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The Birds, the Bees, and the Butterflies: the Truth about Feminist Sex

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THE

Birds,

THE

BEES,



&

THE



BUTTERFLIES

The Truth About

Feminist

Sex



1

The Birds and the Bees

Starring Western Media



Where did you learn about "the birds and the bees"? Your parents? Older siblings? Friends? Sex education? We might associate our preconceived notions of sex with any or all of these sources, though what we might forget to lay tribute to in perhaps the most influential of all remains: media, western culture's heterosexual normalcy as presented through the patriarchal and capitalist lense of our commercials, movies, tv shows, books, and more. Each of these images, plots, characters, and fantasies build subconscious expectations we can only dream of fulfilling. Though, I argue the contrary. Instead of striving our entire lives to meet the unhealthy, unrealistic, and often inaccurate standards displayed before us, feminist sex declares an alternative lifestyle. We must recognize the role we are given constantly as a role, something easily revised or scrapped altogether. Our sexual activity is not indefinite or pre-ordained. We have the right to refuse sex, to embrace sex, to create our own idea of what sex entails.



2

In perpetuating these expectations, women are taught to desire the commodities that make us feel closer to the "ideal". For example, purchasing clothes, makeup, and even surgical enhancements and modifications that resemble the female characters so idolized in media convince women they are worthy or better. In "Neo-Feminist Cinema", feminist film analysis, Hilary Radner explains this participation in consumerism as a false means of agency for women, as fabricated by upper class white male dominant control over media. Agency over our sex lives does not mean the necessity for big voluminous hair or vaginal operations. Agency means demanding your desires, whether they coincide with what the media portrays or not.



According to feminist film analysis, Laura Mulvey in "Visual Pleasure and Questions of Spectatorship", typical films produce voyeuristic-scopophilic gazing where the audience gains gratification from indulging in unlicensed looking at an image (typically where the one commonality between every genre of music video critiques of Dreamworlds, women to yield voyeuristic images. The consistent punishment, degradation, and subjection of women to dehumanizing activities internalizes false expectations in men and women.



3

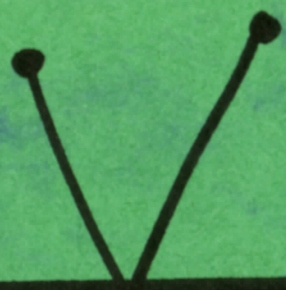
21 Century Movie Reviews on Sexual Agency



Fifty Shades of Grey 2015: Erotisization of Violence
Blockbuster, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson, capitalizes on the taboos of sexual agency by featuring the unfolding "love story" between Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey. The film's plot utilizes a male protagonist bringing out his female counterpart's sexual identity through degradation and violence. The audience is lead to believe victimization is appealing and the abundance of erotization and titillation of physical brutality contributes to an overarching rape culture ever present throughout Western media.

"'Vagina' originates from a word meaning sheath for a sword. Ain't got no vagina."
- Muscio

4



Stripping Away Rape Culture
Also presented heavily throughout music videos are the sexual victimization of women at the hands of male dominance. Women are emotional wrecks without their male counterparts and if they are not already offering their bodies, male coercion eventually supersedes; she is convinced to participate in the normalization of gender violence. With the continuation of such story plots, the objectification of women results in our society's desensitization.



Game of Thrones 2011: Rape as a plot device
Directed by Daniel Sackheim and Alik Sakharov, the HBO hit series, *Game of Thrones*, utilizes rape as a lazy and unnecessary time filler within several episodes. Instead of capturing rape from the female's perspective, a male's gaze is achieved to convey an erotic response in the audience. As a result, the counterproductive consequence of rape culture perpetuation arise. By including rape scenes without proper attention to rape as a serious issue of our society, viewers grow further complacent to rape in general--a dangerous outcome for potential perpetrators and passive victims.

5

heteronormative expectations



heteronormativity

a system that works to normalize behaviors and societal expectations that are tied to the presumption of heterosexuality and an adherence to a strict gender binary.

WHY DO QUEER PEOPLE HAVE TO "COME OUT" -- WHAT IF SOCIETY JUST DIDN'T ASSUME STRAIGHT IS THE NORM!

What if I don't like hot dogs?



assuming heterosexuality is the "norm" implies that other forms of sexuality and gender are less normal and natural

The secret ingredient is resentment.



heterosexual privilege:

the comfort and security in having a sexuality which nobody else feels discomforted by

6

sex ≠ gender



(adj.): not fitting cultural norms around sexuality and/or gender identity/expression

(adj.): non-heterosexual

(adj.): transgressive, revolutionary, anti-assimilation, challenging of the status quo

(adj.): attracted to people of many genders

(n.): an epithet or slur for someone perceived to be gay or lesbian

queer

Queer is still sometimes used as a derogatory term.
 * open yourself to new understandings of the word and OWN IT.

The Genderbread Person

by www.ItsPronouncedMesosexual.com



NEVER LET YOUR OPPRESSOR DEFINE YOU



~ MYTHS ~

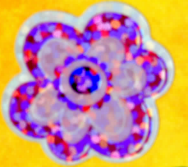
- Feminists HATE sex. → The same people that think feminists hate men also think they hate sex. It is completely false!
- Sex before marriage is BAD → waiting til marriage is a choice!
- You should only have sex if: you are married, it's for procreation, or with another girl for guys to watch. → Have sex whenever you want!
- Having sex that's about making yourself happy and having fun is a big NO. → Sex should be about each partner enjoying it equally & having fun with one another!
- Sex is only about reproducing, not about pleasure.
- Girls are not supposedly to like having sex. If you do, it means you are a slut or a victim who has been taken advantage of. → Sex should be pleasurable for everyone!
- Girls don't get horny. → All genders do!
- Being "sexually active" means that you are "troubled" or "at risk". → Having sex should be a good thing & doesn't mean that you are troubled!
- Having sex before you are 18 makes you more likely to be poor and divorced. → Having sex at a certain age does not determine your future!

Mood:
SEXY

7

ABOUT SEX ~

- You should feel shameful or keep it a secret if you have had multiple sexual partners in the past. → Your # is not for anyone else to judge!
- After losing your virginity, you are "ruined" like an unwrapped lollipop. → Losing your virginity is normal... your life isn't over!
- It isn't labeled "sex" if penetration is not involved. → Cishet sex isn't the norm!
- Female masturbation is taboo! It should be kept a secret unless it's being joked about. → See pg. 11 & 12!
- Oral sex is only for girls to perform on guys and should not be reciprocated. → Equality is key on the streets & in the sheets!
- Educating and providing contraception to teens makes them become "slutty". → It promotes safe sex! See pg. 13 & 14!
- Contraception does not work! It does not protect against pregnancies, STDs, or HIV. It can even cause cancer! → This teaches kids to not use protection rather than to abstain from sex!



8



women are brainwashed into believing these myths

Cite:
JESSICA VALENTI
FULL
FRONTAL
Feminism
A YOUNG WOMAN'S GUIDE TO WHY FEMINISM MATTERS

PORNOGRAPHY

and FREEDOM

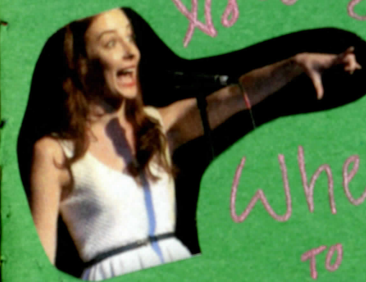
Pornography has created a facade of freedom to be as "freaky" and sexually liberated as you want. However, it in fact does quite the opposite. Pornography pushes an agenda of sexual inequality in the sheets. The pornography industry often releases content of sexualized inequality such as a bondage scene between a man and a woman who seems to be enjoying the pain. Men learn that it is "sexy" and desirable to treat women's bodies as objects. Fetishizing having dominance over someone, to choke, slap, or spit on them. Women see that it's "hot" to take a beating in bed. That it is the way to satisfy your man and maybe even that it's fun. Women and men both learn and internalize that the roles of dominant and subordinate are sexy through the what they see in the pornography industry. So while this may look like sexual freedom it is not for all. Although for men they are as free to do whatever they want because they remain dominant, for women playing the submissive partner is not freedom. It perpetuates patriarchy and male supremacy. Sexual freedom will not exist unless there is sexual justice for women. For this to happen, pornography must stop teaching people to eroticize torture, pain, and gender inequality. There are plenty of other ways to have fun in bed, treating someone as a submissive and obedient object is not one of them.

Pornography exploits every experience in people's lives that *imprisons* sexual feelings—pain, terrorism, punishment, dread, shame, powerlessness, self-hate—and would have you believe that it *frees* sexual feelings. In fact, the sexual freedom represented by pornography is the freedom of men to act sexually in ways that keep sex a basis for inequality.

You can't have authentic sexual freedom without sexual justice. It is only freedom for those in power; the powerless cannot be free. Their experience of sexual freedom becomes but a delusion borne of complying with the demands of the powerful. Increased sexual freedom under male supremacy has had to mean an increased tolerance for sexual practices that are predicated on eroticized injustice between men and women: treating women's bodies or body parts as merely sexual objects or things; treating women as utterly submissive masochists who enjoy pain and humiliation and who, if they are raped, enjoy it; treating women's bodies to sexualized beating, mutilation, bondage, dismemberment. . . . Once you have sexualized inequality, once it is a learned and internalized prerequisite for sexual arousal and sexual gratification, then anything goes. And that's what sexual freedom means on this side of sexual justice.

Stoltenberg, John A. *Pornography and Freedom*. 1989.

FANTASTIC
Breasts
AND
Where
TO
FIND THEM



"I know a slaughterhouse when I see one, It looks like 24/7 live streaming, reminding me that men are going to fuck me whether I like it or not, that there is one use for my mouth and it is not speaking, that a man is his most powerful when he's got a woman by the hair."

Brenna Twohy's slam poem titled "Fantastic Breasts, and Where To Find Them" which is a critique of the porn industry. She speaks about how liking erotic fiction is criticized for being unrealistic while pornography plays on sexual inequality which is normalized and accepted in society.

"The sexiest part is knowing [the characters] are part of a bigger story, that they exist beyond eight minutes in 'Titty Titty Gangbang,' that their kegels are not the strongest thing about them,"

These two quotes are very important and powerful. The first is a metaphor for pornography. The industry is a slaughterhouse as it objectifies women and bases their value on their body parts like their boobs or their mouth. This first quote also touches on how male dominance and power is strengthened and encouraged in sex. The second quote emphasizes the contrast between her love of erotic fiction because it doesn't degrade or objectify women like pornography does. Brenna Twohy is absolutely correct that we must stop normalizing and participating in pornography culture.

IS MASTURBATION taboo?

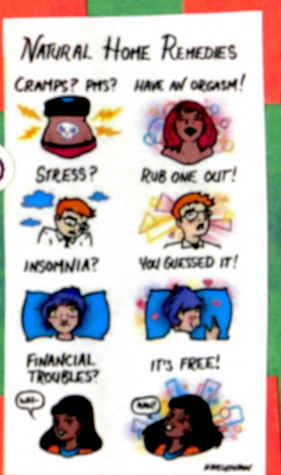
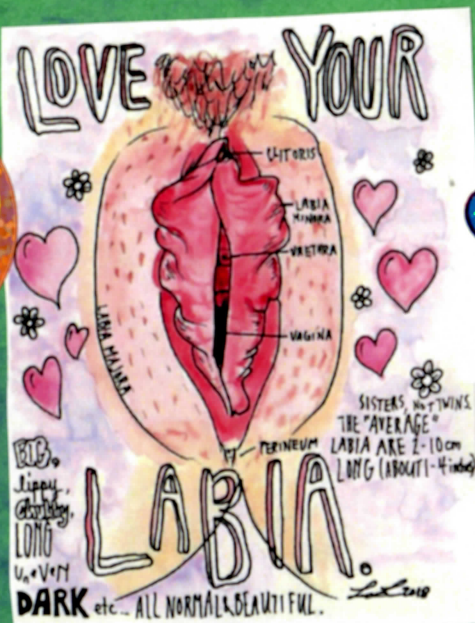
(it shouldn't be!)

pros

1. It helps menstrual cramps
2. Prevents cervical infections and helps relieve UTIs
3. The hormonal and tension release is a natural way to combat insomnia
4. Orgasm increases pelvic floor strength – which in turn helps you orgasm more!
5. Releases dopamine and epinephrine in our brains which improves mood
6. Stress relief!
7. Strengthens sexual self-confidence and self-awareness

cons

1. Sometimes it will be better than the guy you're fucking, then what are you supposed to say to his bruised ego? (tip: talk about it openly! Being sexually confident also means being able to communicate what you want with your partner to improve your sex lives!)



"My mother and other older generations felt that in exchange for the pussy, you should get marriage, you should get something. I'm not that kind of girl, though. I think real sexual liberation means that you're in charge of your pussy; you don't have to exchange it for anything." – bell hooks, 1997

FEMINIZE YOUR SEX!

"When you don't have to feel guilty, slutty, or ashamed, when you feel free to have sex entirely on your own terms, it tends to be much more enjoyable. So much for the myth that feminists hate sex." – Jessica Valenti

clit facts

1. The clitoris has approximately 8,000 nerve endings, which is more than anywhere else in the female body. The penis only has 4,000.
2. Most women can't climax on vaginal intercourse alone. Approximately 50-75% of women who achieve orgasms through clitoral stimulation can't orgasm without the clit!
3. The clit's only job is for female orgasm!
4. The clitoris is not shaped like a penis, but it is similar to the male anatomy because it has a glans, a foreskin, also known as the clitoral hood, and even a shaft. Moreover, it swells up when it's aroused.
5. Vaginal, Cervical and G Spot Orgasms do exist, but they are much harder for most women to achieve than a ~clitoral orgasm~.



don't be
afraid or
ashamed
to
EXPLORE

Get it on!
CASINO PULSION



The Education of Shelby Knox

&

What Sex Education Should Really Be

This film showed the dangers of abstinence only method of sex education. The results of this teaching style are higher rates of teen pregnancy as well as STDS. Shelby advocated for the right to present kids with a choice if they would like to be abstinent or not in sex education and all of the necessary knowledge if they choose to be sexually active. It is crucial to present young adults with comprehensive sex education that addresses everything one needs to know to have safe sex. Without it teens learn from the media, other kids, rumors, etc. We must explain consent well, show all forms of birth control, give the option of abstinence, get over the taboo talk about pleasure and what forms of sex there are, and explain anatomy correctly.

THE CULT OF VIRGINITY

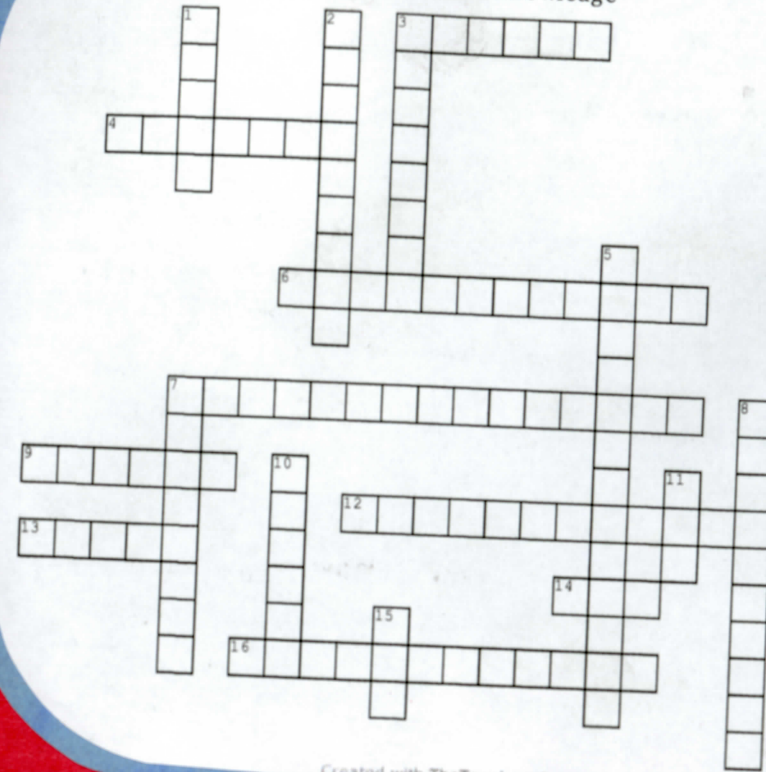
Jessica Valenti talks about how the idea that a female virgin is pure and innocent while someone who is not is a slut, dirty, or used. However, it doesn't matter if a man has slept with multiple women, in fact it boosts their reputation. This idea can be so dangerous because it creates a culture that is often called slut shaming which is a tool to keep gender oppression and patriarchy alive and well.

Valenti, Jessica. *The Cult of Virginity*. 2009.

Are you a Sexpert?

let's test ur sex education knowledge

Name: _____



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Puzzle

Across

3. This is contraceptive prevents unwanted pregnancy and STDS.
4. This is an agreement to participate in sexual activity. You cannot have sex with someone without this.
6. It's when blood and tissue from the uterus comes out of the vagina. It usually happens every month.
7. This is a faulty & not effective method of birth control. It does not require purchasing something but is SO dangerous.
9. A common STD that infects your mouth and/or genitals. Causes blistering sores. There's no cure, but symptoms are treatable.
12. It is important for women to go here and get an annual check up to make sure their body's are healthy.
13. Male external sex genitalia made of 3 layers of spongy tissue. When 'turned on', blood fills these tissues.
14. Chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital warts, syphilis, etc. These are all examples of this.
16. This is a completely normal activity to participate in. It can be described as touching yourself for sexual pleasure.

Down

1. This morning after pill stops the release of an egg from the ovary to prevent unwanted pregnancy.
2. This is a male internal reproductive organ. They make sperm and hormones like testosterone.
3. For a woman, this is spongy tissue that becomes swollen when you're aroused, allowing you to feel good things.
5. This can come in many different forms such as a pill, a shot, a patch, a vaginal ring, or an implant.
7. Both parties involved in the sex should be feeling this.
8. This is a choice you make, whether or not to be sexually active. People should respect this choice.
10. It's what babies and menstrual blood leave the body through. It's also where some people put penises, fingers, sex toys, etc.
11. This is an infection that breaks down your immune system and can lead to AIDS. There's no cure, but there are treatments.
15. This is a form of birth control that is 99% effective, can last from 3-12 years, and is particular to women.

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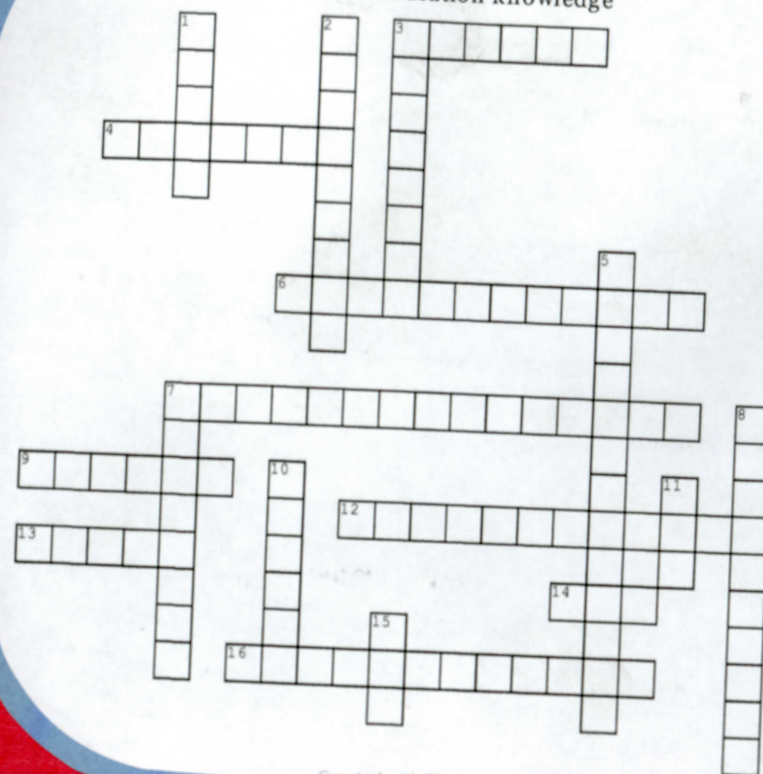
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Madisyn
Montgomery



Jasmin
Thongchanh

Jordan
Prieto-Valdés



Emma
Kiefer



TIPS

- ☺ Fight to see female sexuality as natural, normal, wonderful rather than as a joke or a sin.
- ☺ Abstain from sex only if you want to—your sexuality should be on your terms only. If you don't abstain, that does not make you worthless or "ruined".
- ☺ Remember that sex can be fun! Don't settle for unequal pleasure within your relationships and don't feel shameful for feeling obligated to experience equal pleasure with your partner.
- ☺ Always use protection!
- ☺ Go to the gynecologist regularly to stay healthy. There's nothing shameful about that!
- ☺ Have sex with whoever YOU like or with as many people as YOU like! However, it is important to make smart choices—don't have sex with someone that: won't use protection, has no respect for you or your body or does not respect your physical and emotional boundaries.
- ☺ Battle any shame you feel with pride and take responsibility for your actions.
- ☺ Fight within your schools and communities for reproductive rights and proper sexual education.

