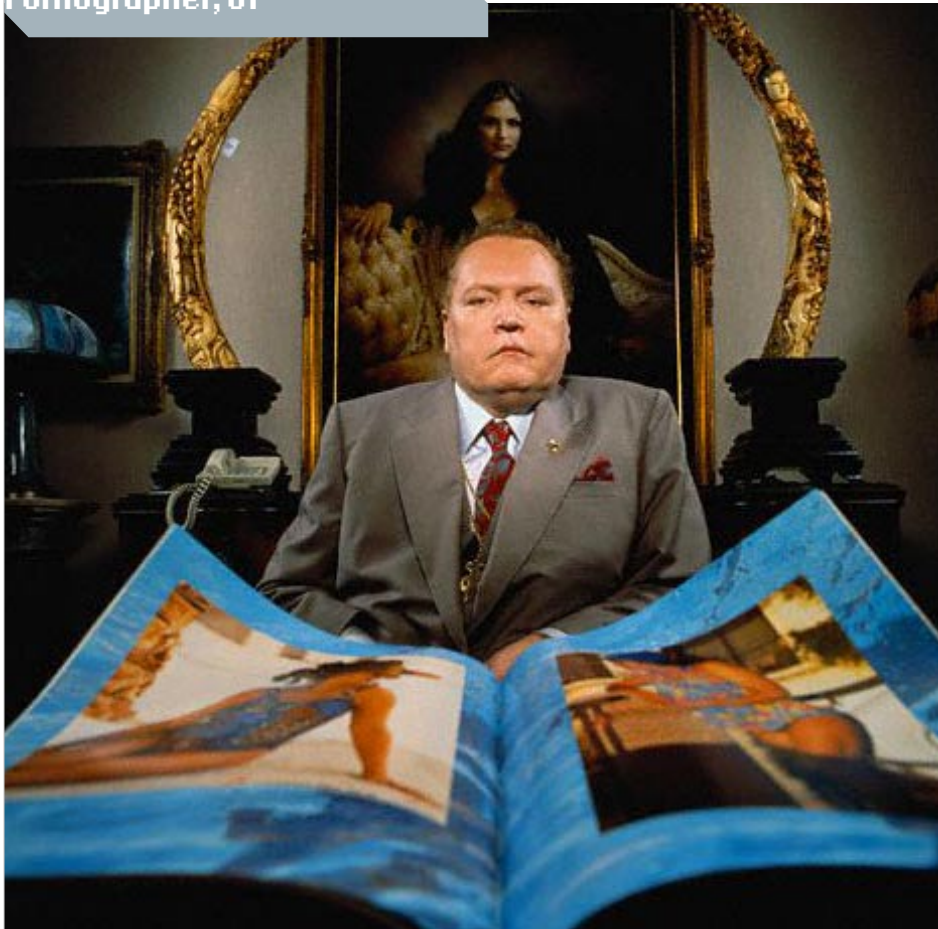


# Larry Flynt

Pornographer, 61



**At Hustler, we steer away from topics such as necrophilia and bestiality** because things like this are out of the norm. I personally don't get a hit from that stuff. And heterosexual behaviour is a lot easier to defend in court.

**It sucks being poor.** When I was born, my family's annual income was \$600 a year. Nobody had television or household appliances. You can bet I appreciate money now.

**I really owe a lot to the Navy.** Basic training was the first time in my entire life that I didn't have to think about where my next meal was coming from. At a time when most boys enter their senior year in high school, I had 95 men under my command, most of them older than me. You might even say it civilised me.

**Woody Harrelson played me better than I play myself.** I spent a year with him before [*The People vs Larry Flynt*] and he had all my mannerisms and characteristics, and was about the same age I was when I went through all the trials. It was pretty accurate, although any time they reduce a life to two hours on the silver screen, a lot gets left out.

**Bush has no scruples,** but because of everything that's happened here there's a possibility he could be elected again. There's no substitute for winning for Bush, and he's playing a lot of dirty tricks on his opponents. There's still a lot of people in America who think he won that last election.

**What does a pornographer know about politics?** I've forgotten more about politics than most of these political hacks and pundits will ever know. I've been handicapping presidential elections since 1960 without missing one.

I've forgotten more about politics than most of these political hacks and pundits will ever know

**Politics is the art of compromise,** but I've never met anyone who accomplished anything through compromise. Why would you compromise your beliefs and get something second best?

**I'll never win an election** because I'm a pornographer and an atheist. I only campaigned for Governor of California last year as a platform, to tell that town what I believed in.

**Just like the war on drugs, the war on terror has failed.** Bush should have finished the job in Afghanistan, where he had the whole world behind him, rather than going into Iraq where he had no business whatsoever. Saddam was a toothless tiger. He was no threat, and we knew that. If they'd left the inspectors alone, they wouldn't have found anything.

**Land of the free? Far from it!** The Patriot Act took away most of our civil rights and individual liberties. It's really scary.

**Tolerance is the price of a free society.** That's partly why the religious sector in this country fails in power; they'd like to rule not only the country but also the world.

**People who are practising a lifestyle they shouldn't be** are always the first to oppose any type of model for liberal sexual behaviour.

**The church has had its hand on our crotch for over 2,000 years,** and at the moment the government is cast in that direction.

**Almost 100 million people in America are sexually repressed** in a very unhealthy way. Over half the country grow up in conservative homes. They leave home with conservative sexual attitudes and values.

These people tend to keep their sex life in a closet.

**People often have a chemical imbalance in the brain** that can be linked to a bipolar disorder or manic depression. This can result in the so-called born-again experience, a profound feeling where they actually believe they've seen visions of God or heard voices. So they get tied up with the church and stay devoted for the rest of their lives. All they need is to go to the shrink for some lithium and they'll be fine. There are no side effects.

**Sex shops are no longer just for men.** When you look at the old seedy-type raincoat bookstore, you can understand why it used to be, but the Hustler Superstore isn't limited to sex toys and movies – what you have is lingerie, apparel, leather goods, erotic books, novelty items... It's actually a fun place for women to shop. Fifty-six per cent of our consumers over here are women.

**Paedophilia is a real crime** because it's violating the rights of somebody not old enough to make decisions for themselves.

**So someone tried to assassinate me:** it happens. That's life.

People have been assassinated right down through the years, some because people disagree with their political views, me because I published something in my magazine that someone didn't like.

**Being disabled has just made me a more determined individual.**

**There's no such thing as playing it safe** if you want to live a life. I'm just thankful that I am alive to continue my quest.

**Hustler Hollywood opens in Birmingham next month. Enquiries: [www.hustlerhollywood.co.uk](http://www.hustlerhollywood.co.uk). 'Sex, Lies & Politics' by Larry Flynt (Aurum, £9) is out now**