

Gay & Lesbian

Edited by Beth Greenfield
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THE VIEW Del Mar puts her rebel spin on the latest in a trilogy of girl-gang send-ups.

Her first attempt was nearly two decades ago, when she made a short called "Non Dairy Creamer," which was stolen out of her car. "So I gave up for a while," she admits. Del Mar would wait another ten years before making "Gang Girls 2000," a grainy, sexy, NYC-based tale of gangs the Sluts, the Glitter Girls, the Blades and the Ponies, and all of their driving, fighting and kissing adventures. "I've got a big mouth and I told everyone that I was making a movie, so a cast of three exploded into a cast of 28," she says, adding that the actors are all friends of hers. Next came "Surf Gang," which traded cool cars for longboards—but this time around she got some sorely needed financial

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assistance in the form of grant money. "The first film I paid for by not paying rent," she says. "And for the third, I was like, 'Let's just do it!'"

"Hell on Wheels" is the final 25-minute girl-gang movie in Del Mar's trilogy ("I want to distribute them as three-packs," she says), with a cast of 30. It's the tongue-in-cheek tale of a girl from a gang, the Brooklyn Breaknecks—mean vegans who kick the girl out after a guinea-pig lab rescue gets her shot and leaves her wheelchair-bound, which inspires her to join an outcast gang of dyslexic bikers. Also figuring into the action are the Slayers, a homeless queer-youth skateboard gang (in which Del Mar appears as a member, since one of her actors didn't show up that day); a roller-derby gang; and a gambling, Vespa-riding gang clad in fashions crafted by Stella Zotis (from *Project Runway* season five). The music was composed—in fine lesbian fashion—through a collaboration between her girlfriend, rocker Sarah Greenwood of GSX, and an ex, Betsy Todd, who appeared in "Gang Girls 2000."

Now that the trilogy is complete, Del Mar (who has also recently directed music videos, including for GSX) has plenty of new projects brewing. "I've been writing TV shows, and I'm writing a screenplay for a vampire film," she says, adding that a basketball documentary, "Heavy Eyeliner Basketball," is also in the works. "Oh, and I *do* want to direct and get paid to do it."

"Hell on Wheels: Gang Girls Forever" premieres Sat 3. See listings and katrinadelmar.com.

Movie spars

Katrina del Mar's latest short brings sexy, fighting girl gangs to the screen.

By **Beth Greenfield**

If you're tooling around the city in the next few days and happen to catch a glimpse of raven-haired, septum-ringed photographer-turned-filmmaker Katrina del Mar, don't be surprised if she's got a mob of equally badass girls in tow. That'd be the massive cast of her latest short, "Hell on Wheels: Gang Girls Forever," which she's filming in parks and on street corners throughout Williamsburg and the Lower East Side, practically up until the moment of this week's premiere.

"I set a deadline for myself by planning a public event," Del Mar explains. "I've got to kick my own ass, basically." As far as her approach to on-location shoots goes, "It's all guerrilla-style, girl," she says. And it calls for being sneaky.

"A lot of times I don't say, 'Action!' I say, 'Okay.' Because I don't want some dickhead to come up to me to say, 'Do you have a permit?'"

Shunning the rules is nothing new to the East Village shutterbug, who never studied photography or filmmaking but has, nevertheless, built a thriving career out of both.

A New Jersey native from "working-class, artistic roots" (her father was both a painter and a mailman), she had felt an early pull toward all things tough and rebellious. "Growing up with two older brothers, I would follow them around while they rode minibikes and built forts and harvested ditchweed. And I was riding itty-bitty minibikes back when I was seven," she recalls. She had her first girlfriend at the age of 14, but struggled with her sexuality for a long time—especially when her family up and moved to the Midwest. "I remember seeing Joan

Jett's 'Crimson and Clover' video, where she didn't change the gender [of the love interest]," she says. "That was profound."

The budding artist also spent much of her youth doing photography and making zines and picture books. Still, a fan of languages, she studied German in college, and it was not until years later, when she moved to the city and started forming her own clan of "metalheads and queers," that she started snapping photos in

earnest, making a name for herself as a documentarian of punks, rock & rollers, queens, dykes and various other downtown nightlife freaks.

Eventually, she picked up a Super-8 camera to try her hand at making pictures that moved. "The ideas for my photo shoots were getting more and more elaborate, so I was definitely moving in that direction."

MORE FILM!

Watch a scene from "Hell on Wheels" at timeoutnewyork.com/gay.