

# AGENDA

## SEMINAR ON CENSORSHIP, SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 1989

to be held at

BAFTA  
195 Piccadilly  
London W1V 9LG  
01-734 0022

NB. The names in brackets are the names of those who have expressed a willingness to speak to that part of the debate. Others may also volunteer to speak or be invited to do so. (If you would like to make a specific contribution to any particular section below, please inform Walter J. Jeffrey, David Benedictus, or Maureen Duffy.

10.00 am Coffee

10.30 am Introduction from Johnny Goodman, Chairman of BAFTA

10.45 am Welcome from the Chair: Maureen Duffy, ex-President Writers Guild.

10.50 am The Story So Far

The History of Censorship in Britain. Are we more or less regulated than in the past? The influence of religion. The Monarchy. The industrial revolution insularity. The Women's Movement. The effect of wars. The newspaper industry. Broadcasting. (Michael Winner and Michael Harris (Birkbeck College))

11.45 am Where We Have Got To

(a) Journalism. D notices. Parliamentary leaks. The Official Secrets Act. Campaigning journalism.  
(Jacob Ecclestone, NUJ; Barbara Gunnell NUJ; Tony Lennon, BETA; David Leigh, The Observer)

(b) Books and magazines. Blasphemy. The Salman Rushdie Effect. Censorship by Library Committees.  
(David Webb, NACROPA; Representative: The Secular Society)

(c) Radio and Television. Deregulation. The Broadcasting Standards Council. Pressure groups. Sex. Violence. The cult of mediocrity. Censorship by cheque book. Faction (Tumbledown, etc.)  
(Colin Shaw, BSC; Alvin Rakoff, Directors Guild)

(d) Theatre. Censorship by Funding. Romans in Britain. Clause 28. Historical Accuracy.  
(Colin Chambers, RSC; David Aukin, Nicholas Wright, National Theatre)

(e) Films and Video. The Classification System. Enforceable? For whose benefit? The French System (Funding serious cinema by levy on porn). The exploitation of performers. Of writers.  
(Roy Lockett, ACTT; Barrie Ellis Jones BFI; John Robson, BFFS)

(f) Advertising. Are the rules useful? Are the rules outmoded?

1.00 pm Lunch

2.00 pm Censorship and the State

Does the public know what it wants. If so, should it be allowed to have it? If not, why not?  
(Norman Buchan MP and Alan Sapper, ACTT)

The Parliamentary System. The leaking of secrets. Do we need secrets. GCHQ and the Unions. The chain of Command, Home Office, Law Courts, Police. Class. Are the rich more or less easily corrupted?

3.15 pm The Broader Context

The situation abroad. How we rate on the International Scale. Are our prejudices important? What if all censorship were to be abolished....  
(Philip Spender, Index on Censorship)

(3.40 pm Tea if time allows)

3.50 pm Final Session

Where do we go from here? Censorship in the year 2000. The value of watchdog committees if any. Unified action or personal outrage? Petitions? Further meetings? Expressions of good faith?  
Or is everything in the garden lovely?

4.30 pm End.

Others who have expressed an interest in participating in the debate include.

T E Godfray (Booksellers Association)  
Tom O'Malley (CPBF)  
James Ferman (Director, BBFC)  
Louise Burton (NCA)  
Chris Dunkley (Financial Times)  
Dr David Kennington  
Sally Laird (Index on Censorship)  
Kris Cviic (Economist)

D A Hearn (BETA)  
Otto Plaschkes (BFTPA)  
Andy Egan (ACTT)  
Mary Hayward (CAC)  
Dr Neville Hunnings (CAC)  
Edward Goodman (CAC)  
Anne Morgan (Freelance)