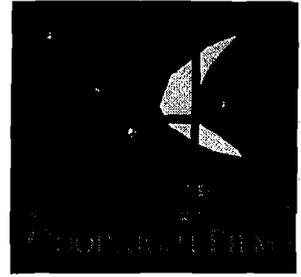


March 21, 2007

Re: Committee Bill No. 6818
"AN ACT CONCERNING A RIGHT OF PUBLICITY"



To: The Honorable Andrew McDonald, Senate Chairman, The Honorable Michael Lawlor, House Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Alex Calvo (a.k.a., A.D. Calvo). I have been a Connecticut resident for most of my adult life. About two years ago, I became a fulltime independent filmmaker. Within a very short amount of time, my screenwriting and directing efforts managed to gain the support of Oscar winning producer, Karen Baldwin, and Grammy winning musician, Michael Bolton.

I own and operate a small digital film production company called, Goodnight Film (www.GoodnightFilm.com). Thanks, in part, to CT's film production tax credits, this summer I will be shooting my first feature film, *THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS*. The film will be shot entirely in CT, and although it's low-budget, the project still has the support of Sonalysts Studios and various other film industry veterans, including Karen Baldwin (who is an executive producer on the project).

I am writing today to voice my strong opposition against Bill No. 6818. I think it's best for me to use an example of how this bill would be detrimental to my work as a filmmaker. It goes without saying that this bill would also have many negative repercussions on CT's burgeoning film industry as a whole. In essence it is an attempt to silence filmmakers from telling their stories, and that's no way to lure film productions to our state.

One of my pet projects has been a documentary of celebrity 'shock' sculptor, Daniel Edwards. Daniel is a classically trained sculptor who happens to sculpt celebrities (e.g., Britney Spears, Ted Williams) and more recently politicians (e.g., Hillary Clinton, Fidel Castro). I can assure you that Mr. Edwards does not have the approval of these public figures when he creates his highly controversial depictions; and nor should he have to. Because, what he does is no different than what a satirical cartoonist working for *The New Yorker* magazine does. In my opinion, the 'shocking' thing isn't Daniel's art; it's the fact that certain celebrities would choose to censor his—and hence my—freedom of artistic expression in order to protect their 'public' personas.

I can understand—in this era of digital media and Web 2.0—why an established public figure might find it convenient to silence art that can potentially put them in an uncomfortable or embarrassing light, but that doesn't make it right. When you choose to become a person of the public, your image (and public story) also become public...they have benefited from that publicity and it is selfish to try to have it both ways.

Thank you for your time. I hope you'll seriously consider the repercussions of this bill. As an Argentine immigrant and US citizen, I feel that this bill is un-American.

Sincerely,

Alex Calvo, Producer-Writer-Director
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