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It Will All Be Over Soon

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IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON

A FEMINIST SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF “TRANSSEXUAL CEO REVIEWS AND F*CKS
EMPLOYEE”

INTRODUCTION

- Transgender pornography = one of most popular niche genres of pornography (Herman, 2015)
- “In many ways, porn is a political theater where racial [and gender] distinctions and barriers are reiterated even as they may also be manipulated or transformed” (Miller-Young, 2014, p. 8).

THESIS

- Though films such as “TS CEO” claim to sexually empower transgender women, TS CEO instead reinforces persistent, negative notions about transgender identities and bodies when analyzed under a semiotic/feminist lens, through justifying transgender violence by depicting trans women as predators and emasculators of men.

THE MALE GAZE

- Originally described by Laura Mulvey
- Psychoanalysis, adopted into feminist theory
- How male and female characters are situated according to ideals of...
 - Masculinity
 - Femininity
- Dominant audience often assumed to be white, male, cisgendered
- Men (under male gaze) = subjects, onlookers, instigators of action
- Women = often meant to be acted/looked upon



Credit: Paramount Pictures

ARTIFACT

- “TS CEO Reviews and F*cks Employee”/“Bad Ass Boss Lady Venus Lux Gives DJ a Thorough Review!” (2015)
- Produced by TS Seduction
- Starring Venus Lux and D.J. Mann



THE SEMIOTICS OF TS CEO

- Clothing
 - D.J. remains undressed for most of the film
 - Nudity = vulnerability
 - Venus does not fully undress, wears a black corset
 - Black = power, moral impurity (Sherman & Clore, 2009)
 - Red = danger, passion, love
 - Clothing = hiding something, rejecting vulnerability
 - Heels = femininity, nobility, sensuality, power (Dansei 1999)



SEMIOTICS, CONT.



- Body language
 - Camera
- DJ = often in center of frame, at forefront, Venus at distance
- Reaction shots - center around DJ, little on Venus
- Physical intimacy denied with Venus

“I’VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE FOR YOU” SEMIOTICS & THE MALE GAZE

- Venus’s trans status is HIDDEN from DJ
- Hyper femininity
- Pornography and oppressed groups = process of subordination through appealing to stereotypes (Dr. Andrea Dworkin, 1998)
- “Chief to the racial fetishism of black women in pornography, then, is a *double focus*: a voyeurism that looks but also does not look, that obsessively enjoys, lingers over, and takes pleasure in the black female body even while it declares that body as strange, Other, and abject” (Dr. Mireille Miller-Young, 2014, p.)



IMPLICATIONS

Domestic Violence in the Transgender Community

Rates of intimate partner violence are high and barriers stand in the way of getting help

Join Us In Mourning Gigi Pierce,
A Trans Woman Murdered In
Portland

*Transgender Woman Shot Dead
in Motel Is 7th Killed in U.S.
This Year, Rights Advocates Say*

**A year after the HB2 repeal, NC
transgender students battle
discrimination**

**NEW REPORT REVEALS RAMPANT DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE BY HEALTH
PROVIDERS, HIGH HIV RATES AND WIDESPREAD LACK
OF ACCESS TO NECESSARY CARE**

**Republican Candidate Gleefully Films Herself
Harassing a Trans Woman in a Bathroom**

The #MeToo Conversation Erases Trans People