
Appendix
to CBSC Decision 00/01-0715

Showcase re the movie *Destiny to Order*

I. The Complaint

The following complaint dated March 1, 2001 was sent to the CBSC (along with clippings from the complainant's television guide showing the program's time and channel) :

This complaint as per discussion Feb. 23, 2001 with Mr. R. Cohen "National Chair".

I write this letter knowing it won't amount to changing this world of filth. It may not cause much of a stir in some minds. My time is important. After a week of seeing these notes on my desk, I thought it will give me a feeling of satisfaction; writing and then receiving an answer and reply from you.

This "movie" was televised in the early afternoon without any "viewers discretion". Regardless of any excuse saying - We Forgot - a [*sic*] Oversight - an Error - such a movie should not have been televised at such a time. It must have been relished for those living in a Fuck Up World. Please excuse my language but I'm sure you catch my meaning ... It's a waste of someone's intelligence (even my little intelligence) to have to criticize this so called movie and its contents. I'm certain no well informed sponcer [*sic*], would want their name associated with such trash. Also; I would be lead to question: what age group - what working class - what future generation (childrens [*sic*] or students) was targeted to be reached by the sponcers [*sic*] with this vulgarity. I would say they lost their advertising money, their objectives and sadly; customers and future customers. Please be advised, I will be sending each H.Q. Sponcers [*sic*], a copy of this same letter. It's about time they open up their eyes and ears and take notice and make a stand and a real statement by their actions.

Mr. Cohen as per our discussion, I had spoken to Rogers Cable. First a new employee (salesman, first day on the job) so said, then a reply from his supervisor saying "We have no control, on specialty chanel [*sic*].

I, the same day, received a call from [a representative] of the C.R.T.C. We receive many, many such complaints. I emphasized to her, that I

was neither a prude, a senior (outdated) or a shut in (not a part of this new era of T.V.).

Please understand. I'm your basic person, the one who butters his bread with Becel Margarine; who has two daughters who buy Nivea Products. My son, one day may buy a Suburu [sic]. My wife and her friends never miss "Health Watch television, and we as a family choose "Shoppers" as our pharmacie [sic]. Imagin [sic] these are all sponcers [sic] who advertised during this sour of a movie.

Body Smarts candy was also a sponcer [sic], but I don't see how they intended to reach my teenagers and their friends.

How can sponcer's [sic] who stand by their names and profess and promote ...

Good Health (mental or physical) Good Nutrients, Good Appearance, claim to be the Best and Better then [sic] their competition and still be seen and heard [sic] alongside all this vulgarity and profanity.

Don't tell us you have no control over the stations, who you pay and who represents [sic] you by their programming.

It's up to you the Sponcer [sic], to Pull the Plug.

Enough said ...

* movie - Feb-20-2001 - tuesday 2.00 pm afternoon

chanel [sic]-42 - Destiny to Order

[The complainant also mentioned a program that aired on the Fox network. Fox originates in the United States and thus does not come within the CBSC's jurisdiction.]

* If your [sic] a lady do not read the contents of programs.

Contents

Movie - Destiny to Order ch-42

Don't F***ith me (5 times within 2 minutes)

I'll cut your Fu**en Balls off

Rip your F***** Face Off.

F*** you bitch - Eat my testicles

He ain't F*****g her now.

F*** you Mister - Fu**** Disk

Jesus Christ (2 times)

F***ing Dead

What the F*** is this

F***

thank God

Jesus

Ass Hole

F*** with Him
Bottle of broken beer in mouth
Lap dancing-nudity total
Who the F*** are you
For Gods sake
Shit (5 times 1 minute)

[The complainant then provides a similar list of offensive language from the program that aired on Fox.]

Mr. Cohen,

Please look into this kind of situation. Look around this world and you'll notice were [*sic*] in the process of sinking.

It's a good thing there were no small children in the house at the time of this incident.

I've been all over Canada and parts of Europe. I've seen everything. Our future generation need [*sic*] Protection and Leaders.

II. Broadcaster Response

The broadcaster responded to the complainant's letter on April 11, 2001 with the following:

We are in receipt of your letter to the CRTC, which was forwarded to us by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council. We regret that you were offended by the movie *Destiny to Order* which aired on Showcase February 20.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain Showcase's programming policy. It is our programming mandate at Showcase to offer an alternative to other broadcasters' offerings. One way we have achieved this distinction is to broadcast high-quality international drama series and world-class movies. The decision to air *Destiny to Order* is consistent with Showcase's mandate to be the number one destination for critically acclaimed programming from around the world.

Produced in 1990, this Canadian comedy stars Michael Ironside as a young writer whose life goes haywire when the characters in the novel he is writing come to life and involve him in their schemes.

While Showcase is proud to broadcast a wide range of films, it is our policy to carefully consider each film that is aired on the network. Before we decide to broadcast a film, our Programming Department screens it to ensure that it is suitable for broadcast. The determination of suitability includes ensuring that the broadcast would not contravene the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) Code of Ethics, the

CAB "Sex-Role Portrayal Code for Television and Radio Programming", and the "Voluntary Code Regarding Violence in Television Programming."

We regret that you were offended by the coarse language used in this film, however the network did run a viewer advisory during the broadcast of this movie. In order to assist our viewers in making their viewing choices, we always run a viewer advisory before such programs indicating whether they contain scenes of violence, nudity and/or coarse language. If appropriate, a "viewer discretion is advised" advisory is shown before the broadcast begins and after each commercial break. During our broadcast of *Destiny to Order*, the following advisory was displayed at the beginning of and throughout the broadcast of the movie: "The following program contains scenes with violence, nudity and coarse language. Viewer discretion is advised."

It is certainly not our intention to offend our viewers but to introduce them to the wealth of unique quality dramas from Canada and around the world. Not all shows will suit all tastes, but we have tried to construct the Showcase schedule to deliver something for everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to voice your opinion. We do appreciate feedback and hope that this letter has addressed some of your concerns.

III. Additional Correspondence

The complainant was unsatisfied with the broadcaster's response and attached the following letter to his Ruling Request dated May 1, 2001:

Please note the absurdity -

1. We have achieved a distinction to broadcast high quality international drama.
2. to broadcast critically acclaimed [*sic*] programming from around the world.
3. We (Alliace [*sic*]) screen it (movie) to ensure it is suitable for broadcast.
4. We did run a viewer advisory during broadcast throughout the movie.

Please note with simply my intelligence as that of a child, I would see and understand that this movie was simply not of high-quality nor suitable for broadcast.

If this movie and contents is the norm and this movie portrays us as such, then we have a problem.

A problem in our Society and one in the organization (CBSC). You are not representing us: as what moral and upstanding citizen, and the average individual needs. I saw the law, but I do not agree with your codes persay [*sic*]. If your [*sic*] going to promote d'excellence and wish to teach someone what is the opposite of your creed, then please sit down and watch - Destiny to Order.