



ACTUALLY

By MARCO CRESCI



English translation of the italian www.toh-magazine.com

Defing Ashley Huizenga a singer I find it too simple, Actually is her singing alter-ego, while with her real name she creates artworks and directs video that led her to show her short movies the SoftRock Series at the George Pompidou Centre in Paris for ASVOFF art. Ashley's work, both vocal and visual, are based on sexual freedom. Fascinated by the silent films of the '30s and the '80s porn imagery, she creates low budget tangles of bodies and synthesizers, with no inhibitions or vulgarity, but with a hint of irony. Her dream is to make a performance together with La Cicciolina, (as they called her abroad), even though she damn looks to our Moana Pozzi. And we love her...





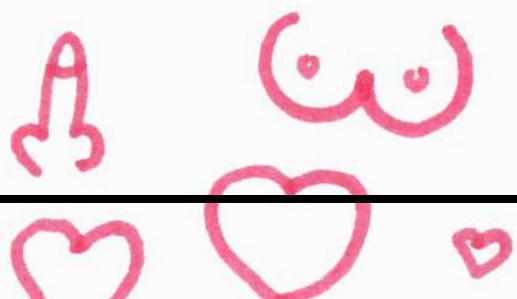
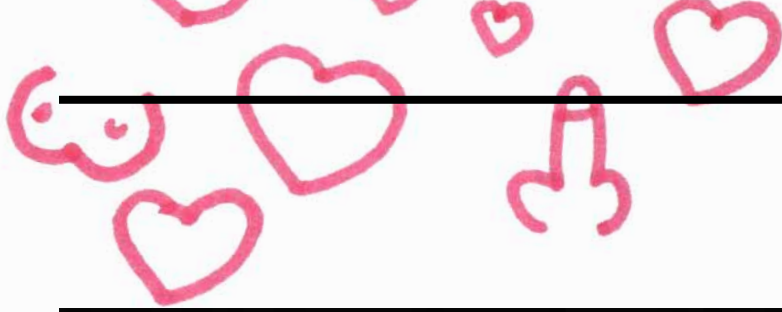
Can you tell me something about your background? is Actually something that has always been inside of you and waiting to go out?

I have always been Actually but I only started using Actually as a name when I became a red head and was in a band called Hard Place in the mid to late noughties. I started making music videos then too. I often write songs with a music video in my head. Of course my initial images are much grander than the final outcome but i think that is what made and makes my low budget videos so charming to many people. Its almost like amateur porn- you can see the longing for grandeur... The fantasies in the eyes of the masturbator.

I love the sense of freedom that's in your music and videos, as if you lived in a world without rules and constraints,

can you explain me your creed?

“Explain my creed” I love that line! Viking Truths-I want to have Fun. Fun for me means being happy and that means working on my art. When I am creating good work, the stresses of society, time and money don't bother me. The “freer” I can feel, the better my work can be. Sometimes I have to drink too much in order to feel that freedom. The strains of everyday life really bother me! I wish I could have the freedom to be a complete artist and have people pay me to be myself. My life and my art are one and the same; so when I am forced to be normal it is as if I am being starved, raped and ridiculed. As I said before, I just want to make art and I want to have fun. The very best partying is always after a good performance. And the best sex is always during a good filming.



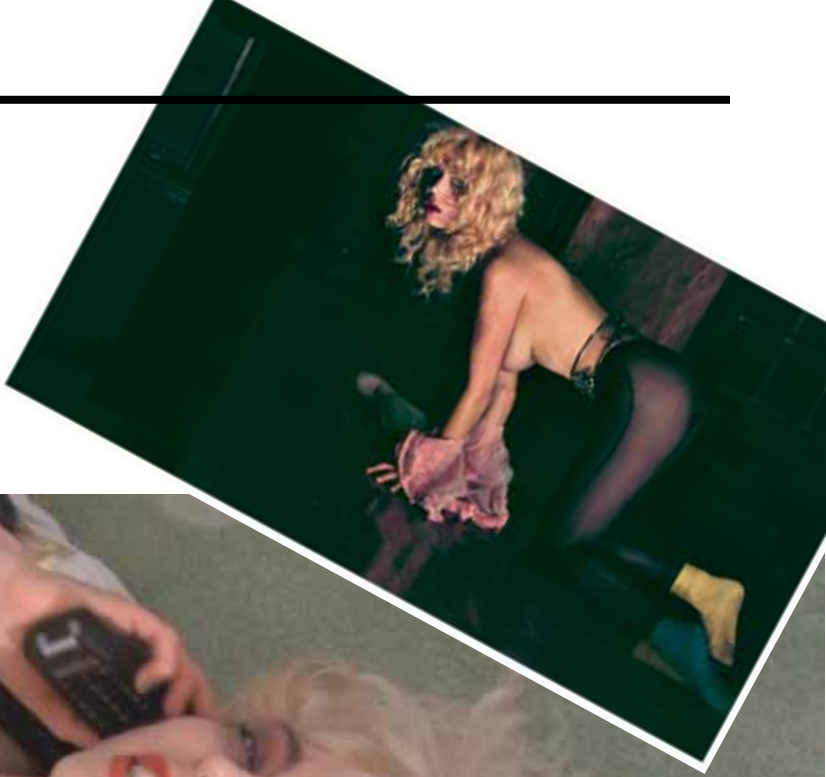
You do everything yourself, from writing to production and video too, this explains the passion that comes from your music. It was hard to achieve this result? Everything can be difficult but only because the physical brain and body can handle only so many sleepless nights, bottles of tequila... and facebook plees to get people to help you out for free. I do write my own songs, direct and edit my own videos. As for production on my music, I have worked with some awesome producers: Chaz Windus in Los Angeles, Fred Ball in London, Sam Dixon in London, Emery Dobyns/Eric Spring in NY. Working with other people in a studio outside of my own living space breaths new fire into my work. I like to let my dragons loose all over the place. I hope to ravage more studios in more locations around the world soon. I am very easy to work with!

I think you have the ability to wrote beautiful melodies , Hush and Tropical Winter are songs with a huge potential, they stick to your mind at first listen. Who is your main source of inspiration? Thank you! My main source of inspiration is whatever guy I'm into at the time. And when I get into someone, even if it's just for the night, I really get into them.

I know and I can see, you have a real passion for Italian porn from the '80s, how did you find it? I first found out about Cicciolina through Jeff Koons. I love the billboard sex portraits they did together when they were married. I looked into La Cicciolina on youtube and that is pretty much how it started.

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You are a big fan of Cicciolina and you tell me that one of your dream is to do a performance with her. What do you have in mind?

I want to do a duet with La Cicciolina. To begin, We will workout with professional trainers for a two month period (we are allowed fish and good wine of course but no bread or pasta); we will be as fit as demi-gods, and in that process create an amazing pop song together with an Italian pop producer...in some villa by a beach in Southern Italy of course. We can have our lovers with us as well - because sex will be part of the rigorous work-out plan. I have a video and performance in mind in which I construct an opalescent giant seashell pool for her to bathe in. The bottom of the seashell would be translucent and shine a loop of multicolored lights from below to reflect off of her white skin and diaphanous nymph outfit. Her famous crown of flowers would have starfish, coral and gar-

denias in it. I would like to try and get as many white kittens as possible to be held in bouquets by handsome teenage boys standing around the seashell pool. I will pose as a female Neptune atop the upper crest of the shell, stirring the pool with my trident until the waves wash away the clothing of Cicciolina. Then the boys will let the kittens run off stage. The boys will then get into the pool and pull golden brushes from their shorts and brush her long, pale hair. I think I should also have a team of puppeteers construct some sort of beast to charge into the water which I will jump on top of and ride as it straddles La Cicciolina and bites the boys.

Honestly you remind me a lot of another Italian porn star, Moana, who worked with Cicciolina several times before he died mysteriously. Do you know her and her story? When I was touring in Italy someone else told me the same thing. Moana Pozzi. Very pretty



and smart interestingly enough- Italy is great because porn stars can be so popular in everyday life and take part in politics! And now that I look at her...I feel a strange connection. Similar boobs to mine as well, If you don't mind me being so bold! I need that red sequin dress! I love that her name means "where the sea is deepest." That is so beautiful.

I know you have a passion for very old movies, I can see that are a reference for your video as well, what do you like about them?

My favorite old movies are from the 1930's and 1940's...especially the pre-code early 30's films before all the restrictions on nudity and violence (the Hays Code). Barbara Stanwyck and Mae West are a couple of my favorite actresses. They are so nasty and hot. They weren't afraid of sex and being powerful women in their time. Hollywood will never be as glamorous as it was back then. Stars were gods and films were the heavens that they lived in. Of course I love movies now and I love movies that will be in the future! Especially the movie that I need to make!!! I want to combine the smarts and lighting of the 1930's with the sexiness of 1980's classic porn in a movie about the presence reaching back to the glory of ancient Greece. Trashy, classy godliness. Maybe I can channel Moana Pozzi and figure out if she really died from a liver disease. I feel that movies should be good enough to channel something.

Looking at your pictures/video/tumblr it seems you are really conformable naked, dont' you feel vulnerable?

I actually only recently allowed myself to be filmed fully naked. Personally, I have always felt a bit embarrassed about my naked body. I really wanted to be a gay boy with a flat chest and large cock- not these huge breasts!! Only in the last few years have I really grown to appreciate my breasts. I used to bind them and dress like a boy. Also, the guys I like sexually are actually really straight and tend to like these boobs, and they probably wouldn't have sex with me as a gay boy anyhow (even though my boyfriends always look like fags to the ordinary viewer). Now that I am really into being a woman, I want to play with that fact. I want to understand objectification of women by using myself.. I objectify myself to the "male gaze" (not only the male gays!! haha) so that I can understand why it arouses them to see me in these vulnerable positions. I also want to know why it strangely arouses me. Why do I like to be watched and why do I secretly want to be man-handled? But, even if I happen to be tied to a fence post, I am always in control; I am exploring these fetishes by my own will. I don't make porn- I make films that I can explore my sexuality through. The sex in SoftRock is like the pop in my new music- I'm stripping it down to get to the orgasm of truth. In the last SoftRock film (SoftRock3 which has just premiered online through S Magazine- link available this week!) I ran naked and barefoot on a small island three hours outside of Norway, bleeding from my mouth and crying. Socrates (my collaborator) was filming from a canoe. I felt scared, vulnerable, embarrassed but free in the strangest and most empowering way. It's a very important feeling for me...that simultaneous feeling of fear and strength.





Why is Cody from Ssion in your music video and wich is your artistic relationship with him?

Cody from SSION plays the good-bad leather fairy-god-father in my music video for “Tropical Winter.” He is in charge of the green screen portal between the pastel Mae West faux sex and the blue, hedonistic business man sex party. I wanted my gay angels in the video- so I asked them and they sent me footage of themselves in front of a green screen. That’s pretty much it.

Which was your idol when you where a kid?

David Bowie and then David Lynch for starters. David Bowie started everything in truth... I researched everything according to his influences. I discovered David Lynch through David Bowie because I made a list of every single movie David Bowie was in,

rented or bought them, and watched them back to back. Bowie was in “Fire Walk With Me” which was the movie that came after the Twin Peaks series- showing what happened before. Even though I knew who killed Laura Palmer, I still thoroughly enjoyed watching the series as I continued my David Lynch study. My baby sitters were always a bit shocked by the movies I made them watch with me. I even enjoyed reading at an early age. Once I was caught with Marquis de Sade, but luckily the babysitter just thought it was Proust.

What is an aphrodisiac for you?

Alcohol and/or an aggressively sensual man. I like them lean and pretty

Tell me a secret:

I find freedom through restraint.

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