

TEXT BY NICK DENT

MONEY SHOTS

CAN YOU SPOT A PORN STAR IN THEIR DAY CLOTHES? A NEW BOOK OF PORTRAITS BY TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS TAKES A DIFFERENT LOOK AT AMERICA'S ADULT MOVIE ELITE.

A LONGSTANDING contributing photographer to *Vanity Fair*, Timothy Greenfield-Sanders has shot actors, artists, musicians, writers, politicians, celebrities, and, well, just about everyone. But a couple of years ago he realised that there was something missing from his CV.

"I had never shot nudes. I always wanted to, but I didn't know who to shoot. I wanted people who would be comfortable nude. And then I saw the movie *Boogie Nights*..."

Fascinated by the porn-star world portrayed in the Paul Thomas Anderson film – "celebrities in a world outside of the mainstream" – Greenfield-Sanders knew he had the perfect topic for a gallery show. Over the next two years he invited stars of the adult movie industry, male and female, straight and gay, to his New York studio to be photographed both naked and clothed – in and out of costume, as it were.

The resulting on-the-money shots are collected in *XXX: 30 Porn-Star Portraits* (Bulfinch). Legends such as Jenna Jameson and Ron Jeremy appear alongside rising stars like Belladonna and Chad Hunt. Greenfield-Sanders used his accustomed large-format camera and simple set-ups to observe his subjects plainly and honestly; pert and perky flesh jostles for space with the fake and flaccid. "I wanted these to be heroic portraits in a way," he says, "and I think they are."

He quickly had to abandon some assumptions about porn actors. "I found them much more intelligent than I imagined. [Eighties star] Nina Hartley is an exceptional person. Sharon Mitchell, who runs the organisation that tests porn stars for HIV, she's got her PhD. And they take a certain great excitement in taking their clothes off. I wasn't prepared for that."

Some are clearly way more at ease undressed, such as Jesse Jane, star of *Jesse Jane: Erotique* and *No Limits*.

"She's the new superstar," notes the photographer, "an extremely driven woman who knows what she wants and wants to be a sex symbol. She has a plan. And she likes being seen naked, she likes that people enjoy her fucking."

Perhaps aware that some might simply label XXX a book of dirty pictures, Greenfield-Sanders includes no less than 17 essays to accompany his portraits. In doing so he proves just how amazingly well connected he is. Together with the expected sex-positive commentaries from Nancy Friday and Karen Finley, there's porn-related fiction from AM Homes and JT Leroy, and asides from Salman Rushdie, Lou Reed and John Waters. Even John Malkovich sticks his two cents in, and the introduction is by Gore Vidal. "Gore Vidal and Jenna Jameson have been brought together in one volume," notes *Colors* magazine editor Simon Dumenco in his foreword: "Finally!"

Greenfield-Sanders graduated in Art History from Columbia University and studied moviemaking at the American Film Institute in LA. There he took his first star portraits of the actors and directors who were visiting as guest speakers. Twenty years later his portrait portfolio is so comprehensive that New York's Museum of Modern Art recently acquired a set of 700 – and that was just the art-world figures.

As a photographer, how does he rate porn stars against the non-X-rated variety? "These people are professionals in front of the camera, even more so than [regular] actors, because actors are really concerned about how they look – 'is this my best angle?' The porn stars were much more open: like, 'Here I am! I'm all here for you!'"



STAR FUCKERS
JESSE JANE
(TOP) AND
BRIANA
BANKS
(BOTTOM) AS
THEY APPEAR
IN XXX.

XXX: 30 PORN-STAR PORTRAITS BY TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS IS DISTRIBUTED IN AUSTRALIA BY TOWER BOOKS, RRP\$65.00. WWW.GREENFIELD-SANDERS.COM

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