

Dear SPONSOR

As a sponsor of the London Independent Film Festival (LIFF) we would like to inform you about the opaque censoring of a documentary, at the 2016 festival, without due process given to the film makers.

"Positive Hell", simply tells the story of several Spanish people who have lived with an HIV-positive diagnosis for many years, largely without AIDS drugs. The director of LIFF, Erich Schultz, informed the film makers that, **ALTHOUGH THE FILM HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY SELECTED**, it was **BEING WITHDRAWN** due to complaints from four AIDS charities. He also said that the decision to censor the film was unanimous by the same committee that had not long ago selected it for screening. The names of the four AIDS charities have not been provided. The reasons these organizations gave, if any, have not been provided. And the film makers were informed that there was no process for reconsideration.

Although we know that Erich Schultz leads the committee that selects films for screening, the names of the committee members, **WHOM** we have been told are all students at his institution, are not public. Furthermore, although Schultz lists Royal Holloway College (University of London) as an institution where he teaches, they informed us **THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD DONE A PhD THERE, HE WAS NOT ON THE LIST OF STAFF MEMBERS**, and may never have taught there. *except occasional guest lectures. DELETE THESE LAST FOUR WORDS.*

We believe that, at a minimum, the film makers should have received a list of reasons why the film was censored. There were threats of demonstrations at the screening from the LGBT club at the unknown institution where Erich Schultz teaches, and it would be shameful if there were only threats, and no stated reasons, that resulted in an "independent" film festival banning one of its selections.

As a sponsor of this film festival that has "Independent" in its name, you may feel as we do, that screenings should not be cancelled unless there is either a credible threat of violence or reasons for the reversal of a selection are provided, and the film makers are given a chance to respond. And, in addition, the reasons and the identity of the complainants should be made public, as should the names of the members of the jury, unless there are exceptional reasons for privacy for an individual.

Rethinking AIDS is the largest organization of scientists, academics, doctors, journalists and others that questions the HIV=AIDS dogma, and one of our board members, Joan Shenton, CO-PRODUCER AND

WRITER of the film in question. We have an interest in data, such as that revealed by the stories in the film, that questions common beliefs about HIV and AIDS, and also are very concerned about journalistic and scientific censorship.

Regards,

David Crowe  
President, Rethinking AIDS

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