

CWRU Film Society
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This is a response to all concerned parties regarding the CWRU Film Society's scheduling of the adult film, *The Devil in Miss Jones* (1973).

The Film Society has received a number of e-mails regarding our community's concerns over the screening of erotic films on the CWRU campus. The Film Society has taken your concerns and feelings seriously. All opinions and open dialogue are important and valued. This statement attempts to express the Film Society's thoughts and to create a dialogue central to the mission of inquiry at this University.

Controversial and offensive material should be presented and debated at CWRU, not banned or hidden away from its student body. Universities are places of higher learning where people should be exposed to different ideas and opinions and where honest and open discussion present all sides of an issue to foster better understanding. The screening of this film, and the campus debate sparked by it, should demonstrate CWRU's (and the Film Society's) commitment to the idea that all forms of artistic and intellectual expression, welcome or objectionable, are considered.

In response to the call for the cancellation of the scheduled screening of *The Devil in Miss Jones*, there is an organizational responsibility to assure that the film is shown. The Film Society, as an organization of which there are two women directors, decided to show this erotic film. Erotic film is, good or bad, a viable artistic form in cinema. As a student group who is dedicated to presenting film as art, this was the justification for the selection. Therefore, the Film Society intends to show the film, and will oppose censorship in the future.

If this film is cancelled, would other films considered offensive to some, also be cancelled? We wouldn't be able to show, for example:

- *Triumph of the Will* (1934), Leni Riefenstahl – German propaganda film which glamorizes the Third Reich
- *Coonskin* (1974), Ralph Bakshi -- Animated "blax-ploitation" film which parodies *Disney's Song of the South* and the Uncle Remus stories and can be construed as offensive to African-Americans
- *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), Martin Scorsese – Shows a non-traditional and controversial image of Jesus Christ which is offensive to many Christians

The Film Society encourages the CWRU community to use the screening of this film to discuss and debate the issues of artistic freedom and the concerns of individuals and groups who might be offended by this material. The Film Society is willing work with women's groups on campus to distribute informative materials and hold open forums to discuss issues of interest to both.

Any and all comments are welcome and should be e-mailed to Kevin Carduff at kcc@po.cwru.edu, or to the Film Society at film@solarstop.net. Thank you.