

NEW YORK

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TELEVISION THIS GIRL'S LIFE • SHOWGIRLS • EVERY MOTHER'S SON

She Shtups to Conquer

This *Girl's Life* ogles the sex industry through the eyes of vixenish Juliette Marquis. Plus: *Showgirls*, bad; *Gia*, good; and police abuse, ugly. BY JOHN LEONARD

NEVER MIND James Woods and Rosario Dawson, the name actors imported to shore up **This Girl's Life** (Saturday, August 21; 9 to 10:45 P.M.; Showtime) against the low expectations naturally aroused by a cable-television movie on the porn industry.

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Woods gone *Wild Thing* in his boxer shorts. According to the publicity notes, *This Girl's Life* asks the question: "Are female porn stars a symbol of post-feminist empowerment or the degrading reduction of women to sex objects?" The answer it gives us is "Beats me." Especially if Moon's near-miss with a lunatic

is intended as proof positive that when sexy women are ulterior, men bug out.

We have no right to expect every movie about porn to be as good as *Boogie Nights*, especially since we never expected *Boogie Nights* to be any good. But neither should any movie aim as

OF 107 QUESTIONABLE civilian killings by New York City cops between 1994 and 1999, **Every Mother's Son** (Tuesday, August 17; 10 to 11 P.M.; Channel 13) zooms in on the stories of three—Amadou Diallo, of course, the West African student gunned down in a doorway by the trigger-happy Street Crimes Unit (since abolished by the mayor who came after Giuliani); Anthony Baez, who was tossing a football with his brothers in front of their Bronx home when it bounced off the wrong patrol car and Anthony got choked to death; and Gary Gidone Busch, a mentally troubled Hasidic Jew who answered his Brooklyn door with a prayer shawl and a ceremonial hammer, got pepper-sprayed, ran away, and ended up shot twelve times—after which, from filmmakers Kelly Anderson and Tami Gold, we get the *P.O.V.* of Kadiatou Diallo, Iris Baez, and Doris Busch Boskey, the mothers of the victims, who have become determined activists and difficult citizens.

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of Studio 54 and Kaposi's sarcoma? Jay McInerney co-wrote the *Gia* screenplay, which perhaps explains a line like "Fashion isn't art. It isn't even culture. It's advertising." But Gia had been a human being before she became "sir-loin," to be packaged to look like acid dreams or industrial noise or Egyptian plague, and smell like coconuts or asparagus or the guts of a sperm whale, on her punky way to pills, spoons, needles, and the morgue.

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FROM 1991 THROUGH 1994, college dropout John Cadigan, variously diagnosed as depressive, psychotic, manic, schizo-affective, and paranoid schizo-

Juliette Marquis and James Woods in *This Girl's Life*.

