



Media Release

ABC TV Censors Own Documentary

At the 11th Hour and as a result of extraordinary political interference by the presenter of the ABC's Compass Program, Australia's National Broadcaster has censored 3 key sequences from the TV version of award-winning film maker Janine Hosking's outstanding documentary *Mademoiselle and the Doctor*.



Insiders say that presenter, Geraldine Doogue, refused to read a disclaimer at the beginning of tonight's screening (June 5) and then apparently stormed out of a late-week programming meeting. This was followed by a review of the film by Professor Ian Hickie of depression lobby group Beyond Blue. Not surprisingly Hickie insisted that all segments dealing with Exit Bags be removed from the film. The ABC then rolled over.

Exit has recently criticised Beyond Blue in the book, *Killing me Softly, VE and the Road to the Peaceful Pill*.

In a call from the ABC to Exit director Dr Philip Nitschke, it was explained that the changes, that had been made counter to the express wishes of filmmaker Janine Hosking, were necessary for "moral" rather than "legal" reasons. The ABC refused the option of pixellating the removed segments.

In bending to the staunchly Catholic whims of Doogue, the ABC has disgraced itself in failing to follow due process and it would seem allowing Doogue - along with the depression group Beyond Blue - to call the shots and decide between themselves the type of film that the Australian public should be allowed to view.

The cut sequences can be viewed on the Exit website:
www.exitinternational.net

Geraldine Doogue, Presenter of ABC Religion Program " Compass"

END