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PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until Friday, 17th December, 1999

The Campaign Against Censorship (CAC) has submitted a strong critique of the British Board of Film Classification's draft guidelines for censoring cinema and video.

CAC holds that all films should be shown without cuts.

The new guidelines have been dumbed down. This makes the rules more arbitrary and more rigid.

The BBFC should be forced to justify preventing adults watching what they choose.

For cinemas, CAC proposes a new 18 certificate which would include films now classified R18 and shown only in cinema clubs.

For videos, CAC proposes a new R18 (VIDEO) certificate for videos sold only in sex shops. In August, the Video Appeals Committee refused to accept the BBFC's claim that R18 videos had to be treated as though they were likely to fall into the hands of people under 18. Therefore there is no reason why R18 videos sold the UK should not be as sexually explicit as those sold in the rest of Europe.

(Ends)

For further information, contact CAC at the address below.