



BEHIND THE GREENFIELD DOOR

PAPERVIEW

WHEN ONE OF TODAY'S MOST CELEBRATED PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHERS EXAMINES THE WORLD'S MOST NAKEDLY sensational entertainers, you would expect stunning results. But the ultimate effect of Timothy Greenfield-Sanders' new book *XXX: 30 Porn-Star Portraits* (Bulfinch Press), is far more sober than its title would suggest. Through his photos and a collection of writings by cultural heavyweights like Gore Vidal, Salman Rushdie and A.M. Homes, Greenfield-Sanders reveals how shockingly *normal* these performers are and how much thought they invest in their craft. Sensuous photos of stars like Jenna Jameson, Belladonna, Chad Hunt and Ron Jeremy prompt readers to confront their own desires—each of the adult entertainers is alternately photographed in their street-clothes and then with their usual anatomical exaggerations hanging out, steaming up the frame. In conjunction with the book, there's also an HBO documentary and a companion soundtrack featuring everybody from the Velvet Underground to Peaches.

The project isn't about glorifying the pizza-delivery guy or horny housewife. Far from it. In fact, when '80s porn goddess Nina Hartley's explanation that "Sex is a... hot [and] horny gift of evolution" is combined with, say, author Wayne Koestenbaum's declaration that "Porn is the ceiling towards which all photographs asymptotically climb," the photographer conjures up a scintillating discourse in a diversity of voices, including his own. "Photography is always about the humanity of the person," Greenfield-Sanders says, "and no matter how much we may 'objectify' [porn stars], they remain real people who have lives." ★ CARLO MCCORMICK • PHOTOGRAPH BY TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS