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Dear Ted

Major Documentary Series : The Commercial Sex Industry

I'm writing to let you know a little more about a documentary series we are producing in the hope that you will agree to be interviewed for it. We hope to be involving many of the members and contributors to Feminists Against Censorship and so I'm writing to you via Nettie on her kind suggestion. I hope the following brief outline gives you a flavour of how different our approach to the whole subject of commercial sex is going to be.

We are setting out to examine the British sex industry in a very un-British way, without irony, puerility or prudery – we believe the first such in-depth examination ever. We will deal in great detail with the historic and on-going debate about pornography, censorship and law enforcement in this country. The format of the series is a blend of documentary and 'talking-head' debate. It will feature around 100 key contributors ranging from politicians, philosophers, therapists, libertarians and journalists to producers, editors and performers of adult films, magazines and entertainment. . Already contributing are Dr David Starkey, Chris Tane of the Libertarian Alliance, Dr Mary McIntosh, Dr Rosalind Miles, Avedon Carol and Lynne Segal of Feminists Against Censorship (amongst others), and Michael Mansfield QC.

The editorial line of the series is balanced and both open- and broad-minded. It is non-judgemental. It provides a level platform for pornographers to debate with politicians, for promoters of liberalisation to be given equal time with their critics. It aims to take a 'snapshot' of how the British, their entrepreneurs, educationalists and consumers handle sex in the age of the video, international free trade and the internet. We will look at what has become a legitimate, sophisticated and hugely profitable business in the States and compare it to the state of play in this country.


For the series to be balanced and coherent it is of paramount importance that all of the involved legal questions are dealt with by experts. To this end we are involving several media lawyers, (including a expert on the issues raised by the internet), a European legal expert, and a US constitutional expert. However, our most important legal commentator will need to be a censorship expert, and Nettie suggested that you might be able to help us. We would very much like to involve someone who can chart the history of censorship and obscenity legislation in this country and who is familiar with one or two of the more interesting recent cases. If you think you can contribute on these issues we'd dearly love to involve you in the series, which aims then to tie these particular legal points together into a moral/legal intellectual context. Ultimately, we are interested in clarifying an area of the law which seems increasingly ill-defined, and which many people are worried will inevitably be relaxed as a consequence of European convergence.

We will be filming in May and June and we will keep interviews brief but thorough, taking up no more than an hour of your time. We are sure that this is going to be a good opportunity to get all the issues properly discussed, and hope you'll agree.

I am attaching a company filmography for your information and look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



JAGO LEE
Researcher

DOUGLAS CHIRNSIDE Filmography

David Starkey's HENRY VIII. 3 x 60 mins. Channel 4. March 1998.

Epic royal biography comparing 'the English Stalin' and 'our dear dysfunctional House of Windsor'. Written and presented by Dr. David Starkey of the London School of Economics. This series was the highest rated of the many history programmes on Channel 4. Produced by Douglas Chirnside. Directed by Roger Thomas.

Provocative ... playful ... a verbal and visual firework display full of crackles and bangs

The Times

Brilliant ... a surprise hit ... the showbiz historian is the latest in a long line of academics to become stars in the living room.

Evening Standard

Part court jester, part Grand Inquisitor, Dr. David Starkey romped from Hampton Court to the King's Manor in York ... the droll and dapper don turned his lesson into an invitation to eavesdrop on an indiscreet courtier's insights ... the anecdotes never failed to entertain ... the don left us with a hint that he might have more lessons in store for us. I, for one, am eager to sign up.

Cristina Odone **Daily Telegraph**

Not only a fascinating bit of programme-making (producer Douglas Chirnside and director Roger Thomas happily used modern footage - of Prince Charles and Diana, of Starkey on a tank - as symbols of their Tudor counterparts) it also seems to be pretty non-conformist in its view of Henry as hero ... truly rare exception.

Chris Dunkley **Financial Times**

Pick of the Week

Radio Times

Controversial ... a dryly witty discourse that draws some telling parallels with the present day

Sunday Times

Delightfully eccentric ... a delightful romp

Independent on Sunday

PLASTIC FANTASTIC. 13 x 30 mins. Channel 5. July 1997.

The biggest ever series on cosmetic surgery and the one that spawned a thousand press articles. The highest rating documentary series on Channel 5 in 1997 the series has clocked up substantial international sales. Produced and directed by Douglas Chirnside.

Channel 5 is chuffed with this one and you can see why .. Douglas Chirnside has rolled up his sleeves to produce an epic .. it's compulsive ... you'll be gagging ... you'll be intrigued ... you'll be hooked.

Time Out

Tonight's must-see TV. As gory as *Jimmy's*, as compulsive as *Animal Hospital*, this vanity to insanity series is truly top TV.

Daily Express

The surgery itself eloquently put the argument against. The film was directed by Douglas Churnside (sic) which at least brought a smile to my by now rather pale face.

The Times

The squirmiest series on TV

Daily Express

MARCO POLO NOT. 1 x 30 mins. Channel 4. November 1996.

Arts documentary, written and presented by Dr. Frances Wood, Head of the Oriental Collection of the British Library and based on her controversial book *Did Marco Polo Go To China?* Filmed entirely on location in China. Produced by Douglas Chirnside. Directed by Christopher Lowden.

An absorbing enquiry into the veracity of one of the world's most famous travel tales.

**Independent on Sunday
Observer**

Engaging and beautiful

Stunning

Evening Standard

Is nothing sacred? Frances Wood tore strips off my favourite childhood tales about the intrepid explorer ... until my erstwhile hero lay exposed as a fraudster. Ahi! Cristina Odone.

Daily Telegraph