

The Ivory Snow Soap model gone XXX porn legend of the 70s and 80s pries open the paint-chipped green door and lets us peak inside... the Insatiable...

MISS MARILYN CHAMBERS

"I AM WHAT I AM"

Interview by Robert Steven Rhine

G&C: You're truly a survivor, Marilyn. Many of the 70s porn performers are gone and buried. ODs, suicides and AIDS – which also happen to mainstream performers – it seems like in your business a lot more actors had some really rough, and even deadly, times. So, to what do you owe your longevity and survival?

Marilyn: [laughs] Probably a little bit of AA here and there. I also have a teenager who keeps me real busy. As far as being a survivor over the years, I didn't totally over-expose myself, pardon the pun. I didn't go to the max like a lot of porn performers do, especially, today. When I first came around, everything was shot on film and it became porno chic. They just don't make these kind of adult movies anymore. For instance, *Insatiable* was a half a million-dollar budget. Back then, that was a lot of money. We used helicopters and Ferraris and shot in London. *Insatiable* was a very well put together film. It actually had a story and really great music. I know people that had never seen it and finally looked at it and went, "Wow, I'm blown away." So I think that also part of my survival is that I had a sense of family, I didn't go to extremes, I didn't take my career home with me. I still was a wife and, you know, I was married to (porn producer/director) Chuck Traynor for years.

G&C: How long were you married to the infamous Chuck Traynor? (Who was also married to Linda Lovelace of "Deep Throat" fame).

Marilyn: A little less than ten years. We really weren't involved in the porno business 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We did a lot of freaky things but we also did a lot of other stuff besides that. I also did stage plays. I just think that helped me be a survivor. I kind of shielded myself from people that have overdosed and

There're only a handful of names who meet the test of legendary adult film icon: JOHN JEREMY, TRACY LORDS, GINGER LYNN, JENNA JAMESON and, of course, at the top of that list... MARILYN CHAMBERS.

I happen to be a bone-a-fide fan of Marilyn Chambers, having watched her in the very first XXX movie I ever saw, Behind the Green Door, at the Pussycat Theater in Santa Monica, California. The Pussycat Theater, for those of you who are too young to remember, was "the" place to see adult films (before video). Back then; you had to make a real commitment to see (and be seen) with a bunch of lonely men wearing overcoats. No porn surfing on your computer – you had to actually buy a ticket, sit in a darkened theater and risk being seen by your boss, neighbor or preacher – more likely all three. That's what made it so wonderfully forbidden and exciting. Now it's just click... click... click.

Marilyn Chambers is a porn pioneer of sexual freedom. She was the Columbus of the New Porn World, legs splayed, as she sailed uncharted waters. And we loved her for it.

But did Marilyn Chambers become rich from porn? Did she wind up destitute? Or, did she wind up a grandmother in the suburbs of the valley, pushing her shopping cart through Wal-Mart?

I needed to know. So I went directly to the porn star's mouth. When I interviewed Marilyn Chambers she was smart, sexy, funny and still had that mischievous twinkle in her eye.

I was, of corpse, tongue-tied as I worried if I would measure up to other interviewers. Would I experience interview anxiety?

Judge for yourself, as we give you the one... the only... the Insatiable... MARILYN CHAMBERS.

died drunk. Believe me, I've had my share of drugs and alcohol but I tried to remain tame.

G&C: Your era was such a heyday of cocaine. There's this notion that performers are sometimes on drugs when they make adult movies. Was it impossible to stay away from?

Marilyn: Oh, it was totally impossible. I think the Gods were with me – that I made it through.

G&C: How about other drugs?

Marilyn: Well, on Behind the Green Door we smoked a lot of pot. I think that was the only way I could have gotten through Behind the Green Door, because I was a kid.

G&C: How old were you?

Marilyn: Eighteen. It was my first adult film.

G&C: So, how did you get the lead in Behind the Green Door?

Marilyn: They had a casting call in the San Francisco Chronicle and the ad said, "Now cast-

ing for a major motion picture." So I went down there with my little model's portfolio and they had me fill out a form to ask me if I wanted a "balling" or a "non-balling" role." So, when they said, to me in the audition, "So, then you don't mind having sex on camera?" I went "What?! No, no, I'm not that naughty! "But you checked off 'balling" they said. And I replied, embarrassed, "I thought you meant bowling!" When I was a model we did topless and stuff like that and cameramen would chase me around the back room but it wasn't a required thing to be nude. You've got to remember too that I was brought up in the 60s era of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. So being naked didn't bother me but having actual "sex" did, so I said "no." The Mitchell brothers,

Jim and Art, were standing at the top of the stairs... I'll never forget it... in their little preppy sweater vests and a tie and an oxford shirt and they said, "Wait, wait, wait. Don't go!" They told me the story of Behind the Green Door and I thought, "That's a pretty cool fantasy." So, I asked them for some ridiculous amount of money and a piece of the film. They said "Ok, don't call us, we'll call you." And I went "Whew" ... until an hour later when the phone rang and they said Ok.

G&C: So they got you to commit to the movie before you could change your mind.

Marilyn: Exactly. When I went on the set, I wasn't a sexually promiscuous person. Then, they said, "Oh by the way... you're not going to be saying anything in this movie." That was one of the hardest things to accomplish for me was to let the audience know what was going on inside my head – because back then they really didn't do everything from a gynecologist's point of view. It was a little bit more "civilized."

G&C: What was it like making your first porn movie at eighteen?

Marilyn: It was a learning experience for me, to say the least. I really didn't want to know what was going to happen to me because I was supposed to be kidnapped and taken to this bizarre, very elite, sex club. I just wanted to pretend that this stuff was actually happening and it was. So it was pretty cool. To revisit your question as far as the drugs and alcohol, I was around Chuck so he made sure that I didn't get all fucked up and stuff before

I did a scene. I was very professional because I was a dancer, so I stripped and made tons of money doing that but you know if I had gotten drunk and did drugs before I went on the stage, I'd fall off.

G&C: How about during the filming of Insatiable?

Marilyn: As far as Insatiable, I might have had a sip of a drink but I was very in tune with what I was doing. Now I can't say the same for John Holmes – we couldn't get him out of the bathroom. He did like a gram of coke up each nostril and then he couldn't get it up, you know. That was another point being that guys didn't want to do drugs because they couldn't get it up. We were pretty straight. And plus we don't allow anything on the set like drugs or alcohol or pot because we don't want to get busted.

G&C: Today many of the male porn stars are taking Viagra and they didn't have that in those days, which makes people like John Holmes all the more amazing when you think about it

Marilyn: I'm so naïve about what's going on today with the drugs with the guys. I mean somebody was telling me that they do this injection thing in their penis. You can tell as soon as they unzip their pants and they've got a hard-on. To me, that's really fake and phony. Now that I know that, it's like yuck. They're really not being turned on, I guess. If I see an erotic film, I want to think they're actually being turned on by the other person.

G&C: Why do you think Behind the Green Door became such a classic?

Marilyn: The only reason why I think Behind the Green Door made a lot of money and became a classic was that I was the mom on the Ivory Soap box. I was holding a baby and it came out the same week as Behind the Green Door. You couldn't buy that kind of press. So, the controversy promoted that film into a major thing. The film even went to the Cannes Film Festival and did phenomenal. That's one of the things that today there isn't enough of is "controversy." It's just ho-hum now. There's at least three hundred porn DVDs coming out every week.

G&C: They certainly aren't trying to make high art in porn today – at least for the vast majority.

Marilyn: They don't give a shit today and there is no story... God, that would fuck up everything if there were a story! I think the





producers decided at a point, back in the *Insatiable* era, that films just got too talky and people were fast-forwarding to their favorite sex scene and not paying attention to the story.

G&C: It's sad that people now sit in front of their computers surfing porn. At least people used to go out to a theater, like the Pussycat Theater and get some fresh air – except for the Ammonia and Chlorine smell.

Marilyn: Nobody gives a shit about porno anymore because it has its place in our society. They've conquered all the avenues of you know three guys fucking a chick in her ass. Who's going to do that? Nobody – at least not at home. So, it's just become a sex circus.

G&C: Speaking of circuses, you knew Linda Lovelace, who they call “the most famous porn star of all time.” Yet she really only made one movie (*Deep Throat*) that she's famous for, and you made all these films. And then, she came out and trashed the adult industry and said that she was drugged then forced into sex. I'm just curious what you thought of Linda Lovelace?

Marilyn: Well, I was married to Chuck, her husband, and what happened was that I got there

at the end of their relationship. They were in the middle of this horrible divorce. I heard her screaming and yelling at him on the phone. Basically, she ran off with a choreographer but it didn't work out. Because, I mean, he had it all set up for her to be starring in Las Vegas at a major hotel. That was my dream, that's why I wanted to be with Chuck because I wanted him to make me into a superstar. I wanted to be Ann Margaret. But anyway, when Linda's book came out, Chuck and I were in London. I was doing a one woman stage show there for about eight months called *Sex Surrogate*. I read him Linda's book, because Chuck really wasn't a big reader. It really saddened him because, I mean, if you speak to anybody who was around in those days, she wasn't drugged, she wasn't forced to do anything.

She was a hooker with a scar up her middle from a car crash, who Chuck saved. I mean Chuck had his bad points, true. He was a Svengali-ish kind of a person. But I think when Linda came out and denounced the “business” and then was hanging with Gloria Steinem it got nuts. People would hand me notes saying Gloria Steinem wants you to call her, she knows you're being forced to do this. And Gloria Steinem wrote in her book about me how she knew I was forced into it and that I was being hypnotized. I was thinking, you know what, that's bullshit.

G&C: So, for the record, you always felt that this was something you enjoyed and did voluntarily?

Marilyn: Of course. Chuck and I always discussed what I was going to be doing and if I didn't want to do something, I didn't. I'm a very strong-willed person -- I'm a Taurus. Nobody tells me what to do. I learned a lot from Chuck, such as, “always give people what they don't expect.” They always expect a porn star to be chewing gum, nasty red hair, swinging their purse. Anyhow, my friend Sammy Davis Jr., Hugh Hefner and Chuck all got together and decided they weren't going to make a big deal out of Linda's book – they were just going to be silent about it. Because they knew that if they said something about it, it would just add more fuel to her book sales. Then, Linda did an about-face and did a spread for *Legshow Magazine*. Finally, I guess she got drunk and crashed her car. But the weird thing about it... she died on my birthday. Then Chuck died about three months later in 2002.

So you know, I feel for her family and when she had a liver transplant, I sent money.

G&C: I think rational people realized that Lovelace's book made no sense – and having a gun to her head during sex scenes seemed kind of ridiculous.

Marilyn: Chuck and I did own a gun store. [laughter] But the thing is that I know he didn't kick her around and all that shit. She just had sour grapes because I became way more famous than she did. Not to pat myself on the back... but I did have more talent than her... I can act, I can sing, I can dance.

G&C: Yes, I remember you were in the movie *The Owl and the Pussycat* with Barbara Streisand. You did some other films, and worked with Wes Craven. And then, you went off to do *Behind the Green Door*. But why didn't you continue in legit films with those early credits?

Marilyn: I was blackballed from mainstream films. When I first started out I did go to acting school – I did have a fantasy about being a mainstream movie star. That's what I wanted to do, I wanted to act, I wanted to sing and I wanted to dance. At that time, *Last Tango in Paris* was coming out and I felt that it was a feasible thought that I could possibly do that. But you know my dreams were crushed. I mean, I had been up for a lot of different roles in mainstream films and either the producer's wife or the stars themselves nixed them.

G&C: I'm curious about some of those days with the Mitchell brothers. You were arrested at their San Francisco theater in 1985, correct?

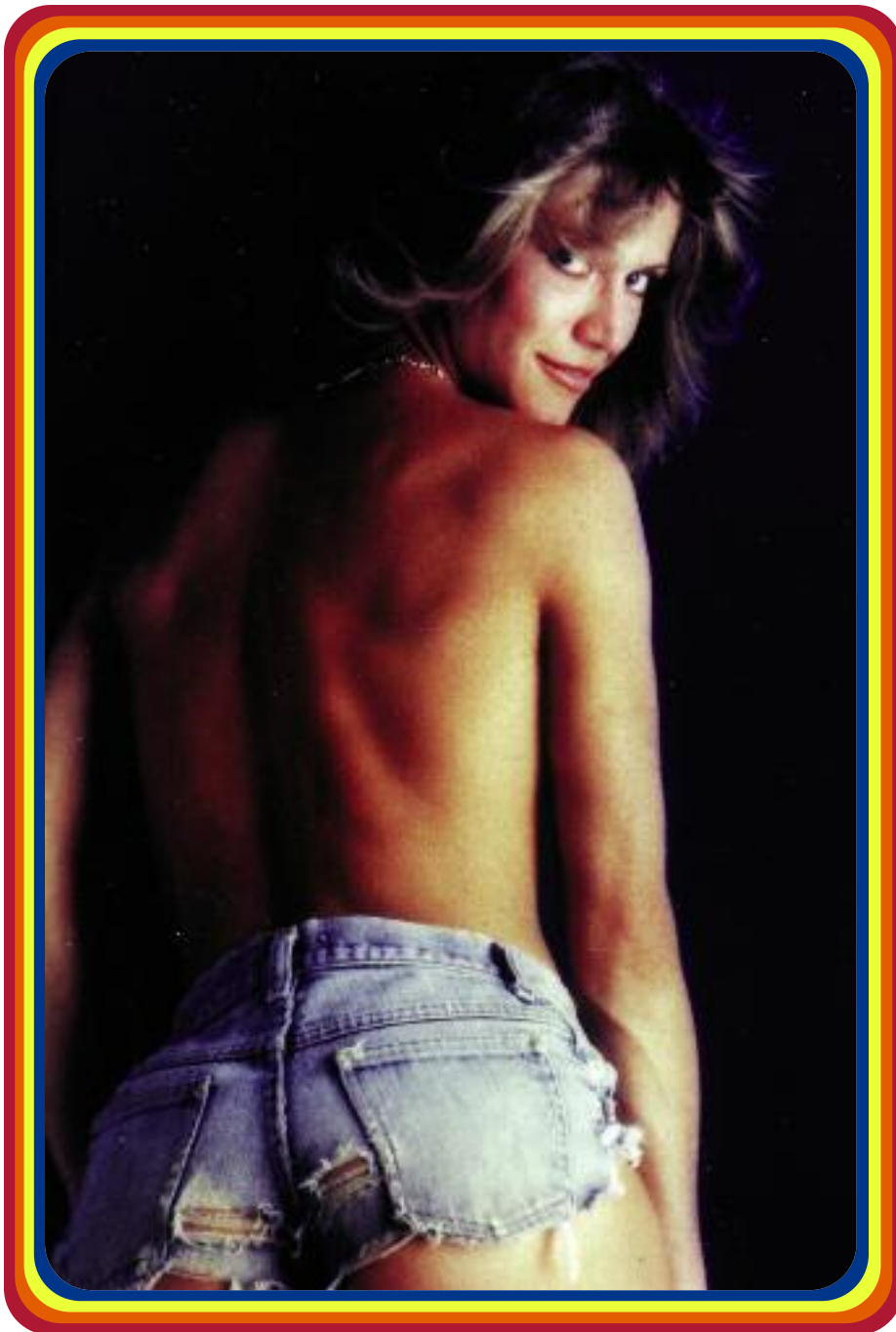
Marilyn: Let's just say that from 1980 to 1985 I did a bunch of really hot, very sexy shows. Actual sex shows, with other women... no men involved. I mean like five balls up my butt. This was all Chuck's idea, of course. Then you know like the string of pearls, you pull them out.

G&C: What are your most vivid memories you have of that club and the things that would go on there?

Marilyn: Oh God, I mean The Copenhagen Lounge, that's when they locked the doors and the guys with their little flashlights would do all kinds of stuff. For that era, it was outrageous. We had people lined up for blocks. I made a lot of money at that place. The Mitchell brothers made even more. I put their place on the map, you know. Getting arrested didn't hurt. But my bodyguard had some coke on him or something... oh wait, he had a gun – that's what it was.

G&C: Do you ever wonder how you survived those days? It's just one extreme experience after the other.

Marilyn: I will tell you; in those days there



was a lot of coke. When you're having stuff shoved up your ass, you really can't be eating too much.

G&C: I've talked to adult girls who have to take painkillers for some extreme anal sex.

Marilyn: Yeah. I never took them. I've never been a pill person, ever. No painkillers. Because Chuck taught me you know your mind controls your body and when I was on stage I was in no pain, trust me. I enjoyed it. I had a great time. There was one point when they first opened I was doing like ten shows a day. That was outrageous.

G&C: Was there a time for you that you

would consider your darkest time?

Marilyn: Alcohol and all kinds of stuff... divorces and you know losing stuff and I've had to pull myself out of a lot of mire. A great time was when I was married to my last husband and then the shit went downhill and I pulled myself up out of that and I've been single for the last twelve years.

G&C: Did you get to travel a lot on your films?

Marilyn: I never got to shoot any films or anything in Sweden or Amsterdam or anything like that. I know John Holmes and a lot of people who traveled the world shooting films. I traveled the world doing a lot of publicity. Like

I went to Japan with the Mitchell brothers. I went to Australia with Chuck. I was on the cover and had a bunch of pages in Australian Playboy. I also had ten pages in American Playboy – that was unheard of for a porn star. Even today it still doesn't happen. I mean like Jenna Jameson did very well for herself. But the thing a lot of these girls don't understand is that it's usually over by the time you're about twenty-two or twenty-three – you're done.

G&C: How about the MILF market?

Marilyn: But if you've been totally overexposed people go, "Oh God, I don't want to see her anymore." Plus mentally, a lot of these girls get really fucked up – they just can't deal with it, as they get older.

G&C: Did you see the film Boogie Nights?

Marilyn: Yeah. For me it was very inaccurate. I didn't hang out with all those people. I know that there was a group of people that did, so for them it was totally accurate. But for me it was not. That was one thing that Chuck always insisted on was that we don't party with those people. Not that I was above it, it's just that he wanted to keep me a little bit more of a fantasy.

G&C: You're still in the business though, right?

Marilyn: Well I'm in the business in a producer's sense. I'm hooked up with Devil's Films. Ooohh Devil's Films... it's scary, right? Great name.

G&C: Are you still friends with people you worked with? Do you keep up relationships?

Marilyn: No.

G&C: Really? Nobody?

Marilyn: I don't know too many people who are still alive.

G&C: I'm going to throw you a couple of names and give me your thoughts. John Holmes.

Marilyn: John was a very introspective kind of a guy. A lot of the stuff that's come out about him made him out to be a real sleaze ball liar. My experience with him is different. Don't laugh but he had a sheep farm, he was married, he never brought his wife into the picture at all. He had a very private life. He was a nice guy but he really had a big drug problem, so it was difficult to work with him. But then after he had gone to prison and come out, he was in *Insatiable 2* and one of the Marilyn Chambers' *Private Fantasies*. That time in prison really made him become very introspective. But I really liked John and I didn't like what people had to say about him. Yeah, he probably was a sleaze bag and he was a gigolo – but he made a lot of women very happy.

G&C: Harry Reems.

Marilyn: Harry was a really good guy. I worked with him one time in one of the Private Fantasies. He was a real jokester. He was nice to his wife and he was a good actor, fun to work with.

G&C: I don't think he's alive anymore either.

Marilyn: Yeah he is. He's in Utah selling real estate.

G&C: Oh, right. Tell me about Chuck Traynor?

Marilyn: Chuck will always be kind of one of my dearest friends. We were married but Chuck was a voyeur... that was his whole thing. Chuck liked to watch. He was an average Joe blow kind of a guy and he knew what turned on the average guy. Plus he was very creative. So, when he told me to do something, I didn't question it because it always worked. Chuck was a cool guy. He was very, very close to Sammy Davis Jr. He was probably one of

the last people that Sammy asked to see come visit him on his deathbed. He left Chuck a lot of stuff and we had some great parties with Sammy. But you know there were some dark times with Chuck too – being married to anybody is tough. We were on the road probably 294 days a year. I lived out of a suitcase half of my life.

G&C: Ron Jeremy.

Marilyn: Oh, Ron. I love Ron. Ronnie is misunderstood. He really knows how to promote himself. I could call Ron and ask him for anything and he would probably do it for me. He's just one of those kinds of people who's just, he's just a sweetheart. But he's proud of his porno prowess. He's continued in that vein, he doesn't try to say that he's never done it or anything.

G&C: The Mitchell Brothers.

Marilyn: Oh, I loved them too, they were like my brothers. They were absolutely just... uh... they had their problems, you know. They had their demons with the drugs and the alcohol.

G&C: And with each other at some point.

Marilyn: Well, yeah. Artie just got out of line. He got out of line and just lost it. I went to Robert DeNiro's company, Tribeca Films and they wanted to do the story of the Mitchell Brothers and there was a book called: Bottom Feeders to which I contributed. Bobby DeNiro wanted to produce it and he wanted to star in it but only if he could do it above board and he needed to have Jim Mitchell's permission. So I met with Bobby for three hours and it was really cool, and then he sent me to see Jim at... whatever it was called, where he was in prison, across the Golden Gate Bridge. What's it called?

G&C: Alcatraz?

Marilyn: [laughing] No, Alcatraz isn't open.

G&C: Oh... San Quentin?

Marilyn: Yeah, San Quentin. So I went and saw Jim in San Quentin on visiting day and he said, "You know, I don't want anyone to capitalize on this" and he kept calling it "the tragedy." He said, "I don't give a flying fuck who's doing it. I don't care if fucking Robert DeNiro is doing it" and I said "Well... he wants to." He said, "I don't care. I will never speak to anyone about this... ever." So I went back to Bob and told him about Jim. So Bob just decided that he couldn't do it without knowing all the facts. Then, Charlie Sheen and Emilio Estevez did the film Rated X. Which was OK. They invited me to the premiere. I said, "Why didn't you bring me in to consult? – Because Robert DeNiro was paying me to be a consultant." I have bad luck I think, I was born under a weird sign.

G&C: Do you know Jenna Jameson?

Marilyn: I've met her. I met her at one of the award shows and she was involved in some kind of fight with some other chick. [Laughter] They were punching each other out or something and that's when I left.

G&C: Whom do you respect today in terms of the adult business? Who do you look up to? Is there anyone left?

Marilyn: I don't really look up to anybody because I don't know anybody. I think Jenna has made a really good name for herself. The personal side of this is how all this stuff affects a person and their everyday life can be very traumatic. A lot of these women have been abused by men. I'm not saying that she has— but they're all trying to find "daddy." It becomes really obvious to me that this is the scenario that's played out in their lives and what brings them to this type of position where it's kind of a submissive place where usually a guy is telling them what to do – is behind them doing it – and is going to capitalize on them doing it. It becomes sad because they don't have any other life besides this and their actual personal sex life sucks. They can't distinguish between the two.



G&C: A lot of guys (and girls) think “Oh, I’d love to fuck this porn star” and probably the last thing they want to do is have sex. So, how is your sex life today?

Marilyn: I haven’t had a really great date in about ten or so years. As soon as somebody finds out who I am they’re totally intimidated and it’s like, “Oh my God, forget it.” I don’t know if a guy feels like you’re used goods or what. When I got together with my last husband he didn’t have a clue who I was, so I was thrilled. Then, when he found out he got really pissed off. I said “Whoa, I told you what I’ve done.” This was like on our second date. And I said, “You know your past isn’t so rosy.” Most people’s pasts really aren’t that rosy if you really look into someone’s life. Anyhow, I hope I’m not single forever; I would love to have a relationship.

G&C: You’ve been married to men and performed sexually with women in your movies, but I always find it interesting that some women don’t want to be in relationships with women because it’s too difficult.

Marilyn: Oh, no! I’ve done all that. But see, that’s a guy’s biggest fantasy is to have two women. That’s their fantasy. You know what? My best advice to somebody is to leave it a fantasy. Watch a movie about it but don’t ever do it because normally, nine times out of ten, that’s going to fuck up your whole relationship. Somebody is going to get hurt. Somebody is going to get jealous. Somebody is going to get mad. It’s something you can never take back once you’ve done it. I mean unless you’re a swinger, which I’ve never been.

G&C: Do you ever watch porn?

Marilyn: Sometimes I have to because I need to find out what’s really going on. I mean I don’t sit here and watch porn and eat popcorn or anything by myself [laughs].

G&C: Do you ever watch any of your old movies?

Marilyn: Not unless I have to.

G&C: Is it uncomfortable?

Marilyn: Uh, not really.

G&C: This is bringing up another interesting question. Does your teenage daughter know about your movies? Did you talk to her about it?

Marilyn: Yeah, I’ve talked to her about it from the beginning. She knows. She was totally embarrassed. Now I think she thinks it’s kind of cool because guys her age are starting to watch porn. But I think she’s totally mortified. Because she just feels that I’m an old lady and it’s like, “Mom, drop me off down the street.”

G&C: Yeah, it would probably be the most uncomfortable thing in the world if

you’re a teenager.

Marilyn: I’m just a mom to her and to all her friends. All her friends don’t know who I am because she’s not exactly going around bragging about it because I don’t think I would either. And ‘no,’ she’s never allowed to be in this business.

G&C: What would you advise a girl getting into porn today?

Marilyn: Don’t! I mean, have something to fall back on. I should have listened to my mother. If I was going to give advice to somebody it’s like make all the money you can in two years, stash it away, buy some property, get another life going, and get out.

G&C: What else would you have done career-wise?

Marilyn: I would probably either be a veterinarian, possibly an English professor. My mom was a nurse, I have a nursing license that I went back to school and I got. It’s not as a nurse but it’s a CNA, certified nursing assistant, because I really love working with old people and I worked in a hospice for a while. But I always wanted to be an actress, that’s what I wanted to be. If I had known then what I know now, I would have never... I mean I enjoyed everything and I don’t regret it – but one thing I do regret is not going to college and graduating and not having a career as a writer or something. You know what I’m saying? Something else besides films.

G&C: Were you parents supportive of this?

Marilyn: No. They were totally mortified. My mom and dad never talked about that part of my career. Now my mom came and saw me in plays and blah, blah, blah but that part she could tell her friends about. But the other stuff they just totally turned a blind eye to.

G&C: What’s something we don’t know about you that you think people would be interested in?

Marilyn: I’m a great cook. My friends always ask me “Oh could you make this.” My daughter even thinks I’m a great cook.

G&C: I will add your recipe to this interview that was in My Porn Star Recipes book. How can we learn more about your fascinating life and career?

Marilyn: Go to marilynychambers.com

G&C: Anything else you’d like to add?

Marilyn: I’ve always played me. I’ve never been a character actress. What you see is really me. I’m not fake. I am what I am.

G&C: That should be the headline of this interview. Thank you again Marilyn for unlocking the Green Door for us.

Marilyn: You’re so very welcome.



BEHIND THE BEAN DOOR

*A Recipe from Marilyn Chambers's
HOT XXX-Kitchen*

Black Bean and Corn Salsa Dip

Ingredients:

- 2 Cans Black Beans (drained)
- 2 Cans Corn (drained) or Fresh Corn
- 1/2 Cup Red Bell Pepper
- 1/2 Cup Red Onion
- 1/2 Cup Cilantro (Chopped Well)
- 1/2 Cup Virgin Olive Oil (Its okay if YOU'RE NOT a Virgin, you can still use this!)
- 1/2 Cup FRESH Lime Juice
- 1/4 Cup Fresh Parsley (Chopped Well) Optional.
- 2-3 TBLS Cumin Seeds (amount depends on your taste, but this is an Essential ingredient)
- 3 Large Garlic Cloves minced
- 1/2- 1 tsp Red Pepper Flakes
- Salt and Pepper to taste (I always use Kosher Salt when I cook, and fresh ground Black Pepper!)

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and refrigerate at least one hour before serving, so all the flavors can meld together. Use “scoop” type corn chips so guests can get a good hit.

Make sure to measure ALL ingredients properly, or you’ll be disappointed.

This dish is used as an appetizer or a type of “relish.” I’m telling you, you’ll have people standing over the bowl fighting like rabid dogs to keep others away from it!

Bone Appetit!!
XO,
Marilyn Chambers