

Bullets, Bombs & Babes

The Malibu Bay Films of Andy Sidaris

In earlier years, did you watch TV shows like Charlie's Angels and Miami Vice? Did you like the action, the Beautiful People and the exotic locations? If so, you're going to love Andy Sidaris. His style of film is similar to these TV shows but taken to a level that you would never see on TV. Synergy would not usually review this sort of film because it would seem at first to be a little mainstream, but watch one of the films and you will see that it definitely isn't a mainstream genre.

Mr Sidaris does not believe in political correctness. All the women are young(ish), attractive, and extremely well developed in a way that would send the feminists wildly shouting "Exploitation!" to any TV executive. Clothing is kept to a minimum and various degrees of nudity, full frontal and simulated sex scenes are common.

The films have no pretensions to being great cinema. The plots are just a carrier for the action and the women. What they are, also, is beautifully filmed, very professionally produced by Arlene Sidaris and directed by Andy Sidaris, and really great examples of high-class B-grade

Sidaris and his girls



action films. It's unusual because Sidaris got his training with ABC Sports in the U.S., including the Olympics – it looks like he simply went over to doing what he loved instead.

The locations are concentrated on Hawaii and Las Vegas. Mr Sidaris takes full advantage of the magnificent scenery (that's the mountains and stuff, not the girls) to produce films with a lush, big-budget look. Aerial shots are common. The population mix of Hawaii is also used to advantage with actors of Chinese and Japanese origin featuring often.

A Sidaris plot will feature a lot of action, a higher level of violence and far more explosions than you will see on a TV show.

The plotlines revolve around two ladies who are



Bob Estreich



“agents” for “The Agency”, under cover as air freight pilots on the island of Molokai in the Hawaii group. Why Molokai in particular is unexplained but it seems to have a high proportion of baddies. The girls are not, thankfully, played as bimbos – well, not too often. They will become involved in a plot to smuggle guns or drugs or to kill someone.

Solving the case will usually involve flying to Las Vegas for some reason. They will meet other agents, remove what clothing they are almost wearing, and sometimes parade around striking dramatic poses with guns. Some of the plots are as thin as the clothing, but really, who cares?

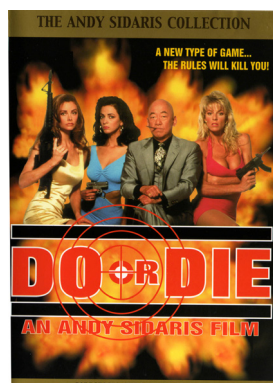
There is a regular stable of actors and actresses including Erik Estrada (did you ever wonder what happened to him after CHiPS? Now you know, although the confused Mr Estrada appears as both a goodie and an evil but unconvincing villain in the various films).

The two heroines are played by ex-Playmates Dona Speir and Roberta Vasquez, both favorites of mine back in those days. They still look good and they can act tough as well.

Sidaris’ Malibu Bay Films turned out quite a few of these films in the eighties and nineties. Let’s have a look at some typical ones.

Do Or Die 1991

The girls and the Agency have upset the plans of international crime boss Kane (played well by Pat Morita) once too often. He has the girls targeted for death, but in a sportsmanlike gesture he tells them about it first.



Six teams of assassins will be sent after them. They must kill or be killed but only after a last sex romp with other agents who will try to protect them using high tech weaponry and very little common sense.

The locations change every five minutes (as does the girls’ clothing). There are some nice comedy notes injected into the film, such as when the head of the Agency shoots a duck instead of a baddie.

The action scenes in the Everglades feature boat chases, a remote control helicopter, the compulsory motorbike chase and the old exploding baseball trick. I believe Mr Sidaris may have been somewhat influenced by that British guy, James what’s-his-name, but James never had sidekicks who looked this good in brief swimwear. Mr Sidaris seems to enjoy spoofing the British agent and he does it well.

Savage Beach 1989

I thought this was one of Sidaris’ better films. During WW2 the Japanese took a load of gold from the Philippines Treasury and put it on a boat to Japan.



The boat was lost during a storm but now a group of baddies think they know where the boat sank and are out to recover the gold. So is the U.S. Navy. By coincidence the girls have been forced to crash land on the island when their plane’s engine is knocked out by a lightning strike. None of them know that the island is inhabited by a lone Japanese soldier with a sense of honour.



Sidaris and Julie Strain

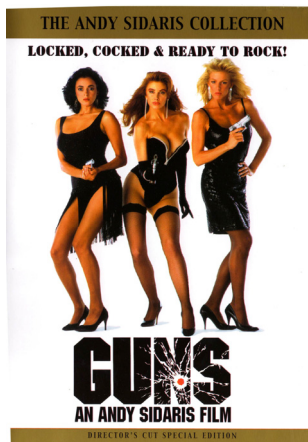
The girls spend a surprising amount of time fully dressed in this film. They do not, however, feel the need to fly to Las Vegas. The plot is a little more intelligent than most. The girls must contend with baddies, no radio, no swimwear, and blatant continuity errors.

Guns 1990

This film really makes the most of the beautiful Hawaiian coastal scenery.

This time Erik Estrada plays the baddie who is smuggling Chinese assault rifles to his organisation in South America. The girls, of course, get in the way. They foil his evil plot by frequent changes of clothing, striking poses with different weapons, and, of course, flying to Las Vegas.

The film seems to have a higher explosion count than other Sidaris films so turn up the volume. It also has an important new ingredient, transvestite hitmen !



Can Estrada's 9mm pistol with laser sights beat Dona's rocket launcher? Of course it cant.

Many Sidaris films have now been rereleased in The Andy Sidaris Collection. The quality is magnificent and they are worth buying to bring back those wonderful days before political correctness.

The films in the set are

- Malibu Express* 1985
- Hard Ticket To Hawaii* 1987
- Picasso Trigger* 1988
- Savage Beach* 1989
- Guns* 1990
- Enemy Gold* 1993
- Do Or Die* 1991
- Hard Hunted* 1992
- Fit To Kill* 1993
- The Dallas Connection* 1994
- Day Of The Warrior* 1996
- L.E.T.H.A.L. Ladies:*
- Return To Savage Beach* 1998

Sidaris has produced or directed many more films than these, including sports documentaries, but there are two films that particularly interest me. He is credited with producing in 1995 two episodes of a TV show, Joe Bob's Drive-in Theatre, which are titled More Girls With Big Guns and Still More Girls With Big Guns. Can he be the producer of the long-lost legendary art film *Sexy Girls With Big Guns?* (aka *Big Girls With Big Guns*). This wonderful film featured a series of bikini-clad young ladies explaining why they needed an AK47 assault rifle or similar for personal protection, then firing same to the great danger of the film crew. It sounds a lot like Sidaris' Malibu Bay films.

We have a lot to thank Andy Sidaris for.

Web: <http://www.andysidaris.com/>