

HON. DIRECTOR

David Kennington, Litt.D.

NO/DAW/DP

24th January 1985

Brian Matthew, Esq.,
"Round Midnight",
BBC Radio 2,
Broadcasting House,
London, W1A 1AA.

Dear Mr. Matthew,

I listened to your "Round Midnight" programme on BBC Radio 2 on Tuesday night (22/23 January). If you believe that no-one really wants to see what you describe as "pornography" in films, I can assure you that you are very much mistaken. I do, for one, and I am in no way ashamed of admitting to the enormous pleasure "pornographic" or, as I prefer to call them, 'sexually explicit' films afford me.

I am certainly not alone either. There are millions like me and that is why films, pictures, books, plays etc. with a heavy sexual content have thrived and will continue to thrive. What is of great regret, however, is that, living as we do in a country so riddled with hypocrisy, so few of this vast army of 'porn-lovers' have the guts and honesty to admit to what is a perfectly natural and harmless interest. It is this lack of courage to stand up and be counted, particularly amongst members of 'the Establishment', that has largely ensured that the U.K. remains virtually the most censor-ridden country throughout the so-called free Western World, and why, in spite of the kind of emotive, sanctimonious outbursts from people like yourself which imply, quite erroneously, that we are free of the chains of statutory censorship, we are still prevented from seeing the kind of sexually explicit films freely available to consenting adults in other countries where 'State Nannyism' is not the order of the day.

I am, however, in very good company and it is at least gratifying when people of the calibre of Kenneth Griffith, Magnus Magnusson and Terry Wogan do have the courage and honesty to declare publicly their penchant for 'porn'. There are, of course, many more of the famous who share a similar view, and it goes without saying that all the supporters of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA), including many highly intelligent and celebrated men - and women! It is, with respect, extremely arrogant of you to dismiss them all so cursorily - and it is not the first occasion I have heard you making disparaging remarks about sexual material and those who pursue and enjoy it. There is no such thing as an unhealthy or unnatural interest in sex. There is, however, something decidedly unhealthy

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and unnatural in its repression.

Nevertheless, thank you for drawing my attention to Tinto Brass's new film "The Key". I am fully confident that your censorious comments on it on Tuesday night will be a great boost to its box-office receipts and spur on potential audiences - myself included.

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Honorary Director,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts