

Sexual Representation Collection

Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

University College, University of Toronto

Sydney Perkins Collection

Accession Numbers

PERK.2025.01.001-005

Physical Extent

5 35mm film reels

Date range

1977

Administrative History

Founded in 1912, the Nikkatsu Corporation is Japan's oldest continually operating film studio. In 1971, in response to domestic cinema's growing competition with television and imported Hollywood movies, Nikkatsu began to produce and distribute softcore erotic movies as part of a line dubbed Nikkatsu Roman Porno, short for "Romantic Pornography." Beginning with November 20, 1971's double feature of *Apartment Wife: Affair In the Afternoon* and *Castle Orgies*, the Nikkatsu Roman Porno program's relatively high-end studio production values stood out from other Japanese "Pink" films, which were generally low-budget independent productions. Films from Nikkatsu studio directors such as Tatsumi Kumashiro, Noboru Tanaka, and Chusei Sone, found critical acclaim in established film journals such as *Kinema Junpo* as early as 1972. Filmmakers such as Yoshimitsu Morita and Shusuke Kaneko would later find mainstream success after making their first directorial credits in Roman Porno. In 1988, Nikkatsu discontinued the Roman Porno line after failing to remain competitive with the newer direct-to-

video hardcore pornography productions. However, the studio has not forgotten its Roman Porno past – restorations of Roman Porno films have played at international film festivals and remain available on domestic and international home video and streaming.

Works cited:

Sharp, Jasper. *Behind the Pink Curtain: The Complete History of Japanese Sex Cinema*. FAB Press, 2008.

Weisser, Thomas; Yuko Mihara Weisser. *Japanese Cinema Encyclopedia: The Sex Films*. Miami: Vital Books, 1998.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of erotic film reels donated to the Sexual Representation Collection by Sydney Perkins, a film archivist and alumna of the University of Toronto Faculty of Information. The five film reels in the collection comprise a single theatrical motion picture, *Pornoviolenza*, an international Italian dubbed version of the 1977 Japanese softcore erotic movie *Female Teacher*. The circumstances of this localization's production are unclear. The collection is of interest to scholars with an interest in Japanese film and its international distribution, in particular Japanese softcore erotic "Pink" films and Nikkatsu Roman Porno.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is open to researchers.

Series 1 – 35mm Film Reels

Date Range

1977

Extent

5 35mm film reels

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Tags

- Film
- Pornography
- Japanese film

Notes

A complete spreadsheet listing all materials is available upon request.

This research guide was written by Helen Chazan on June 19, 2025.