

## **Bum Wars Reviewed**

We are all familiar with the slapstick humor of the Crocodile Hunter. An exasperating Australian goes out on the hunt to admire crocodile's in their natural setting. Now imagine those crocodiles are humans, move the setting to the streets of Las Vegas, and replace the bona fide hunter with an impersonator in khaki overalls and you have the major piece of a movie titled "Bum Fights Vol. 1 Cause for Concern." The Bum Hunter as the producers have kindly named him goes to the streets to kidnap and humiliate homeless while they unwittingly sleep. The Bum Hunter is just one part of a severally sad production which includes individuals such as Rufus the Stunt Bum and Bling Bling, a crack addict. "Bum Fights" is a real life movie cruelly mimicking Box Office Success "Fight Club" starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. The movie includes real fights between individuals, scenes involving nudity, and other cruel violence against those stricken wit homelessness.

Bum Fights is the brainchild of Las Vegas-based Ray Laticia and Ty Beeson, both 24, who have marketed the video as a chance to see "drunk bums beating each other silly". In an interview with BBC News Online Laticia rejected that the film was exploitive and that the homeless were actually all "lucid and fully aware" before being filmed.

He said: "Our opponents say that the people we film are incapable of making an informed decision. But that seems to be more insulting to them than anything we do in our videos. It is not done to be shocking. It was done to show an aspect of society that people would otherwise not see. The bums love

us, they are glad to see us. They even have our phone numbers."

The producers go on to say that all participants were paid with food, clothing or money. Any one who is capable of watching this unnerving production must ask themselves whether those kidnapped in these "hunts" truly volunteered to such an undignifying act. Many of the fights caught in tape are not stages and one victim actually ends up with a broken ankle amongst one of the numerous fights filmed on film.

Protestors have come out in hoards but they do not seem to equal the support this video has generated. As one of the fastest growing independent videos, the creators have made an immense amount of money. One has to really wonder why such a horrific film has produced so many followers. The complex psychological reasons behind human's interest in pain of others is undeniable, although understanding why is beyond my scope of understanding.

With the massive profit being generated by this amateur film producers have offered to provide money to local shelters in return for their success. However recently the producers of Bum Fights were arrested finally on numerous felony charges for the making of Bum Fights Vol.1 Cause for Concern. The owners of Indecline production argue their 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights in producing the video will protect them from any true punishment. If the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment gives irresponsible individuals the tools to take advantage of the homeless, get rich off it, and call it charity I say get rid of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and send these kids to the federal penitentiary.

