

Censorship.

I fucking hate it.

So much so that I actually developed a class in grad school about the history of censorship in Hollywood. I showed a film a decade, starting with Birth of a Nation in the 1900's all the way through to South Park in the 90's.

I have to say, patting myself on the back a little, it was a pretty bad ass class. I showed some pretty wicked flicks. For pre-code Hollywood I showed She Done Him Wrong, next up was To Have and Have Not. Showed The Moon is Blue and then moved into Midnight Cowboy.

Then the fun got started. I went through a bunch of red tape, but eventually got the president of the university, the dean of the college and the chair of the department to sign off on allowing me to do this...I got permission to show Deep Throat.

Let me tell you, number one, NO ONE was absent that day.

Number two...you haven't really lived until you've been in a small theater, with 32 19-20 year olds, from small towns in Ohio, watching stuff go into other stuff on the big screen.

And I do mean big...pun intended AND not intended.

Funny coincidence. Just so happened that the week we watched Deep Throat, Ron Jeremy was on campus for a porn/anti-porn debate.

I tracked him down through his agent and after the debate he came over and chatted with the class for about 20-30 minutes. He was really cool and fucking smart. He knows his shit. I guess in the porn industry it's probably best to know the obscenity laws like you know your...well, you know.

Anyway, I didn't stop there...

Showed them Last Tango in Paris. Scared most off of butter for the rest of their lives.

Showed 'em Le Maitresse...which, seriously, if you have a bit of love for anything kink related, you must see it. Great movie. Not for the sexually repressed.

Went from that straight to Salo: The 120 Days of Sodom. Now for those of you (and I will assume it will be a majority of you) I'm telling you right now. DO NOT WATCH THIS MOVIE.

You won't be able to handle it.

Yes. That's a challenge. Criterion just released this puppy on blu-ray. I suggest, should you ignore my warning, go all in and watch that flick in HD. You know, so you get the full, crystal clear, effect.

Went from Salo right into Last Temptation of Christ. Cause nothing follows sick, hedonistic BDSM better than Jesus.

Finished the class with South Park which, in its own right, was genius. Not only was it incredibly censored and forced to change by the MPAA but it was also ABOUT censorship.

For every film, we also delved into what was happening politically in Hollywood. The fact that Hollywood basically shit themselves and decided to censor themselves before the government could. Hence the MPAA.

Which, just cause I can, let me just say...fuck the MPAA.

The point is, I take censorship pretty serious. I've always been that way.

Quick tangent...one year in high school, I was in a creative writing class and wrote some cop action short story. In the story the bad guys had some heavy dialog. I don't remember it, but it was something pretty basic, like "who the fuck this guy think he is, I don't fucking know but we're gonna fuck him up."

You know how it goes, cliché, but whatever, it was what it was.

So we were supposed to read our stories in class and the teacher comes up to me, pulls me aside and tells me that I can't have "the F-word" in my story. I asked him why and he responded with "you just can't, that's inappropriate."

Yeah, that didn't really work out in his favor. I went home and kept the scene the exact same way except I changed one detail. Instead of coming in gun drawn, our hero comes in and slams the guy in the face, breaking his nose and then drawing his gun on the other guy.

Then I changed the dialog to the following, "what the nuck! He noke my nucking nose. Who the nuck is this nucking guy?!"

No swear words.

I win. You lose. Suck it.

Don't censor me. Doing so makes me angry and you wouldn't like it when I'm angry.

Awww Hulk reference!

Okay, so why am I telling you about this? I saw something quite pleasurable last week on TV and it got me thinking to the world we live in now. I mean think about it...we've lived in such a sheltered world when it comes to TV and movies.

Smoking was a sexual metaphor.

No one was gay, they were just "strange."

We weren't allowed to just say what we meant. Everything had to be shrouded in code.

Even when things got a little looser in the 70's and 80's, we were still holding back. Sure, we can see the horrors of Vietnam finally, but we weren't ready for the gays.

Sure we can make 9 ½ Weeks, but no ah ah to touching the Christ.

The 90's hit. Grunge and gansta rap changed the game a little. NYPD showed some ass and said shit on TV for the first time.

I actually remember staying up and sneaking the TV on so I could see the first bare ass on prime time television. It was epic!

Rosanne replaced Lucy as the woman in the household. Times they were a' changing.

The late 90's made way for the women of Sex and the City. Holy shit...women talked about sex too? Is this even possible? You're pulling my...leg. Get it out of the gutter people!

Which brings us to the 2000's, the aughts. The gay explosion hit. It was FABULOUS. Queer Eye, Queer as Folk, The L word...it seemed America was finally ready for gays and lesbians on their TV's. Still not ready for them to be married (which is fucked) and even though they've cooled it with the gays and lesbians on TV, transgendered confuses WAY too many people as evidenced by this year's outcry over Chaz Bono being on Dancing with the Stars. Which is really fucked.

God that pisses me off that people are still so close minded. I mean if you really want to bitch about something, if you really want to cry out and complain, how about you fucking bitch that there are never any STARS on Dancing with the Stars? How about that?

Which brings me back to the thing I saw on TV the other day that made me really happy.

It was poop.

I've been watching the new show with Christina Applegate and Will Arnett about first time parents dealing with a newborn. In the episode she goes into labor early and arrives at the hospital to find that he regular female doctor is busy and is replaced by a younger, good looking, male doctor.

She flips out and says no that she'll just come back tomorrow...yadda yadda.

After making a fuss about it for a few minutes, she pulls Arnett aside and says "he's way too hot, right?" He agrees...comically. Then she says, "what if...I...you know...during..." He looks puzzled and she responds with "pooooop! What if I poop?"

I was so fucking giddy! Yes! This is a concern of women and NO one wants to joke about the brown elephant in the room! But someone finally did and it made it to prime time. It was real. Uncensored and funny. Bravo.

Just imagine that for a second. We have gone from Lucy and Dezi sleeping in separate beds their entire marriage on TV to Christina Applegate embarrassed she might poo in front of a hot young doctor.

We're getting' there people. We're getting' there.

Till next week...