

# Body Without Soul

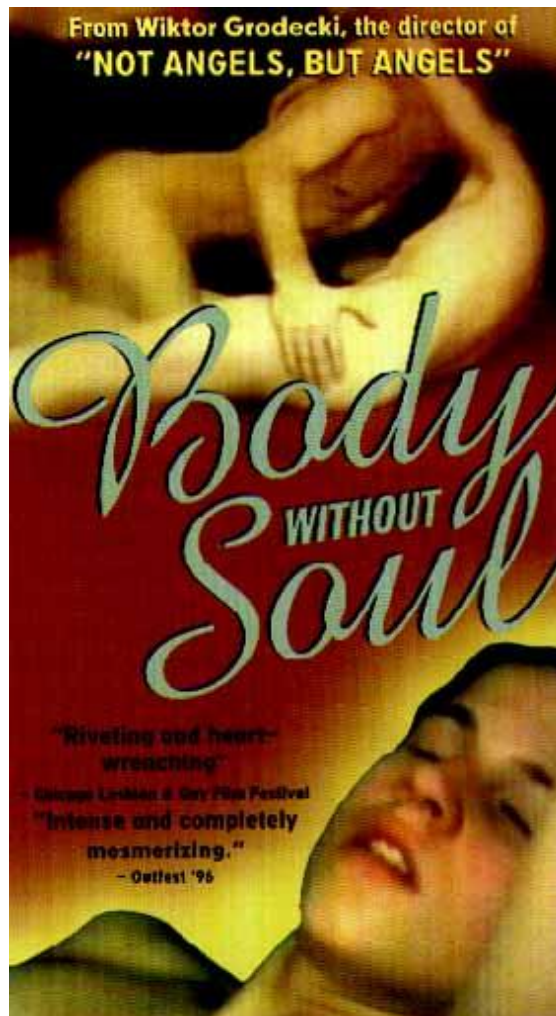
( original title unknown ) [Telo bez duse]

Czech Republic documentary : 1996 : dir. Wiktor Grodecki :

: 103 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	Ⓜ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: CVMC website

## Customer review from Amazon.com:

“A raw look at teen prostitution in the Czech republic, young boys leaving the countryside in search of money gather at dance bars, train stations waiting male tourists.”

## CVMC video retail/rental website review:

“Welcome to Prague, the fastest growing sex capital in the world, a city where the streets offer just about anything a person could ever want! In this intense documentary, a group of Czech boy prostitutes sixteen to eighteen years of

age are the focus, tell us of their encounters with men and about how they got involved with the pornography industry; also included is the porno director's perspective, an in-depth interview with a mortician who makes sex films on the side. Perspectives differ, but perhaps realities do too. Always interesting; often disturbing. A non-judgemental look at a lifestyle seldom seen in the States. Directed by Wiktor Grodecki.”

Rated NR: adult themes [sic]; brief nudity; profanity; intense sexual themes  
Language: Czech (with English subtitles)  
Categories: Boy Films, Adolescent, Documentary

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996"]

No further information currently available. Boy prostitution is nothing new in history of course but, social currents being what they are, the cinema has of late “discovered” the phenomenon and begun to wag its lofty finger. Just as with its earlier handling of gay prostitution – “**ADAM: THE OTHER SIDE OF DAWN**”, “**MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO**”, or adolescent girl prostitution – “**CHRISTIANE F.**”, “**PRETTY BABY**”, “**STREETWISE**”, “**TAXI DRIVER**”, or even male prostitution *per se* – “**MIDNIGHT COWBOY**” – every film to touch upon this *ishoo* has done so from a resoundingly negative departure point, as though there were some universal consensus that prostitution is a Bad Thing, and no other opinion were conceivable. One wonders how these people ply their trade, if the rest of us view it with such unanimous horror.

!6 to 18 year old youths are *not*, needless to say, “young boys” (as the Amazon review chooses to describe them) unless one is setting out to portray them as “victims”. Bona fide boy prostitutes have been the focus of many a tabloid television exposé, but the phenomenon of child prostitution is deemed to be gender-neutral, whereas adolescent prostitution is not. There is no basis for that assumption, and in reality a 12-year old boy prostitute will have more in common with a 16-year old male one than a 12-year old female one.

The dynamics of male (boy and teenage) prostitution are not altogether identical to the heterosexual variant, merely by dint of the savagery of the law towards it and the extent of gay hatred in the general population. Boys will not turn so readily to this means of survival as a girl might do, and the risks they encounter are correspondingly greater. Yet despite this, and all of the social pressures mitigating against it, some teenage youths clearly see it as a means of exploiting gay men, and of indulging in gay sex without fully acknowledging their own homosexual appetite. They are merely providing a service, they quickly explain.

For others again it is a blunt merchandising proposition. Mugging “queers” and providing limited sexual services to them are simply two means of achieving the same end, and often one will lead to the other. This is not to deny of course that boys can be dragooned into prostitution, as many girls are, and much against their will – but this is only one factor of the equation, and not necessarily the most common one. To assume that any exploitation involved is solely on the part of the client, and never the youth, is simply to hide the truth behind a wall of moral indignation. All prostitution is an act of *mutual* exploitation, and not for nothing is it “the oldest profession in the world”. To understand it fully we must be rather less didactic. The title “**BODY WITHOUT SOUL**” does not suggest a very neutral approach.

See also “[SMUKKE DRENG](#)” (“Pretty Boy”), “[J'EMBRASSE PAS](#)” (“I Don't Kiss”) and subject index under [DOCUMENTARIES](#), [EASTERN EUROPE](#) and [SEX & SEXUALITY](#).