

FILM REVIEW: 'Can We Take a Joke?' Indicts P.C. Police for Stifling Comedians' Freedom of Speech

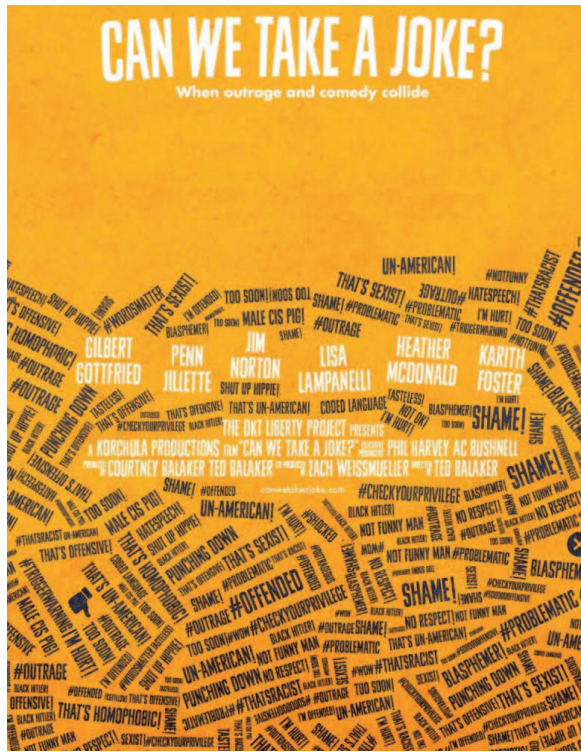
By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

George Carlin (1937-2008) once said, "It's the duty of a comic to see where the line is drawn, and cross over it." In many respects, he was merely doubling down on the philosophy of his mentor Lenny Bruce (1925-1966), who never saw a taboo he wasn't willing to bust.

Lenny paid a steep price career-wise for walking the walk and talking the talk, as he was often arrested for obscenity just for doing his stand-up act. And although he was ultimately vindicated posthumously, having paved the way for future generations of irreverent entertainers, one can't help but wonder whether those hard-earned advances might be in jeopardy.

That is the contention of a host of comedians appearing in "Can We Take a Joke," a documentary suggesting that the current climate of political correctness is having a chilling effect on their freedom of speech. Directed by Ted Balaker, the film includes commentary by such outspoken First Amendment advocates as Penn Jillette, Lisa Lampanelli, Adam Carolla and Gilbert Gottfried, who lost his gig as the voice of the Aflac duck over a joke that went too far, in the estimation of his corporate sponsor.

They uniformly lament a recent cultural development reflected in mem-



bers of the Millennial Generation's being easily offended. "It's almost like people have gotten soft," observes one comic, "If you're easily outraged, please don't come to a comedy show."

It's not as if Carlin didn't envision this development. For, before he passed away, he warned that, "All the censorship is coming from the P.C. people on the left on college campuses." This is ironic since universities once prided themselves on providing a safe space to express unpopular views.

Excellent ★★★ 1/2
Unrated
Running time: 74 minutes

FILM REVIEW: 'Jason Bourne' Back for Another Riveting Adventure as Dashing Rogue Assassin



In this fifth movie in the franchise, Jason Bourne is still considered an outlaw by CIA Director Robert Dewey (Tommy Lee Jones) and CIA analyst Heather Lee (Alicia Vikander)

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

A Jason Bourne movie just isn't the same without Jason Bourne, as the producers found out the hard way in 2012 when they made "The Bourne Legacy" without the iconic title character. Fortunately, they've since settled their differences with star Matt Damon who returned to reprise the role of the dashing, renegade CIA agent which he originated and played to perfection in the espionage franchise's first three installments.

The movie marks the reunion of Damon and Paul Greengrass, director of both "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004) and "The Bourne Ultimatum" (2007), the series' most successful episodes at the box office. While this offering might not quite measure up to those in terms of high-octane action, it nevertheless makes up for the relatively-subdued atmosphere with riveting cloak and dagger intrigue.

The point of departure is Athens, and a decade since we last saw Jason. He's now fully recovered from the amnesia that had previously plagued

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