



PEOPLE ASSUME FEMINIST MEANS LESBIAN

ANNA BROWNFIELD, 36, is a feminist erotic filmmaker and lecturer.

"It was interesting to see the assumptions people made about me when I started calling myself a feminist erotic filmmaker," Brownfield says. "I was interviewed by a commercial radio station and the first question they asked was, 'Do you munch carpet?' I couldn't work out where the question had come from. Then later that night, it hit me: there's still this assumption that if you call yourself a feminist, you're a lesbian. In

fact, the station only interviewed me because they thought I was making lesbian porn.

"There's nothing inherently sexist or degrading about porn, but I do have a problem with the most mainstream pomography because of the complete objectification of female bodies.

"My films are about breaking conventions. Running a finger up an arm can be just as sensual as anything else you might see, for example. And I also focus a lot more on the men. As a society, we're constantly exposed to the female form, yet we very rarely see male nudity or consider it to be attractive.

"We also try to get a bit more pubic hair on screen. In most porn

films, the men and women have been plucked to within an inch of pre-pubescence.

"For me, feminism is simple: it means the right to do what I want without being restricted by my gender.

"In the 1970s and '80s, the media focused a lot on the hard-edged, separatist, anti-male feminists, and I think that perception still lingers. I remember my sister — she's changed her mind now — but when she was 16, she insisted she wasn't a feminist. I asked her if she believed in equality and she said yes. So I said, 'Well, you're a feminist'.

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