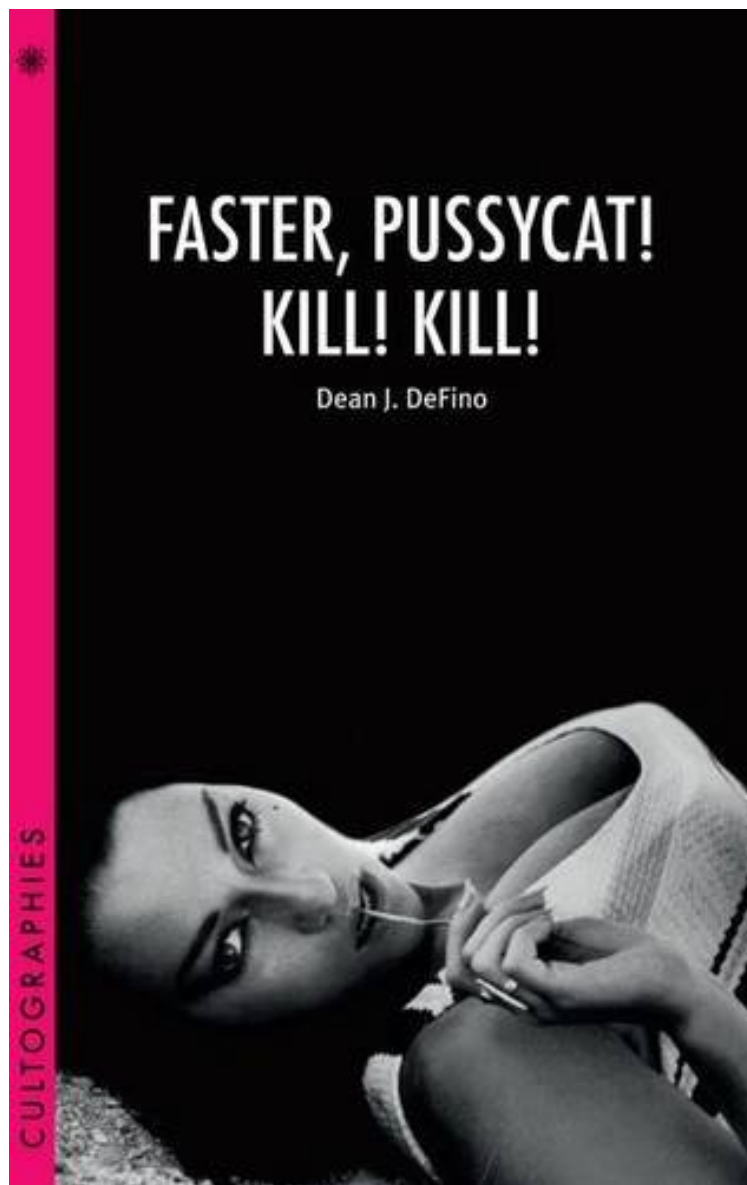


(Free) Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! (Cultographies)

## Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! (Cultographies)

*Dean DeFino*

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**Dean DeFino : Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! (Cultographies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! (Cultographies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but the author spends way too much time showing us how super smart he is rather than just discussing the movieBy Cap'n DaveSomewhat interesting book, but the author spends way too much time showing us how super smart he is rather than just discussing the movie, how it was made and its effects

on our culture.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. beyond the valley of cultsBy Duncan ArmstrongAn excellent look at cult movies, Russ Meyer, the making and the growing critical response to *Faster, Tura Satana* is a force of nature in *Faster* and gets well appreciated in DeFino's book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful readBy Michael J.At one point in the book Defino says that the usual reaction on seeing "Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!" for the first time is "What the hell was that?" That was precisely my reaction on seeing the movie for the first time (it's available in its entirety on YouTube). After reading this book I have a better idea of what the hell it is, and I'm happy I do.Defino's book is well written, engaging and interesting. Not only does he locate "Pussycat" in Russ Meyer's career, but even more importantly, he locates it in the social/cultural/political context of its time. In doing so, he makes the case convincingly that "Pussycat" transcends its cult status.What is most impressive about his analysis is that Defino uncovers substance where, on first viewing, none is apparent. Not only does he do so, but he does so in a convincing way. There is nothing forced or artificial about the analysis. In reading it, many times my reaction was, "Of course. Why didn't I see that?"What Defino shows us is that there is much more to "Pussycat" than we might see the first (or second, or third) time we view it. And yet the praise is measured, There's no claim here that this film is on the par with, for example, a "Citizen Kane". At the same time that he uncovers the strengths and glories of this film, Defino restrains himself from claiming that it is more than it is.The style is engaging, the writing clear, the analysis cogent, and the book filled with a number of valuable insights, amusing anecdotes, and cogent analyses.I can't think of higher praise to give than to say that when I finished this book, I immediately wanted to watch "Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!" again. This is just what a film book should do. Defino has helped us see the strengths and importance of a film that could be, in fact has been, dismissed as a cult film. In this case, the cultists were ahead of us all.

Russ Meyer's *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* (1965) is an enigma. A box-office failure when initially released on the grindhouse circuit, it has since been embraced by art-house audiences, and referenced in countless films, television series, and songs. A riot of styles and story clichés lifted from biker, juvenile delinquency, and beach party movies, it has the coherence of a dream, and the improvisatory daring of a jazz solo. John Waters has called it the greatest movie ever made, and Quentin Tarantino has long promised to remake it. But what draws them, and so many other cult fans to *Pussycat*? To help answer that question, this book looks at the production and critical reception of the film, its place within the cultural history of the 1960s, its representations of gender and sexuality, and the specific ways it meets the criteria of a cult film.

About the AuthorDean DeFino is Associate Professor of English and Director of Film Studies at Iona College, New York. His publications include *The HBO Effect* (2013) and essays on a wide range of topics, from detective cinema to mock-documentary.