



NAKED IN AMERICA

a feature documentary

Created

by

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Treatment
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CONCEPT

Have you ever been nervous about giving a speech or singing a song in front of an audience of strangers and dealt with it by imagining everybody naked? What is it about that image that calms you? Or does the thought of being in a room full of naked strangers frighten or repulse you? If you're inclined to react either way, you're not alone.

We Americans have a reputation for being intensely stimulated by nudity. Many of us, in fact, allow our children to view violent movies and video games. Yet we cover their eyes and call our Congressmen when a naked body is shown on TV. Heaven forbid we should expose our children to the naked human form. Civilization would surely come to an end. And yet broadcast violence is considered by many parents to be more natural and less harmful to their family values.

Advertisers count on our Pavlovian tendency to salivate over skin. They know that we're more apt to buy a product if we're turned-on by the images surrounding it. Like rubberneckers passing a freeway accident, we slow down and watch, wide-eyed and mouths agape. Censors both frighten and entice us with warnings like: "This program contains images of nudity!" Often we feel guilty after these voyeuristic fixes.

In a repressed society, that which is forbidden becomes equally desirable and threatening. Indulgence breeds guilt. Guilt inspires abstinence. Starvation engenders hunger. And a classic vicious cycle is born.

OBJECTIVES

"NAKED IN AMERICA" (NIA) will explore Americans' extreme, and often hilarious, reactions to the naked human form. Well-known news events—such as: the political and economic fall-out (pardon the pun) from Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction"; John Ashcroft's covering of the semi-nude statues in the Department of Justice lobby; the streaking and bra-burning phenomena of the 1970s; the nude encounter groups of the 60s; the rise of the Playboy empire of the 50s—reveal a sensitivity to nudity that befuddles other cultures.

We currently live in a culture of polarized moral and political values, exemplified by extreme Conservatism (a desire to hold steady) on one side and extreme Liberalism (a desire to move forward) at the other end of the spectrum. These extremes are nowhere more evidenced than in American views towards unclothed human bodies. Conservatives react to nudity with fear, shame, and punishment. Liberals respond to Conservatives with gratuitous rebellion. Both sides view the other's attitudes as a threat to their values. One side views the other as sex fiends. And the other views its opponents as prudes.

NIA asks the questions:

- *What's the big deal?* If everybody more or less has the same equipment, then why does any kind of public display create such a stir?
- *Where did these extreme attitudes come from?* Are we inherently stimulated by images of naked people? Or are we trained by our culture to respond to nudity with attraction and/or repulsion?
- *What's to become of us?* Are we doomed to perpetuate cycles of guilt and arousal? Or is there a healthier perspective?

STYLE & FORMAT

NIA will be comprised of several segments:

1. A brief, humorous *animated history of prudery*:

- Puritans—17th-century English immigrants whose ascetic religious views deeply affect our culture today.
- Founding Fathers—
- Victorianism—

2. Psychology of Clothing/Nakedness:

- "Prude"—one who is excessively concerned with being or appearing to be proper, modest, or righteous. (American Heritage Dictionary)
- Breaking the genitalia taboo—the human reproductive organs are considered sacred in primitive and modern cultures alike. Though appropriate viewing of these "private parts" varies from culture to culture.
- Myth of Garden of Eden—

- History and Purpose of Clothing—
- Clothed vs. Unclothed Societies—
- Psychology of Male Nudity—
- Psychology of Female Nudity—

3. "Great Moments in Nakedness!" (*News for Prudes!*, presented in the style of old news reels):

- Janet Jackson fiasco
- John Ashcroft and the naked statues
- Carmel, CA refuses \$40,000 raised for fire station from geriatric calendar girls
- Churches boycott water park in Fresno, CA for hosting nudist event
- Nude statue in B.C. disfigured
- Monday Night Football incident with Terrell Owens and Nicolette Sheridan.
- Mickey Rooney's bare ass in a TV commercial

4. Perspectives From Around the World:

- Relativity of Modesty
- Ridiculed by European media
- Violence vs. Sensuality
- Unisex Bathrooms

5. Social Nudity—therapeutic aspects:

- *Experiment*—Several American couples visit a nudist resort for the first time. NIA will examine the progress of their thoughts and feelings over a three-day period.
- Nude Therapy—California in the '60s

6. Laws Governing Nudity:

- Enforcement vs. Tolerance
- Time & Money

7. Interviews with Artists & Philosophers:

- Greg Friedler—a photographer, author of books "Naked In New York", "Naked In Los Angeles", and "Naked In London".

- Mike McCaffrey—Chicago photographer specializing in nudes
- A figure drawing class, featuring the perspectives of both the artists and the models.
- The Art of Striptease—old-school vs. new
- Raelian Convention—a gathering of people from all over the world who believe that life on Earth was created by aliens and that pleasure is the key to enlightenment.
- Bern & Sherry—publishers of InterNaturally Magazine
- Religious Fundamentalists
- Psychologists
- Sociologists
- Anthropologists
- Theologians
- Sex Therapists

8. Funding:

- Sponsorship
- Grants
- Loans
- Investments

9. Marketing & Publicity:

- IFTA & AFMA—The International Film & Television Association
- Film Festivals (appropriate to NIA)
- Publicist
- Internet
- “Documentaries that explore a serious topic and are tempered with humor are more commercially viable than those that aren’t. And if you’ve made a doc about . . . anything involving nudity—that will almost guarantee a sale Isn’t that what docs are supposed to explore? Naked reality?” (*Chris Gore*, author of “The Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide”)

PRODUCERS

SCRATCH MEDIA is a Chicago-based performing arts production company, specializing in original works for stage and screen. For more info, visit www.scratchmediaarts.com.

GREG SILVA is a Chicago-based writer, musician and producer. He studied filmmaking at Regent University in Virginia. In 1999, he founded Scratch Media. He and a co-producer were invited to show a short movie that Greg shot, "Gin & Broads", at the Vail Film Festival. "Bettie Page Uncensored," his first feature-length co-production about the life of the notorious 1950s pin-up queen, is now out on DVD. His latest original work, "Clown Head", a multimedia musical fantasy for the stage, had its premiere in Chicago in the summer of 2004.

COREY MANGOLD is the California-native President and co-owner of the International Naturists Association and its affiliates (ClothesFree.com, ClothesFreeTV TV, and more). At only 24 years old, he is one of the youngest leaders in the world of naturism. With a background in business management, he has helped shape INA into the company it is today. With over 10,000 members worldwide and weekly webcasts of "Nudes in the News", the International Naturists Association is clearly the most cutting edge naturist organization in the world. He is the proud father of his seven year old daughter, and his three year old son. He has produced six DVD's and is currently finishing up his third documentary. Learn more about Corey at www.ClothesFree.com.