



Backlash MT Minutes – September 16th 2013 in the Counting House, Cornhill, 7-9pm

Purpose

To discuss the immediate ATVOD situation and plans for the proposed judicial, in addition to the fundraising strategy.

Present -

David

Emily

Itzi (chair)

Ed Goodman (of CAC)

Myles

Juliet

Chris

Nick

Rebekka

Not Present –

Hazel, Jon, Nigel, Laurie, Martin, Alex, Adrian,

Main Points Discussed:

Cameron's agenda

The question was posed of what Backlash will do, should the ban actually take place. Myles said that aside from ATVOD, they will challenge against Obscene Publication acts, which will be drafted by Geoffrey Robertson QC, almost mirroring the tone of the rape porn campaign. It was noted that Robertson could be timelier in his response to Myles and is yet to put his name to the advice he has written and been paid for. A letter detailing the campaign will also be sent to the Prime Minister. Andrew Holland of the Tiger Porn trial is willing to act as a claimant for the planned Extreme Porn judicial. Nick Cowen of the Observer is willing to have an exclusive on the campaign, as well as the Glasgow Herald having an interest. The Guardian and The Independent would also be approached. The papers could be served on Friday at 5.29pm (possibly this Friday). On a side note, Myles noted that The Green Party is the only political party that had the intention of decriminalising sex work (via Natalie, his downstairs neighbour).

Twink trial

It was noted that there would not be a campaign per se and the trial is listed for mid November. The defendant had possession of porn which features actors over the legal age, however the prosecution claims otherwise, despite Myles having obtained the passport photos of all models on the mentioned websites as well as all the connected model release forms. Action is being taken to acquire statements to say that the passport photos are indeed a likeness to the actors. Myles is currently attempting to obtain witnesses on the identities of models who are from Russia and America. The prosecution also claimed that included in the cache was a photo of a baby, when it was

in clearly an adult man. The defendant was charged with possession on an R18 approved film, a charge which was then dropped. Myles wrote an exclusive article for The Independent in the case of an acquittal, who has promised that the defendant's name would not be released. As the case was in Liverpool and the person was taken ill, an agency journalist was not sent as a replacement in case they then sold it to someone else. Myles mentioned that the case worker and the head of local CPS would no longer speak to him! The case could not go live, as the defendant is against going public on account of his sensitive job. It was noted that travel and hotel must be paid by Backlash when Myles travels to Liverpool for the case, as a lawyer outside his designated area cannot be paid for by legal aid. The defendant is privately paying, so it is hoped that should the case be thrown out, he will get the funds returned. Ed raised the question of how the authorities were alerted to the material. The defendant was at an academic conference and apparently did not clear his cache after using the computer of a student in halls of residence. It was the student who then alerted the university police officer. Nick pointed out that political aspect is that we can 'cock block' Cameron, as he cannot change the legislation while it is in the process of being reviewed. Ed asked if it will only be simulated rape that would be challenged; Myles said that if definitely simulated then yes, however footage of a real rape is not illegal. It was asked if the depictions of rape in classical material would be effected, and it was answered that Section 63 included an element of realism in addition to simulation. So, Zeus as the bull or swan is not realistic and would therefore not be illegal. If it was a realistic painting, then it may be classed as illegal. If a child was featured in a picture or line drawing the subject, then it may be classed as a 'dangerous cartoon' (Coroners Injustice Act 2009).

ATVOD

Itzi explained to the new faces why ATVOD are harassing her. They claim that her videos are in competition with the BBC and that she is not doing enough to stop children from accessing the content. She mentioned that she has a splash page and 2257 record keeping, both of which are industry standard in the UK and US. She also uses a credit card service so that no one under 18 can join. Despite being asked several times, her providers (Zombio) have been very cagey about whether they will remove the ability for those with debit cards to access. Itzi mentioned that one particular video flagged which featured urethral sounds and the recipient was bound, however there was no gag (meaning that they could signal for to stop the scene if wanted). ATVOD are concerned with content where the recipient is both bound and gagged, as there is no clear indication that activity is consensual. Peter Johnson stated the bondage was 'beyond' BBFC classifications and they are attempting to get her on the highest possible charge. It was noted that Peter Johnson used to write strategy at BBFC. David mentioned that his friend was raided during a professional domination session by the police, with journalists in tow. Her age was reported in the local newspaper, and considering there were only two ladies of her age her small village, her identity was practically given away. The police took away DVDs of bdsm that she produced for sale, which did not have an R18 certificate. The EU issued a directive called the Video Directive in 2010, which then devolved to OFCOM powers to regulate videos online, who in turn gave it to ATVOD. It was noted that porn producers and webmasters are not told the ratio of debit to credit cards used to access their website. Itzi likened the entire situation to The Life of Brian film on account of its farcical nature. Once all paths to clear her name are exhausted, then a judicial review can be sought (and it would be first time one has been sought in this area). ATVOD are giving off the attitude that producers are deliberately trying to sell their content to minors, despite their lack of knowledge on how the card processing companies work. The subject of the video game Grand Theft Auto came up, in that a character could kill a prostitute in a satirical manner. It was noted that Geoffrey Roberts had successfully defended the game Manhunt 2. ATVOD found going after Rupert Murdoch to be unsuccessful, so it was hypothesised that they turned their attentions towards adult producers, who were seen to be an easy target. Chris says highlighting the hypocrisy in protecting women and children yet going after 89 producers of FemDom content. David mentioned that the opinion is going

to cost £800 for the barrister in regards to Fridays. David Sullivan who owns football teams and the Sunday Sport gave money to a similar cause, so he could potentially be approached. Myles revealed that he would be meeting a member of ATVOD (who is also in the adult industry) for an intelligence share. The industry has shunned this person somewhat on account of the association. Sullivan can afford to pay ATVOD and carry on. Gold star publications. Unanimous vote for spending the money. Juliet mentioned the journalists she has spoken to are very interested, and potentially Cody ??????, the website boingboing and Paul Mason will have an interest.

Xbiz adult industry conference

The conference is on Monday 23rd, where Peter Johnson will bravely be taking a question and answer session and Myles will be speaking on the Monday and Tuesday. Emily, Itzi, Juliet, Nick and Chris will also be attending. The radical feminist group London Feminist Network are planning a protest outside the Radisson Bloomsbury Hotel, where the conference is to be held. Itzi mentioned that the group do not want transsexual ladies, transsexual men or cis men joining them in their protest.

Employment Law

It was noted that Backlash had received more than the usual amount of potentially employment law related requests for advice, with similar aspects to the Legally Bland case in regards to the person having a similarly sensitive job. Nick had shared an email from a case who seemed to be emotionally unstable, very combative with his employer and who had a disciplinary against him. He is a doctor, with seemingly little emotional intelligence, volatile, has not forwarded the suspension letter or employment contract as requested and is not listening to advice given. It was discussed that he could be passed over to Legally Bland as he may listen to her opinion more closely. David mentioned that it would be undesirable for him to go public in places like Fetlife and mentioning Backlash, with his current attitude. Tom should be on it also (barrister who specialises in employment). Ed says as soon as anyone contacts Backlash, they should all be asked if they have actually been dismissed, as they must be advised to fill in the forms at an employment tribunal within the three month cut off point, otherwise if the time limit passes the defendant may blame Backlash. It was noted that the two people who both have issues within the religious communities were unconnected, and it was suggested that they could get in touch with Simon Hill, who is a kinky journalist and a Quaker. Nick asked Myles if Backlash could spread its wings in dealing with family and employment aid. There was a suggestion to start employ@backlash-uk.org as the others who have recently contacted may have cases, which David may delegate to Nick and Adrian as appropriate.

Fundraising

To make a profit, the venue needs to be free and with no guarantee of a minimum spend. Once established, the publicity blitz is crucial. A dedicated Backlash email address would need to be made. Early November or early January for an alternative New Year was suggested for potential dates. There was a concern that any cash raised would push the accounts through to limit of where tax would need to be paid.

Suggested performers/speakers -

Mouse, Dusty Limits, Marnie Scarlet, Lydia Morgan and Helen Borough for hook suspension, Benjamin Louche, Frank Cobie, David Hockney, Simon Walsh. Nemhain as a main band with supporting act, Snake boy belly dancer, Amanda Palmer, Andrew, Sara Cook, Lauren Taylor, Ophelia Blitz.

Other suggested entertainment -

A large main crowd puller was agreed, such as Amanda Palmer, along with the pull of having signed album or backstage time as a VIP ticket option. Outdoor hot tubs were suggested (£350 per tub). Proceeds from previous raffles went well so prizes on this event could be a place on Kim Rub's latex making course, paddles from various makers, club tickets etc, and discounts with RR. The event Ab Fab had a cabaret in which people could suggest a playlist for the DJ. Juliet suggested a sponsored caning and spanking. Another form of entertainment would be Amanda Palmer announcing a collaring ceremony or engagement on stage. Catering could be in the form of personalised pastries that could either be bought in bulk or made by Nikki (Sprites Bites), a sit down 3 course dinner for VIP tickets in between the acts, or Pizza Pilgrims with bespoke pizzas.

Development -

Tobias funded the Summer House event via a Kickstarter campaign, with emphasis on a feeling of community and emotional investment. Kickstarter could be a convenient way for patrons to pay for VIP tickets. In order to raise awareness of the main event, there could be smaller scale warm up events in venues such as a cinema pub (showing previously banned films), Royal Vauxhall Tavern, The Coliseum (Juliet mentioned that Derek may have a deal to use it before club openings). The nearby Holiday Inn might be able to offer rooms for a bulk discount which could then be included in the more expensive tickets. £25 was the agreed base for ticket prices if there was to be A List entertainment. Ticket prices could be tiered, with entry into only the canal bar being the cheapest. Promotional avenues could be via UK clubs, forums and social networks. Ed suggested contacting Tuppy Owen of outsiders.

Any other business

Nick mentioned that people had asked him about attending meetings via, as Gill from Legally Bland may make use of it.