



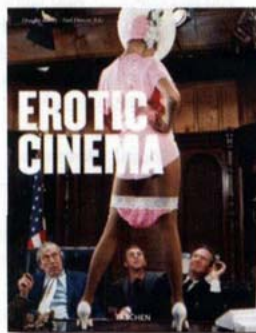
### A serious attempt to write a

history of cinematic smut has got to be a good thing, particularly when it's done with clear respect for the genre and doesn't confine itself to bona fide skin flicks. There's a whole chapter on kissing for instance, plus amusing examples of early censorship; take Fatima, the almost fully clothed 1920s belly dancer whose apparent raw sexuality was deemed a threat to the morals of a nation.

Some of the choices included in the section on the top ten most erotic movies ever made might not float everyone's boat: despite Ms Stone's legendary leg-crossing, let's not forget that *Basic Instinct* features a coiffed Michael Douglas in a sweater seemingly scavenged from the Chuckle Brothers' laundry bin. But '90s sartorial cold showers aside, there's a pleasing mix of analysis and filth in here – smut-ucation, if

you will. One for anyone who's ever wanted an academic excuse to look at naked people.

**Catherine Bray**



PAUL DUNCAN  
(TASCHEN, £9.99)

★★★★