

Now You're a Man!

What porn teaches the men of tomorrow

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Making observations about pornography is a much more difficult task than it sounds. You can define it: 'Porn is a depiction of sexual acts', but simplifying the topic in such terms is like saying 'Music is the sound made by instruments.' Porn has as much variety as music, and you can hardly say hip-hop is the same thing as Beethoven's classical works. How then do we analyse the effects of porn on a specific demographic?

In porn you can find men having sex with men, orgies involving dozens of strangers, blowjobs in crowded public places, hidden cameras, people having sex with animals, incest, children being raped, animated aliens fucking cartoon characters, married couples making sweet tender love, and sexual acts involving anything ranging from shit, piss, vomit, semen, and blood, to dildos, leather, whips, electrodes, machines, knives, fists, feet, blindfolds, ropes, etc etc. The list extends as far human creativity. No fetish has gone unfilmed and if there's something you want to see, no matter how illegal or bizarre, you can find it if you know where to look.

When it comes to analysing the effects of porn on young males, you have to take into account the fact that they can see it in many different forms. If boys aged twelve to sixteen were looking at rape videos every second day it's obvious that this could cause sociological and psychological harm, but is it so bad if all they're seeing is loving partners engaging in a natural, human act?

There are plenty of arguments both for and against pornography, some of them valid and some of them quite laughable. The idea in the United States that porn should be sanctioned under the First Amendment as 'free speech' is blatant rationalising if anything ever was. Conversely, claims that 'all porn viewers will become violent rapists' are absurd, even if it is true in *some* cases.

Let's then take a narrower view and focus on the way males are depicted in heterosexual porn and how this might affect a young, male viewer.

Those of us who are more sexually experienced, older, or more discerning will hopefully take porn for what it is (stress the word *hopefully*). Younger men, and those with less sexual experience, are likely to be more impressionable and more inclined to take what they see as reality.

One of my favourite defences of porn is that it 'teaches us what to do' sexually, or 'gives us ideas.' Is that for real? Have the people who say this ever *seen* a porno? It gives us injuries, that's what it does. I have this vague memory of attempting penetration during a handstand, but mostly all I recall is daytime suddenly becoming night-time and a bunch of icepacks. I'm fortunate enough to have had a colourful sex life but I haven't tried half the weird shit I've seen in the videos and it's probably for the best.

In all seriousness though, the suggestion that porn teaches us about sex is easy to refute. That's not to say that you can't learn from porn or gain any inspiration from it, but if you take it at face value you're not going to learn about real sex.

We can start by forgetting about all the kinky and unusual stuff and looking at the more common content. Your standard (as in, most frequently occurring) porno contains a beautiful girl, usually young or young-looking. The guy is often ugly and at least a decade older than his partner, looking like that sleazy, desperate guy in the nightclub who can't get a date without Roofies, except that this guy has a huge wang. He uses his physical strength and assertiveness to dominate his girl or girls. The vast

majority of scenes end in the male ejaculating on his co-star's face, breasts or vagina. Anal sex is present more often than it's absent. The male is dispassionate and appears to care little for the girl, whereas she moans with uninhibited pleasure. Lesbian action is prevalent in male-oriented straight porn and one guy doing two girls is pretty much the norm.

As I said before, you can find porn in any form imaginable, but spend a few hours trawling the internet and you'll see that the above is a fairly accurate description of your *average* scene. Thanks to the internet, this material is now available to a much wider audience. In the past, teenagers had to sneak into dad's room and borrow his Playboy collection, but now they can go to one of the thousands of TGP (thumbnail gallery post) sites and see millions of pictures, or download full movies from a torrent site. If they don't look for a specific thing such as gangbangs, vegetable insertions or public urination, they will likely come across what has just been described.

So, this is what proponents of pornography want our youth to 'learn' from? Anal sex, facials, domination and huge cocks. If young men see this and believe it, they'll be picking up some very unpopular habits.

I'm not going to tell you what to do in bed (or in the car, or the bushes) but I can make a few safe generalisations. Number one, girls don't like anal sex. Statistics will back this up, as will basic anatomy. Men have their g-spot in their anuses, women don't. Many girls have tried anal but most of them don't do it regularly. Yours might like it, and that's wonderful for you, but the ubiquity of anal sex in porn does not reflect its popularity in real life.

Secondly, most girls don't want to finish sex with a faceful of spunk. This is something that *some* girls might love or that you might do occasionally, but it is far from standard procedure. Issues of domination and humiliation aside, it's messy and hard to clean.

Then there are issues of performance standards. Boys, let me tell you a huge secret – *they don't really care how big your dick is!* In fact, if it's as big as half the guys you see online, they won't have anywhere to put it. Too small is bad, yes, but too big is even worse. We live in a society filled with men paranoid they won't be able to please a girl with their mere six inches and unfortunately porn reinforces the falsity that bigger is better. When you're a virgin and your only experience of sex is what you've seen on the internet, you will be much more inclined to worry about penis size and take on the stresses of being 'average.'

Another point: communication is a vital part of sex. The women in adult videos probably aren't enjoying the sex all that much. It's all for show. Many of the positions are impractical, uncomfortable and give both parties little pleasure. What is absolutely rare in porn, but essential in sex, is a guy asking a girl what he should do to make it better for her. Those moans of ecstasy you're seeing are usually fake. If you don't communicate properly – and that may involve asking questions – you might never know how little you're doing for her. Roughly 2 in 3 women are unable to climax during penetration alone, so you'll have to work a bit harder to get her off.

But if you've taken porn too seriously you might not even care about the girl's pleasure. This is very incidental in the videos, meaning that it's great if it happens but it isn't the aim. Let's be realistic here: will girls do whatever you want them to do while selflessly ignoring their own enjoyment? Very unlikely. They will expect sex to be as much about them as it is about you. If you ignore her needs in bed, she probably won't bother with you again.

Finally, the thing with all the lesbians barely warrants the effort of a critique. Having a threesome with two bisexual girls is a common male fantasy but it won't

happen to you anywhere near as much as you'd like it to. It's commonness in porn gives the impression that it's standard practise in real life, which is anything but true. Most people will live and die without experiencing a threesome, so get over it.

Pornography is much like the wrestling: it's entertaining, it looks good, but it's *not real*. That's not to say that it's evil or has no place in society, but it must be taken for what it is. In the bulk of straight porn, men are represented as potent, enviable and successful figures – even if they're butt ugly – with beautiful women as their playthings. It is aimed at those who watch it most – men – and therefore represents male fantasy.

It's important that young men don't grow up on bad stereotypes and depictions of fantasies, lest they end up with a skewed perception of what sex is really like. It's disturbing enough that the vast majority of porn involves activities which are demeaning to women or which have such a strong bias towards male pleasure.

I'll leave you with words from a song called 'Now You're A Man' by DVDA (Double Vaginal Double Anal – which stands for what is allegedly the highest paying porn scene one can do). You could take this song as a joke, but sadly enough, it's a fairly good observation as to what the average male aspires towards these days:

What makes a man is it the woman in his arms,
Just cos she has big titties.
Or is it the way he fights every day?
...No it's probably the titties.