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The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation*

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It's More Complicated than Coming Out

By Sigmund Snider

There is a somewhat frequent assertion on nudist social media that nudists do not share the same visibility as members of the LGBTQ communities and that more nudists should simply “come out” in order to achieve a similar level of awareness and acceptance. However, the implication that increased visibility is somehow automatically accompanied by greater societal acceptance ignores several realities and complex variables.

Individuals – LGBTQ and otherwise – are far less inclined to conceal a spouse, a partner, or a family than involvement in what is generally represented as an occasional form of weekend recreation. The critical distinction here is that the LGBTQ individual’s coming out is often merely an acknowledgment of a vital, integral component of their identities – their family. In contrast, the nudist or naturist may or may not see their participation in social nudity as anything more than a hobby or a form of leisure or recreation.

It is essential to recognize that visibility does not equal tolerance. Nudist and naturist organizations and individuals should be careful to distinguish between visibility and tolerance when making the nudist/LGBTQ coming out comparison. LGBTQ individuals are certainly more visible in today’s society, but that does not necessarily translate into societal tolerance. Consider the sheer number of laws that have been passed quite effortlessly throughout the country in the last few years that restrict access to LGBTQ books, place limits on speech, restrict the right to assemble, and restrict access to healthcare. The LGBTQ movement has a well-organized and well-funded national advocacy network with countless high-profile supporters, attorneys, and activists (far more than all of



the nudist and naturist organizations combined). However, it has often been powerless to stop anti-LGBTQ bills from being introduced or becoming laws. Visibility alone does not ensure societal acceptance. In fact, visibility may open a movement up to increased scrutiny, opposition, restrictive legislation, threats, and even more danger. According to an October 16, 2023, Human Rights Campaign press release concerning the FBI’s Annual Crime Report:

There were 1,947 recorded incidents relating to an alleged victim’s sexual orientation in 2022, up from 1,711 the year before and 469 relating to an alleged victim’s gender identity, vs. 353 the year before. The gender identity category included 338 instances that were specifically anti-transgender and 131 that targeted someone who was gender nonconforming.

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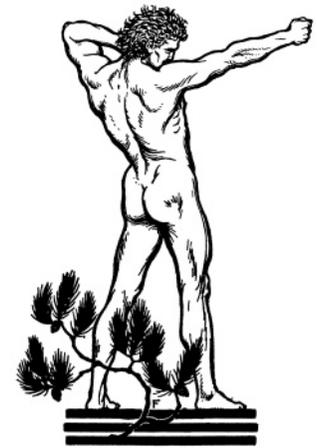
There have been countless acts of harassment, vandalism, violence, and even murder targeting the LGBTQ communities, much of which goes unreported. While nudists have faced restrictive legislation, it is unclear if there have ever been nudists in America who have been beaten or murdered solely because of their identity. Much of this has to do with the fact that nudists have been mainly invisible for most of their history in America, quietly dwelling within the safety of their fenced, gated communes or online communities. When social nudity is brought into a public space – beaches, federal lands, or the World Naked Bike Ride, for example – intolerance, harassment, and legislative threats have increased. The official response to these threats has often been to “stay under the radar.” Nudists and naturists can quickly become more visible, but that might come at a cost, and it is reasonable to assume that the mainstream might find elements of the nudist way of life objectionable or problematic. Coming out might well draw a response that many nudists are not prepared to confront.

“While nudists have faced restrictive legislation, it is unclear if there have ever been nudists in America who have been beaten or murdered solely because of their identity.”

The average nudist sees their involvement in social nudity as a hobby or a leisure activity, not as a community, not as an extended family, and not necessarily something so central to their identity that they are willing to fight to protect it. Nudism has been marketed as little more than a niche leisure industry (the “Nakation”) since the 1990s, not as a philosophy, not as a community, not as something that is a vital component of one’s identity. It is challenging to get nudists to come out, and indeed come out as advocates if it is something they do alone in their yard, on an annual trip to Florida, or possibly just something they read and talk about on the internet.

Coming out has many benefits, but there are also responsibilities – and risks. Coming out has a cost. We cannot expect people to come out or become

advocates unless it is something so profoundly connected to their identities that they are willing to potentially suffer the marginalization and discrimination that accompanies participation in a misunderstood and often clandestine minority community. Coming out sometimes involves loss of friends and family, risks to career, social ostracization, harassment, and much worse. When coming out involves acknowledging a profoundly personal and critical component of our identity, such risks are worth taking. The average nudist and naturist does not seem to be prepared to take that step.



NEF's First and Only 3D Film

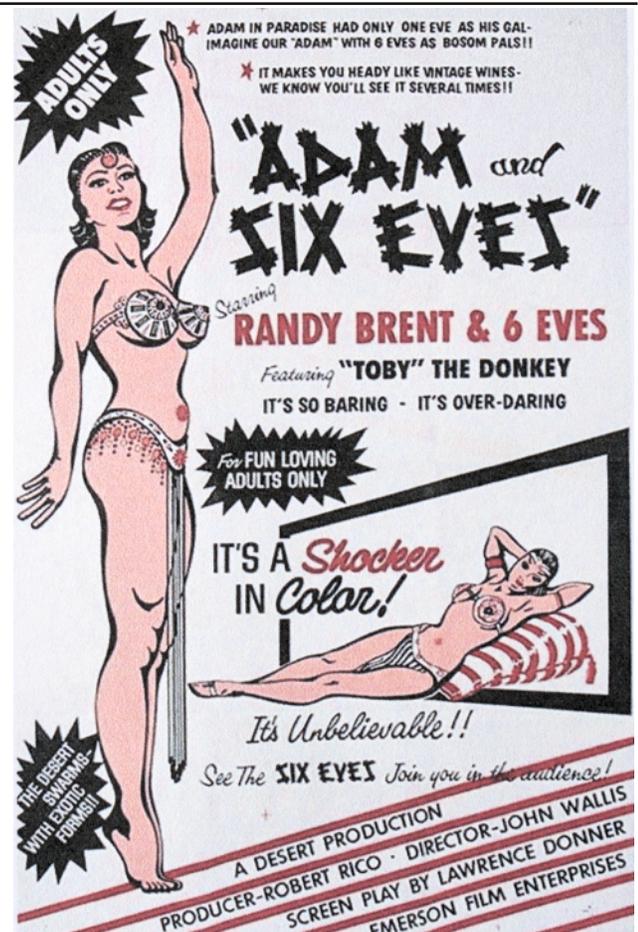
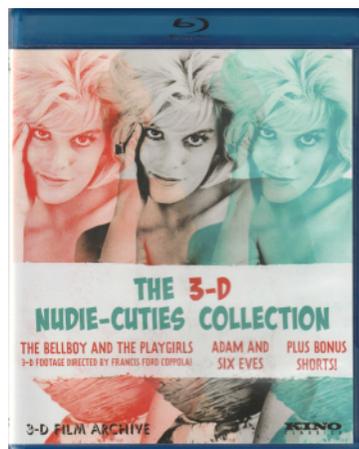
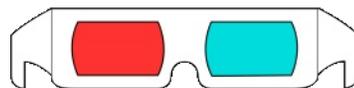
By Doug Hickok

During the early 1960’s boom of “sexploitation” films (both nudist themed and nudie-cutie films), one film was shot entirely in 3D but was never released as a 3D film until 2019. That film is “Adam and Six Eves” (1962).

I bought the “3-D Nudie-Cuties Collection” as soon as I saw the availability in 2019. To enjoy the full effect, I needed both a 3D Blu-ray player and a 3D television. Both of these were hard to find and somewhat expensive. Although players are available, 3D TVs haven’t been manufactured since 2017. The pieces never came together for me to watch the Blu-ray as intended. Ripping the disc to a computer was also a pipe dream – software just didn’t exist yet to do it.

Stereo World, a magazine all about 3D imagining past and present, did a lengthy article about the 3-D Film

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Archive in July/August 2019 (Vol 45 #1). The process is both intense and expensive. Finding both reels (left and right) of a film is difficult to begin with. Converting them to digital is the easy part. Cleaning them up for comfortable 3D viewing is a nightmare. Every spec of dust, every scratch, and every bad frame needs to be fully cleaned up on both the left and right reels. These are all very distracting if left in. The reels need to be synchronized frame-by-frame, and then aligned for proper viewing. Out-of-sync areas or misalignment is a quick way to cause headaches among the viewership.

All that effort for a Blu-ray disc to play on obsolete equipment. What's the point?

Fast-forward about 5 years, and finally there's some freely available software that can do the heavy lifting. I used "MakeMKV" to decrypt and rip the disc to lossless MKV files (which cannot play as 3D by any normal means), "BD3D2MK3D" to mux the 3D tracks to a high-quality standard 3D "golden copy", and finally "ffmpeg" to create the different formats and prep it for the library. For the first time, I can finally enjoy the film, and so can you!

The following formats are available:

- ▶ Side-By-Side (SBS), Full-Frame – Perhaps the most standard format historically. Stereoview cards from the 1860s-1930s used this format, and if you mount your phone to a Holmes Stereoscope it'll work. A more modern VR headset is the same idea, but I'd urge caution with the low-quality plastic lenses many of the cheaper ones contain. There are alternatives like the OWL stereoscope, the Stereopticon, and many similar ones.
- ▶ Side-By-Side (SBS), Half-Frame – The image is skinnier than the full-frame SBS, but many 3D TVs and VR viewers seem to favor this format. The viewer equipment takes care of stretching it back out to normal.
- ▶ Alternating-Frame – Some TVs and VR viewers may favor this format. Simply put, it shows one frame for the left eye followed by one frame for the right eye.
- ▶ Red/Cyan Anaglyph – It's worth buying a cheap pair of red/cyan glasses. I'm using the best color optimization available, but anaglyphs never have perfect color.
- ▶ Non-3D – If none of the options above will work for you, the film is still enjoyable in the plain old flat format.

If you're not sure which format will work for you, request "video330" and sample the options.

Adam and Six Eves (1962), the main feature, is a hilariously charming nudie-cutie film. The film is entirely narrated by a wisecracking donkey. Adam (and the donkey) get lost in the desert looking for

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treasure. An oasis full of frolicking women appears. Adam is drawn in. Can Adam remain focused enough to find the treasure, or are the ladies simply too much? The film makes good use of the 3D effect with a healthy dose of skin and humor.

“The Bellboy and the Playgirls” (1962) includes a spying Bellboy, a history lesson, and a troublesome scene in a play. Apparently this film is a hacked-together version based on a 1958 West German film combined with additional scenes with the bellboy. Only the grand finale is in 3D.

“Love for Sale” (1953) takes you “in the dressing room of Belle Starr”. She’s seen getting ready for something, dancing around in different outfits. She sends a kiss your way, reaches towards you, and blows some smoke in your face to make good use of the 3D effect. After that, you go “on stage” with Belle Starr for a second dance routine that has clothes flying toward you. Finally, “Love for Sale” adds a guy with money to the mix. This rather strange dance routine has a surprise ending.



Lastly, there’s a short bonus track of Kodachrome stereo slides from 1951.

If you enjoy the cheesy naturist and sexploitation films from the early 1960’s, this one is a must see!

As always, it's free to sign up as a NEF Research Library patron and it's free to request loans such as this one. Patrons can request "video330" to test the various 3D formats, otherwise specify which one works for you and the loan will contain that format. Patrons who aren't interested in the 3D or the bonus material can instead request "video319", a flat version from DVD previously made available.



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