

For Immediate Release
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"Damned in the USA" to be shown at ALA Annual Conference

A screening of the controversial film "Damned in the USA" will be shown on Monday, June 28, at 2 p.m., at the Hilton Riverside/Towers, Napoleon Ballroom, during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans.

The screening, open to conference registrants only, is cosponsored by the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Association of American Publishers Freedom to Read Committee.

"Damned in the USA," produced and directed by Paul Yule and co-produced by Jonathan Stack for Britain's Channel Four, presents a look at censorship in America.

The documentary tackles everything from the tactics of the Rev. Donald Wildmon, of the American Family Association, whose lawsuit trying to stop U.S. distribution of the film held up release for almost a year, to the controversy surrounding the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) funding of the arts, Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs, Andres Serrano's notorious "Piss Christ" and the rap lyrics of 2 Live Crew. The film received an International Emmy for Outstanding Arts Documentary.

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"Damned in the USA" features interviews with individuals from various sides of the issue including the Rev. Wildmon; Christie Hefner, Playboy chairman and chief executive officer; Joe Reilly, president of Morality in Media, and Dennis Barrie, former director of The Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, who was indicted in a controversy surrounding an exhibit of Mapplethorpe's photographs.

Stack, the film's co-producer, will be present to discuss the controversy surrounding the film and the difficulty of getting it shown in this country.

For more information, call the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom at 800-545-2433, ext. 4223.