

Baring It All
By Colleen Rodgers

Everyone has an opinion on the adult film industry. Some people are openly fans, some are openly opposed, some are openly opposed and secretly fans, and some are so fearful of the subject they decline to comment. Whatever the stance may be, adult films are viewed by millions of people, yet rarely do we know what happens when the camera stops rolling.

Rosie Marks, documentary photographer based out of London, England, takes us out of incognito mode, and gives us an upfront look at the enigmatic industry. In collaboration with the adult entertainment site Brazzers, Marks will release her latest work *Raw Talent*, at the Felix Art Fair in Los Angeles, from February 19-23, 2025. The launch coincides with the 20th anniversary of the platform and documents the talent, crew, and fans of Brazzers as they travel internationally over the course of a year.

Marks' photography captures still yet surreal moments of day to day people, candidly engrossed in their worlds. Her previous books, *Pretty Hurts*, 2022, and *Mount Nelson*, 2024, have explored themes of beauty, performance, and subcultures, depicting her subjects amidst daily rituals. *Raw Talent* brings humility to the "larger than life" world of Brazzers in the company's first ever photography book.



In between the sex, the glitz, and the glam, there are moments of rapport among the crew members. In one image, talent Valentina Nappi tests her flexibility while preparing for a scene

with her co-star Ken Feels. Set in an elaborate pink and red scene, surrounded by lighting and equipment, Marks captures the two as co-workers, before the persona's begin.

In her year travelling with Brazzars, Marks accompanied crew members and performers as they clock in and out of their workday, creating what was frequently referred to as 'porno magic.' While this magic might be a form of escapism for a viewer, the talent has to be fully immersed in their performance to make that fantasy believable. Stars are surrounded by crew members capturing various angles, giving direction, adjusting lighting, while the scene keeps moving without skipping a beat. Often adult entertainment is still viewed as exploitative or undermining, but in the world of Brazzar's, the agency lies with the stars.

"My thing with porn is that I only want to do things that I enjoy. That resonates with the audience, and that's how you create the best scenes. My ideas come from whatever I'm enjoying at that moment, from my own desires," says Angela White.



On the set of "Whoreding", director Danny D strikes his own Brazzar's face, an expression coined for the 'Oh my goodness,' wide-eyed, over-the-top emotion," tells Cherie DeVille. It's a face directors reference across the industry, no matter who you're working for. Brazzars is considered the gold standard of adult entertainment, and being a contract star means you're the best of the best. Lea Lexis, a producer, director, and star, notes that "[her] career reinforces that Brazzers respects the expertise a performer will have."

The public often misconceives the industry, undermining star's as "dumb" or misled, when in reality there is as much commitment and eagerness to improve their skills just as in any other job. Marks' photography lets us see these stars individually, providing a nuanced side of sex work that isn't often discussed. At the end of the day, what may be moments of intimacy to a viewer, can be just another business transaction for a performer. It's the ability to commodify that intimacy is part of what makes stars good at what they do.



In Marks' image of Madison Ivy, Brazzar's first female contract star, Ivy is hitting her vape gazing out a window, wearing an open robe and taking a phone call. In this distinctly humanizing moment, we see Ivy taking a break from the chaos and checking in on reality for a moment. In moments like this, Marks invites the viewer to see these larger than life characters disengage from their persona's, raw as individuals, but talented nonetheless.