

they always want a beautiful design, healthy materials and good quality. We like a design that invites touch, a smooth surface, and neutral or pleasant smell. Women enjoy with all their senses A lot of cheap sex toys come at the price of health risks. Toys made from PVC often include toxic phthalates that have been known to decrease fertility. Other chemical components can attack the bodies immune system and nervous system. You cannot even protect yourself from these toys by using a

increase the desire in my films.
Forum: Why do you think it has taken such a long time for women creating erotica in various media to become audible and visible?
Emily: It's always been there — just look at Anais Nin — but it's taken a long time for society to accept that women are sexual. We needed the feminist movement to help women become empowered generally before they could become empowered sexually. Now the

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condom as the molecules can penetrate the thin rubber. Rubber itself is also often used in cheap toy production. As it has lots of invisible pores, the problem is that it is almost impossible to clean and you might create a hive of bacteria after only a couple of uses. A condom might help. You recognise PVC and rubber toys by their strong and off-putting smell. I only use the best silicone that has no smell and is completely toxin free.

Maria: In mainstream porn it often seems that the submissive is there against their own will and going through the motions as scripted and instructed. There's a lack of spontaneity, real desire, real emotions, feelings and chemistry. Most mainstream porn is not using the power of the imagination. The brain is the biggest sex organ. I am convinced about this and an imaginative and creative mind is the driving force for BDSM and fetish film fantasies. The power of the imagination, the transformation of pain into pleasure, the use of psychological tension between individuals are all elements used to

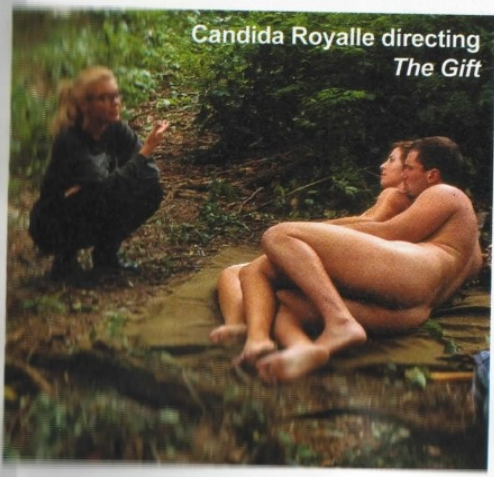
doors are open, it's great to see women revealing in their sexuality and sharing their perceptions of it.

Candida: It has taken until now because it's such a taboo for women to even look at sexually explicit movies let alone produce and direct them. It takes a lot of courage to stand up to the long-held notion that 'good girls don't'!

Anja: I cannot speak for other women as each biography is different. I am now 34 and feel I have gained enough life experience and my sexuality is far enough developed to become an entrepreneur for female-friendly sex toys!

Maria: It's happening now thanks to the Internet and other digital possibilities that make getting the work out there and to be seen cheaper, quicker and for a wider audience. The accessibility of DIY digital tools and the internet have made it possible for the works by women to gain more visible and more challenging.

Forum: What is erotic and/or horny to you?
Candida: I think perhaps one of the most erot-



ic aspects of any encounter is the anticipation, both on film and off. The wondering 'if and what and how?'. Those first glances and getting physically close, barely touching. The first touch, brushing lips against skin, the first kiss... Seducing through looks, through words and suggestions, through sensual caresses. The build-up to more intense touching and holding, all the way to intense, passionate sex.

Maria: The power of the brain... The power of suggestion. Glimpses of parts of the body, skin, clothing, accessories and shoes seen through a fetishistic perspective.

Emily: Intelligence, laughter, that glint in the eye when you know you both want each other, trust, kindness, affection, willingness to experiment, openness, looking into a lover's eyes at the point of orgasm — myriad things. It took me a long time to realise that good sex was about more than just 'the act' — however kinky that act may be — and was more about the connection made.

Anja: My lover!

Forum: How do you find ideas for your own erotic stories, films or sex toys?

Candida: My ideas come from my own in-

ternal erotic life, my thoughts when I close my eyes, the things that move me. If we don't create from authenticity our work will be boring and ineffective. It may not touch everyone, but it at least stands a better chance of touching some. I find performers in a variety of ways. I like to use real couples when I can, and especially people not from the adult film industry so that they come off as more genuine rather than rehearsed in standard porno film behaviour. But I also like to employ some of the more professional adult film actors and actresses because they know how to be on camera, how to strike a balance between professional and appearing natural and authentic.

Emily: My ideas can come purely from my imagination, from experience, from friends telling me stories down the pub and from 'what might have been' experiences. All manner of people submit to *Cliterati*, some anonymously, some with pseudonyms, some under their real name. It's mostly women but some men submit stories, too. There's no 'average' reader/submitter. I've had submissions from people of all sexualities aged 18 to seventy, possibly older — and I love that diversity.

Maria: They come from dreams, fantasies, experiences, catching moments of inspiration from the arts, music, nature and dance. The women in my films are brought together consensually and are usually highly recommended through friends and partners.

Anja: My very own personal lust and desires are my biggest inspiration. I think it is very exciting to turn my own fantasies into sex toys!

Forum: Which pieces of art and artists have inspired you?

Emily: Anais Nin, Pauline Réage and Nancy Friday (though she's more a scientist than an artist) but anything can inspire me: a walk on the beach, an eye-meet with a stranger, a night