

CONTROVERSIAL CINEMA



PORTFOLIO

**Author: Lidia López García
Academic English**

**Unit Leader: Jayne Whistance
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1. INTRODUCTION, JUSTIFICATION, THE QUESTION, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

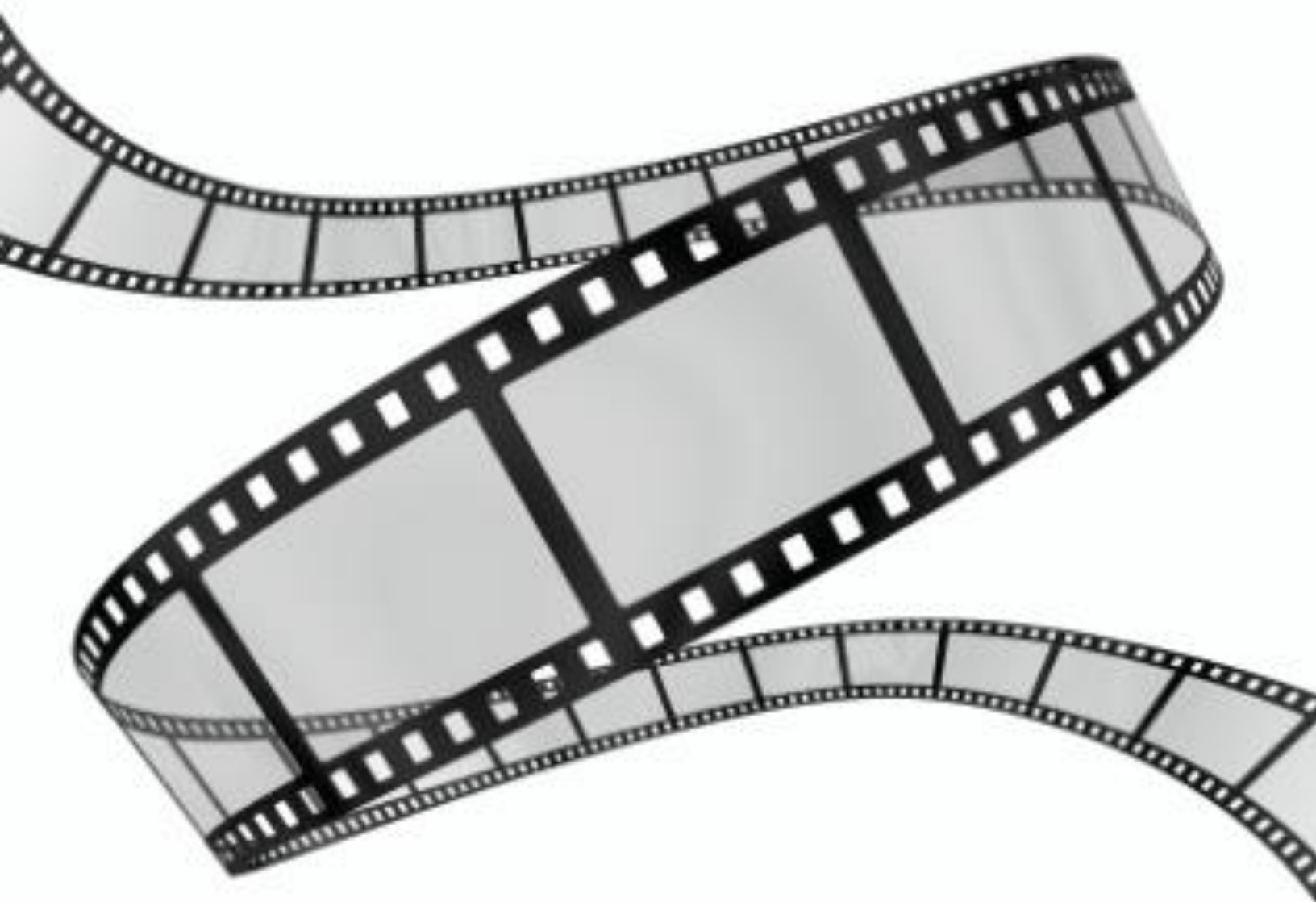
Controversial cinema is the theme that I have chosen to make this piece of academic writing.

In this work I have wanted to analyse several aspects that I think are important to know more in depth this theme. Also, I study those films in the history that although by its theme, its content or the form to make the film have had a big impact and there were prohibited in some country or denounce or condemn some parts or scenes or maybe completely.

The censorship have been in force along history. It is consider an oppression of communication material that may be deemed offensive, harmful, inappropriate or unnecessary for the government or the media as determined by a sensor. The information that the citizens receive, historical facts, books, poems and also the music. Censorship sometimes for worse, makes people come to no get all the information that exists. By this, I mean that in the history of cinema, has also been censored. And here's the point I wanted to get. Films censored in history.

"It's not just the books under fire now that worry me. It is the books that will never be written. The books that will never be read. And all due to the fear of censorship."

(Judy Blume)



2. DEVELOPMENT: STRUCTURE AND RESULTS

In the development of this work, I investigated the starting of the censorship and its evolution, as well as one censored film in the history. At the end I will make a global conclusion about all the information that I have acquired on all the process making this work.

The order that I will continue it will be the next:

2.1 Introduction

2.2 The first kiss the first scandal



2.1 INTRODUCTION

Definitely, one of the thrilling aspects of the cinema's history is the censorship. Its existence is as old as the cinema itself, and their stay is still today almost intact in several countries. Films that maybe in a country do not bother, in other countries are censored because of religious, social or political criteria.

Censorship has always been stand by to the film industry, applied sometimes because of the religion that a country profess, the politics or social ideas, leaving the public without seeing good stories.

Censorship came to the big screen, because cinema is an excellent element of propaganda, which can influence social, religious or political behaviour.

Censorship in cinema has gone through many stages. An evolution from a total ban on nudity and sex nearly a century ago, to the present where artists enjoy almost total freedom.

In Europa Press (2014) they published an article where they say that in the early twentieth century, cities like New York or Chicago had already created their companies engaged in censorship, which were offended to a simple kiss between a couple of protagonists. The century continued to advance several decades, and religious pressures make freedom in cinema was still very limited. Then comes the classification system. Movies for all ages, and for over 18 years. And Steven Spielberg, became the head of the classification for over 13 years, thanks to legendary titles like Gremlins and Indiana Jones.

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Other movies were XXX, in which oneself immediately thinks in porn but, as an example, the past films as *Midnight Cowboy* were classified this way because of the hardness and violence of the story. After reaching 60 and 70, the censors found offensive a scene with two naked bodies having sex, but they say anything of a horrific murder happened minutes earlier.

The blood is still taboo in the new century. In movies like *James Bond*, there are a lot of dead but little visible wound, and in *The Avengers*, an aliens kill hundreds of people but are not seen at any time. If the companies wanted to show blood or guts as in the film *Saving Private Ryan*, they should raise their qualification, and lose a potential audience.

2.2 THE FIRST KISS THE FIRST SCANDAL

To start I will make a trip back in time and I will go to 1896 because in my opinion, to learn something well you have to start from the beginning and on this date premiered the short film "The May Irwin Kiss" with it came the first debate, the first time that was spoken about censorship, indecency and scandal. Where began the controversial cinema that continues to our days and continues to censor films and much more talk.



When I saw the short film "The May Irwin Kiss", I did not believe that something like that would have shocked anyone. But this 20-second scene in which a man and a woman end up giving a kiss, caused a stir in the morals of the time and conversely it was very successful.

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May Irwin, the protagonist of "The May Irwin Kiss" or simply "The Kiss" was one of the first films to be screened in a cinema, but has its origin in a play, "The Widow Jones", premiered on Broadway in 1895. That play that was a musical comedy, ended with the kiss of the two protagonists, played by John C. Rice and May Irwin, which even then was a very popular actress.



The potential film (and commercial) that had the kiss did not go unnoticed a year later, when William Heise rolled a close-up of its two protagonists. On a black background, the interpreters speak very close and conclude their love conversation, he manages his moustache and reaches the expected moment of the kiss on the lips.



Initially, the images were intended to Kinetoscope, a former projection system in a vertical wooden box, which only supported individual viewings.

But as soon as the vitascope became operational, it allowed a large audience to see a projected on a screen. It opened in April 1896, at Koster & Bial's Music Hall in New York, a building on Sixth Avenue, in the corner of 24th Street, also known as The Corner.

A mostly male public lining up to attend one of the first film screenings in New York.

"The Kiss" became one of the great attractions of the room, but also sparked the first request for the censorship to intervene. The dominant Puritanism looked askance, for the first time, a scene that had belonged to the privacy of the bedroom was a giant-sized show to a large audience.

The private was becoming public and censor people though that could not bring anything good to the society. A clergy member defined the scene as "the lyric of stockyards". These comments may produce an effect called and encouraged many viewers, because *The Kiss* became the big hit of the year.



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Following the premiere, the press devoted long articles to The Kiss, like this one from The New York World where the scene is shred, frame by frame. This went so far that Edison, the owner of the rights, made a remake again in 1900 entitled "The Kiss", longer and more repetitive, which triggered numerous reactions of condemnation and was denounced as scandalous and pornographic. The Catholic Church claimed that the scene was banned and they defended prosecute those who kiss in public.

A contemporary critic of the time said:

"The show continues and extends on the lips of every one of them in a bestial way, besides the wide screen make the scene to gigantic proportions and it is repeated three times. Absolutely disgusting".

A century later, in 1999, The Kiss was declared "culturally relevant" and became part of the catalog of the Library of Congress, which has an extraordinary collection of funds on the history of cinema. Although at the time was a scandal, the cinema evolves as the viewer, so what was once a revolution and something new, as this kiss, we do not feel is something new or shocking currently, we have come to see every day and not only that because the film evolves and progresses more and actually more things are allowed on the big screen.

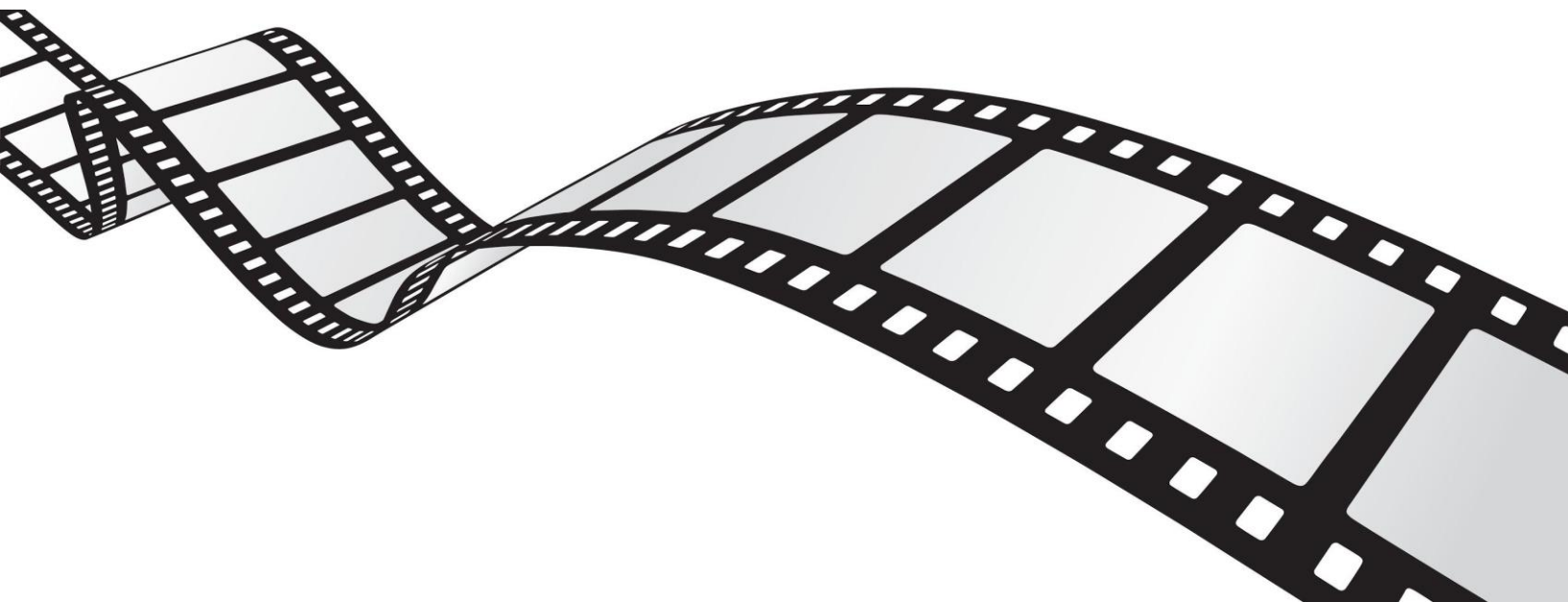


3. CONCLUSION

To sum up, the conclusions that have been reached for my part are that obviously in the past there was much more censorship because of the social and religious pressure, inasmuch as give a kiss in public there were prohibited and undoubtedly record this action and show it to hundreds of people in a cinema, as in the short film "The May Irwin Kiss" and then, as the mentality of people has evolved, plainly has developed the way to communicated in cinema, due to normally, oneself reflects in its creation what you see in your daily life, except for example, science fiction movies.

Nowadays we see records such as "The Exorcist" and this film not scare us because we are used to see different type of things all time. Also influence things like quality, that was worse than the current one and also that in the past they had not the advances we have now, but at that time, this film terrified people. It is clear that today we are more exposed to all kind of information and specially with Internet and social networks we have reached at a point where there are virtually no barriers to access any information, only self-censorship to which you can expose yourself not to see certain things. Today is not so much censorship that can exert a community, religion or country, if not self-censorship to which the author may exhibit when making a film type or another to its own.

This days everything is allowed in the cinema, and with the technological advances everyone can make an audiovisual product, so this world is no longer dedicated to those who have a lot of money to produce a movie, but for everyone who has a good idea. And this is the crux of the matter, for a film that lasts over time and to be recognized, the base is a good idea, whether people like it more or less.



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