much money. Now rates have gone up quite a lot. Moreover, it's become more difficult for the younger generation to be a pornstar or have a career in adult entertainment, because more guys are going to school, studying for degrees and they concentrate on their own life plans. At the end of Communism, the economy of Czechoslovakia was in very bad shape, so there were very few opportunities. Over the last few years, there's been quite a boom in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia and for young guys who want to move on with their lives, there are better and more interesting things to do than porn. The other thing is the increased visibility of models. In the past, gay porn movies would be only available in foreign countries, and not in the Czech Republic. Models could work in porn and think, well, no one will ever know ! Everything changed in 2005, with the Filip Trojovský scandal, when the Czech newsmedia exposed that Czech « Big Brother » contestant as Tommy Hansen, the well-known Bel Ami model. Up until that date, Bel Ami had been quite successful in keeping their models out of the public eye at home.

There's been quite a lot of publicity in France about « Eastern European » models working in gay porn being all straight and only doing it for money. Is this just one more fantasy of Western viewers ? What's the truth ?

I'd say that out of 10 actors, 6 would call themselves hetero and 4 as gay. It's important to say « call themselves », because this is about self-perception and definition, not about reality which is quite different ! Let me explain : nothing is so clear-cut, nothing is just black or white. I don't believe that truly « hetero » guys would perform in gay movies. They are bisexual, at the very least. Now if you take a closer look, and I have seen this myself time and time again, it turns out most of them have boyfriends. When you start asking questions and you get them to talk, they end up saying that, yes, they have a boyfriend and are in fact gay. One reason for all this is that they are young, are still looking for their own way, they haven't yet come out, not even to themselves. But then sometimes, when I meet again someone I hadn't seen for one year, he will introduce his boyfriend to me. And in the Czech Republic is not a homophobic country, we are the first ex-Communist country that passed a law creating

registered partnerships for same-sex couples. There is very little religious influence to explain this problem, it's really just backwardness in social attitudes. Ariel Vanean, to give you an example, is a true bisexual, he takes as much pleasure being with girls as with boys, and can fall in love with either. Bisexuality is a common occurrence, as evidence, there was recently a poll in the Czech Republic about sexual orientations and practices and only 12% of men defined themselves as 100% hetero.

So tell us your secret : where do you find such incredible sex gods ?

I'm not so often in gay clubs or gay venues, so of course I use scouts to find new talents. I place ads in gay magazines or sites. Of course, when I do go out, or even just in the street, I can't help being a producer, so I keep casting in my head faces and guys I see. But sometimes, things happen more easily than you'd think. When models come for a shoot or for casting, they'll often bring a friend along, who sometimes is also a fuck buddy. Life is full of surprises !

Let me now mention to you some of your models and you can give a quick take on them and what you think ! We'll start with Dominik Trojan.

I worked a lot with him three years ago and it was a great experience. Dominik is bisexual. I immediately saw his potential which is why I cast him as the main character of the first two episodes of my series *Buddies : Moving In* and *Dominik in Ibiza*. He is indeed the cover model for both. This is my reality porn series, a new concept I came up with. So we had six months of very close collaboration, but we stopped because rather than staying on as an exclusive, he'd rather work for a bunch of different studios. But we always remained in close touch and he might return to work on new AYOR projects later this year.

Patrick Veselsky : he is a great favorite of mine because he's got I think one of the most amazing combinations : an angel face with a perfectly muscled body. A dream come true.

He decided he'd done enough and brought his career to an end in October 2006. I worked with him a lot in 2004-2005, sometimes also for other companies which explains such other akas as Patrick Murdock or Daniel Murdoch. His final appearance was in *Buddies 2 : Dominik in Ibiza* (with Dominik). He decided to focus on his studies and career and went back to school. He is bisexual and like many young guys, he was a typical case of someone paying his way through school by shooting porn.

Ariel Vanean is your current stud star, he appears on the covers of *More Tales 2* and of *Spray*. We decided to put him on the cover of TRIBU MOVE in the arms of Kieron Athey.

He is one of my ideals as a porn star. He is an exclusive model with Bel Ami. He is someone I greatly appreciate as a person. It is quite visible, as beside the two films you just mentioned, he is also the star of *Follow Me*. He is bisexual, absolutely adorable and in his case, let me say being bisexual means that he is very very gay. He's had a few girlfriends, but nothing serious or long-term... if you see what I mean. He is gorgeous, he's really got something special, and in particular a lot of charisma. As the phrase goes, he is a real show-stopper.

Jerry Haris is one of the covermodels for *Follow Me*.

He has appeared in two of my movies, first *Spray*, where he stars in the final scene along with Ariel, and then in *Follow Me*. He is quite charming. He is gay but if you look up his profile on one of the big Czech dating portals, he claims to be « heterosexual ». This is exactly what I was talking about before.

And finally, Kieron Athey, the other cover boy for *Spray* who is also on our cover.
He's another Bel Ami model. The face of an angel and an amazing physical presence.

Male comradeship is an essential theme in your movies, so how do you manage to create this sexual alchemy between your models ?

In principle, this is something which naturally comes out of the mood that prevails on my shoots. This is like a small family which gets together again, everybody knows each other, and the newbies always get a warm reception from the old hands. It's a friendly, fun atmosphere, and we all take care of each other. It may not appear on the screen but there is long term work behind all this to achieve this kind of mood. But what I want as a result is for my viewers to see it and share it. That's my manner, my style, and that's what I want most of all. My notion of a perfect shoot is to shoot with friends, outside of Prague, in one nice location for a whole week with friendly models in a cheerful atmosphere. Granted, in reality, things can be complicated or stressful but this shouldn't be reflected on screen. Same about the models, it is necessary for me to appreciate them personally to be able to work with them. Sometimes, real good-looking guys come for casting, but if they are not nice, forget it. When guys are arrogant, I don't want them either because this would risk being reflected on the whole team, on the shoot and on the final film. I love shooting with Ariel Vanean, Patrick Velsky and Adam Kubick (*Team Training*) because they are really adorable. Sometimes it will happen with certain models that they ask, we must go faster, we just want to wrap the scene, we have no time to lose, we got to catch a train to get home. That's not the way I work. In my movies, models are also actors : they carry the movie, they introduce the situations, they talk about their everyday lives, their hobbies, their fantasies... What takes me one day to shoot, sometimes several days, others botch it up in one hour or ninety minutes.

What are your plans for the near future ?

I want to continue in the direction I opened with *Buddies*, my reality porn project. It's *Sex and the City*. I am preparing a sequel to the *Buddies* series. Three years after the first two episodes, this is what i'd like to get back to.

In France, lots of young gay guys would like to become pornstars. Do you have some advice to give them ?

They should send me e-mails and we'll organise a casting session in Paris. This is what happens in the Czech Republic too, but most of the time, out of 10 applicants, 9 are not what I am looking for, or don't correspond to the AYOR look.

So could you define that look ?

Well, it's not so different from the Bel Ami look. I am thinking once again of guys like Adam Kubick, Patrick Veselsky, Ariel Vanean....Cute guys with handsome faces, no need to be a bodybuilder, a normal body is fine. They can be into sports, be 18 to 25. They should be expressive in front of the camera, have lots of stamina and something special in their eyes.

Would you care to have a French model to mix him up with your French studs ?

Absolutely ! Bring them on ! If one of your readers is interested they should not hesitate getting in touch with us at casting@ayorstudios.com I'll be delighted to get back to them.

Follows : references to recent DVDs, the website with its address, films being shown on PINK and when.