
APPENDIX
To
Showcase re the movie *Muriel's Wedding* (CBSC Decision 02/03-882,
January 30, 2004)

I. The Complaint

The following complaint dated March 14, 2003 was sent to CBSC:

Canadian Broadcast Standards Council
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

I am writing to articulate a series of grievances regarding recent television broadcasts. These complaints are intended to enable dialogue & debate about broadcasting policy & ARE NOT intended as indictments of the broadcasters.

[References to other files have been omitted.]

In the recent broadcast of the movie "Muriel's Wedding", (Showcase, March 6, 2003; 1:00 PM) the word "Fuck" is uttered at least twice, & there is also a portrayal of post-coital nudity, contrary to the 9:00PM threshold.

[References to other files have been omitted.]

Thank you for your consideration.

II. Broadcaster Response

The broadcaster responded to the complainant's letter on July 4, 2003 with the following:

Dear Mr. C,

Showcase appreciates and considers all viewer feedback and we thank you for taking the time to express your concerns about the movie ***Muriel's Wedding***, which aired March 6 at 1 p.m. ET/PT on our network.

As I have indicated to you in a previous letter, it is our programming mandate at Showcase to offer an alternative to other broadcasters' offerings. One way that we have achieved this distinction is to broadcast high-quality international drama series and world-class films. The decision to air ***Muriel's Wedding***, an award-winning Australian film, is consistent with Showcase's mandate to be the number one destination for critically-acclaimed programming from around the world.

Muriel's Wedding is a delightful, wacky look at a woman who discovers the joys of being herself. The film does contain language which some viewers may find offensive. Showcase is very conscious of the need for viewer advisories and we take them very seriously. The advisory which airs during the movie warns of the nudity, sexuality and coarse language in the film.

However, as a result of your letter, we have decided that we will air a version of ***Muriel's Wedding*** in which the swearing is muted whenever the film is broadcast before 9 p.m. on Showcase.

Thank you for drawing our attention to this matter and I hope that we have addressed your concerns.