



STUDENTS & ARTISTS FIGHTING TO END HUMAN SLAVERY

A Time-line of popular media, a time-line of resources

1969

New York and prostitution in films have a long history of being normalized. For example, *Midnight Cowboy* (Florin Productions; directed by John Schlesinger) illustrates a Texas greenhorn that arrives in New York for the first time preening himself as a real 'hustler'/ male prostitute, he finds that he is the one getting 'hustled' until he teams up with a resilient outcast. (*male prostitution appears as early as 1600 in U.S. history -- Heather Lee Miller, Prostitution, Hustling, and Sex Work*).

That same year *The Making of a Prostitute (Japan)* was featured in Japan; it is a portrayal of Japanese Karayukisans in 20th-century Japanese history in which thousands of women were sold into prostitution and sent abroad to Japanese soldiers during World War II. There has been increased mobilization by the women of The Sharing House shed light on the atrocities committed during war time as they continue to protest every Wednesday in front of the Japanese embassy for the atrocities committed against them during WWII of militarized prostitution. 1969 reflects the shifts in U.S. "sex workers" movement where countries such as Senegal legalize prostitution. As policy makers around the world are normalizing prostitution, so is the U.S. military with the use of videos to train under the guise of "health" and "safety", that normalize prostitution on military bases and exoticization of women in occupied zones.

"*Where the Girls Are* was released in early 1969 for use among air force personnel and was subsequently adopted by the United States Army in Vietnam (USARV). It was produced "to inform officers and airmen on types and prevalence of venereal disease in Southeast Asia." It was "designed to motivate AF [air force] personnel in avoiding the hazards and tragedies of becoming a victim." In a segment highly reminiscent of the lecture-style venereal-disease films used by the military in earlier wars, an educational lecture is shown in which Pete [protagonist] and his fellow soldiers are taught the importance of avoiding sexually transmitted diseases and are counseled to abstain from sex or use a condom with local women. At first, Pete maintains his loyalty to his hometown sweetheart, Julie... But after a long time of receiving no reply, he goes out ... to a bar and then a massage parlor. Soon afterwards, Pete is diagnosed with gonorrhea. The base medical officer scolds King and warns him, in particular, of the danger of long-term urinary sequelae from repeated infection. He also expresses dismay that Pete has not taken the precaution of using condoms... Pete returns to work, and soon thereafter, receives a large packet of letters from Julie that had been delayed in the mail. Pete is relieved and does well until he goes on a rest and recuperation (R&R) visit... He initiates a relationship with another Asian woman during his stay. Pete [later] reunites with Julie. Unfortunately, after undergoing premarital testing for the marriage license, Pete is found to have syphilis. Pete: "You can't promise a girl like Julie you'll be true to her and show up with a case of syphilis." Source: Sun, Sue. "*Where the Girls Are : The Management of Venereal Disease by United States Military Forces in Vietnam.*" *Literature and Medicine* - Volume 23, Number 1, Spring 2004, pp. 66-87