

Films about Censorship

[Centre for Free Expression]

Film	Director	Year	Country	Length	IMDB	Notes
Cleanflix	Andrew James & Joshua Ligairi	2012	USA	93 min	6.7	When a small Utah-based edited movie company is caught sanitizing Hollywood's copyrighted films of sex, nudity, profanity, and violence, Hollywood struck back. Outraged over the unauthorized editing of their work, prominent filmmakers began to speak out, thrusting the two groups into an intense legal, theoretical, and moral battle that would last six years before coming to a shocking conclusion.
The Cleaners	Hans Block & Moritz Riesewiek	2018	USA	88 min	7.2	Dive into the hidden industry of digital cleaning, which rids the Internet of unwanted violence, porn and political content. Who is controlling what we see...and what we think?
Cradle Will Rock	Tim Robbins	1999	USA	132 min	6.8	A true story of politics and art in the 1930s USA, centered around a leftist musical drama and attempts to stop its production.
The Front	Martin Ritt	1976	USA	95 min	7.3	Howard Price, a restaurant cashier, poses as a writer so that blacklisted authors can submit their work through him, but the injustice around him pushes him to take a stand when he is forced to testify at an investigative congressional committee hearing.

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Howl	Robert Epstein & Jeffery Friedman	1998	USA	84 min	6.7	It's San Francisco in 1957, and an American masterpiece is put on trial. Howl, the film, recounts this dark moment using three interwoven threads: the tumultuous life events that led a young Allen Ginsberg to find his true voice as an artist, society's reaction (the obscenity trial), and mind-expanding animation that echoes the startling originality of the poem itself.
Inherit the Wind	Stanley Kramer	1960	USA	128 min	8.1	Scoped Money Trial: A small Tennessee town gained national attention in 1925 when a biology schoolteacher was arrested for violating state law and teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in the classroom
Jesus of Montreal	Denys Arcand	1989	Canada	118 min	7.5	A group of actors put on an unorthodox, but acclaimed Passion Play which incites the opposition of the Catholic Church while the actors' lives themselves begin to mirror the Passion itself.
Manuscripts Don't Burn	Mohammad Rasoulof	2013	Iran	126 min	7.2	Drawing from the true story of the Iranian government's 1995 attempted murder of several prominent writers and intellectuals, the film has two agents looking for a manuscript that chronicles the murders. The film imagines a repressive regime so pervasive that even the morally righteous are subsumed or cast aside.
Monty Python: Life of Brian	Terry Jones	1979		1 hr 34 min	8.1	The story of Brian of Nazareth (Graham Chapman), born on the same day as Jesus of Nazareth, who takes a different path in life that leads to the same conclusion. Brian joins a political resistance movement aiming to get the Romans out of Judea. Brian scores a victory of sorts when he manages to paint political slogans on an entire wall in the city of Jerusalem. The movement is not very effective but somehow Brian becomes a prophet and gathers his own following. His fate is sealed however and he lives a very short life.

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The Moralist (Il moralista)	Giorgio Bianchi	1959	Italy	120 min	6.7	Agostino is de facto head of a censorship board whose double life as a nightclub owner raises some questions as to his censorial judgment.
<i>Nobody Speak: Trials of the Free Press</i>	Brian Knappenberger	2017	USA	1 hr 35 min	6.5	The trial between Hulk Hogan and Gawker Media pitted privacy rights against freedom of the press, and raised important questions about how big money can silence media. This film is an examination of the perils and duties of the free press in an age of inequality.
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich	Caspar Wrede	1970	Norway	1 hr, 40 min	7.1	Ivan Denisovich Shukhov has been sentenced to a camp in the Soviet gulag system, accused of becoming a spy after being captured briefly by the Germans as a prisoner of war during World War II. He is innocent, but is sentenced to ten years in a forced labor camp. Based on the life of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.
The People Vs. Larry Flynt	Milos Forman	1996	USA	130 min	7.3	Based on the true story of the notorious Hustler publisher who was sued by the Religious Right, paralyzed by a fanatic's bullet, and how he became a defender of free speech..
Persepolis	Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi	2007	USA?	1 hr 35 min	8.0	In 1970s Iran, Marjane 'Marji' Satrapi watches events through her young eyes and her idealistic family of a long dream being fulfilled of the hated Shah's defeat in the Iranian Revolution of 1979. As Marji grows up, she witnesses first hand how the new Iran, now ruled by Islamic fundamentalists, has become a repressive tyranny on its own. With Marji dangerously refusing to remain silent at this injustice, her parents send her abroad to Vienna to study for a better life. However, this change proves an equally difficult trial. Even when she returns home, Marji finds that both she and homeland have changed too much and the young woman and her loving family must decide where she truly belongs

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The Rite	Ingmar Bergman	1969	Sweden	70 min	NR	A judge in an unnamed country interviews three actors, together and singly, provoking them while investigating a pornographic performance for which they may face a fine.
Shadows of Liberty	Jean-Philippe Tremblay	2012	UK	93 min	7.9	Shadows of Liberty reveals the extraordinary truth behind the news media: censorship, cover-ups, and corporate control. Filmmaker Jean-Philippe Tremblay takes a journey through the darker corridors of the US media, where global conglomerates call the shots. For decades, their overwhelming influence has distorted news journalism and compromised its values. Tracing the story of media manipulation through the years, Shadows of Liberty poses a crucial question: why have we let a handful of powerful corporations write the news? We're left in no doubt-- media reform is urgent and freedom of the press is fundamental
<i>Shut up and Sing</i>	Barbara Kopple and Cecilia Peck	2006	USA	1 hr 33 min	7.6	With the US invasion of Iraq about to begin, one of the Dixie Chicks vents off the cuff in concert about being ashamed of US President George W. Bush . This statement sparks a firestorm of organized and personal right wing attacks against the Chicks for daring to think they have the right to express a negative personal opinion about the President.
Spotlight	Tom McCarthy	2015	USA	129 min	8.1	The true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions. When the newspaper's tenacious 'Spotlight' team of reporters delve into allegations of sexual abuse of children by clergy in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston's religious, legal, and government establishment.

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This Film Is Not Yet Rated	Kirby Dick	2006	UK/USA	98 min	7.5	Expose of the inner workings of the most influential censorship group in the United States - the notoriously secretive MPAA film ratings board.
Trumbo	Jay Roach	2015	USA	124 min	7.5	Documents the rise of Dalton Trumbo's career in Hollywood and his subsequent public humiliation for being among the 'Hollywood Ten' blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee in the 1940s for communist associations. Exiled and penniless, he wrote under various pseudonyms, and even won an Academy Award. Viewed by many as a moral and just man, Dalton stood for the American value and right of free expression.
Viva Zapatero!	Sabina Guzzanti	2005	Italy	80 min	7.1	A 2005 documentary by Sabina Guzzanti telling her side of the story regarding the conflict with Silvio Berlusconi over a late-night TV political satire show broadcast on RAI-3.
Why Be Good? Sexuality & Censorship in Early Cinema	Elaina Archer	2007	USA	70 min	6.2	Explores the history of sex and scandal of early Hollywood through rare footage, interviews, and more. Includes Mary Pickford, Gloria Swanson, Douglas Fairbanks, and Rudolph Valentino, to name a few.