

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

(THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

PRESS
RELEASE

telephone 0181-653-4482
Mr Goodman Chair of CAC
8th June 1998

BRITISH BOARD OF FILM CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC
CONSULTATION

The Campaign Against Censorship congratulates the BBFC on its nationwide Public Consultation which ended today, but urges it to end censoring adults-only films and video recordings. The BBFC says it must do so, to protect the "vulnerable minority" who may imitate what they see. CA states that rules for the sane majority should not be framed for the lunatic fringe, otherwise alcohol would be prohibited!

Similarly CAC protests at the policy of the BBFC in censoring adults-only video recordings more than films, on the premise that British parents cannot be trusted to prevent minors gaining access. Other European countries have no such lack of faith in their citizens and have abolished all film and video censorship for adults.

CAC deprecates the fact that the United Kingdom has, as stated by the previous Home Secretary, Michael Howard, amongst the strictest film and video censorship in the world. It is ridiculous, for instance, that there was talk of banning the new film "Lolita" in Britain, whereas it was granted a "12" certificate in France. Similarly the Michael Collins film was passed for universal viewing in the Republic of Ireland, but rated "15" in the United Kingdom. The BBFC banned the video "Ecstasy of St Theresa" as blasphemous. No other country in the world did likewise.

CAC believes that the BBFC is over-applying the laws against blasphemy and obscenity (which in any event need reforming) by cutting much material which is lawful.

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