

Dear Osanam,

Further to our telephone conversation I enclose the background information about the issue of censorship that is concerning us.

Below you will read an email from Erich Schultz, director of the London Independent Film Festival, telling us that he is "pulling" our documentary "Positive Hell" from his festival (April 2016), after it had been selected. Also enclosed is a letter to Mr Schultz from David Crowe, President of the international charity Rethinking AIDS and its board members of which I am one. Mr Schultz and never replied to the letter.

We have been told that Mr Schultz taught at Westminster University. In his email he explains that he withdrew our film because the selection panel, who were his students at the place where he was teaching, and the LGBT Group from the same institution decided to deselect our film. He also states that he received complaints from four AIDS charities. We are keen to find out the name of these charities and why they complained.

We are very concerned about this act of censorship. I would be grateful if you could let me know whether Erich Schultz teaches or was teaching at the University of Westminster at the time that his students formed the selection panel for LIFF, and whether the LGBT Group that complained was from the University of Westminster. If Mr Schultz was or is associated with Westminster University I would also be grateful if you could forward this correspondence to him.

You will also find below links to the websites where this issue was aired in April.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards

Joan Shenton
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joan Shenton** <joanshenton@clara.co.uk>

Date: 20 June 2016 at 07:25

Subject: DRAFT EMAIL TO WESTMINSTER UNIVERSITY
To: Joan Shenton <joanshenton@clara.co.uk>

Email from Erich Schultz sent 8th April 2016
London Independent Film Festival <info@liff.org> 8 Apr
8 Apr

8 Apr Hi Guys, Sorry, but I'm going to pull the film. Two more to LIFF, my

Hi Guys,

Sorry, but I'm going to pull the film.

Two more major HIV/AIDS organisations contacted me today, urging me not to screen Positive Hell, and warning of protests to LIFF, my screening venue, and our sponsors if we don't comply. As well as over twenty protest letters, including one from the LGBT society of the university where I teach (and where all of my selection committee comes from).

And now, my selection committee (all students where I teach) are unanimous in wanting to step away from screening Positive Hell.

I'll refund your submission fee, and any tickets purchased for the Positive Hell screening.

I'm sorry about this, and if you'd like to write to me about your frustration, I'll listen. But I won't be revisiting the decision.

All the best, Erich

London Independent Film Festival
London, UK

Email: info@liff.org

Web: <http://www.liff.org>