

The Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs.  
H.M. Government.  
Whitehall.  
LONDON.

8<sup>TH</sup> January 2005.

Dear Madam.

BBC.  
Jerry Spring – the Opera.

For your consideration I enclose a copy of our letter to the Chairman of  
the Governors..

No response is necessary.

Yours faithfully.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'D' followed by a 'T' and a 'K'.

D/T. Kemp

The Chairman to the Governors.  
British Broadcasting Corporation.  
Langham Place.  
LONDON.

8th January 2005.

Dear Sir.

Jerry Springer - the Opera.

I have not seen the play not do I intend to watch the presentation on National BBC television.

After reading the various review and comments I regret the continuing decision to broadcast this objectionable item on television

I enclose copy letters shown in the national press today; and fully support the views expressed; especially since this production appears to be *de-grading* without any virtues of art, culture or politics.

It is regretted that the use of obscene language is common today, both as expletives and otherwise:  
presumably it is felt for a need for such use in portraying present day situations. However, I still consider the then use of such obscene and unacceptable language as both demeaning to the user and an indication of a low knowledge and comprehension of the English Language.

In view of what I consider to be the insensitive handling of this matter and the necessity to maintain some good taste and decency in television productions I am forwarding a copy of this letter the Secretary of State for Cultural Affairs and to the regulatory body "Ofcom" so that it may be considered in relation to the renewal of the BBC Charter.

I remain, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

D.T. Kemp

B.M. Kemp (Mrs).

## Springer on a roll

The BBC's planned broadcast of Jerry Springer — the Opera is likely to offend a significant proportion of those who pay their television licence fee (Leaders, January 7). We believe the BBC should adhere to its guidelines on taste and decency. This is not about censorship — indeed we argue for free speech. But what is the point of broadcasting codes if broadcasters don't stick to them? People have the right to peaceful protest and many will. Given the BBC has been taken aback by the thousands of complaints to its switchboard, it seems incredible that they are still planning to go ahead with Saturday's transmission.

We have seen the theatre production and so can talk from an informed position. It's not merely about the language, sexual content and blasphemy but also its moral emptiness. It doesn't help that it comes so soon after one of the main Christian festivals.

**Joel Edwards**  
Evangelical Alliance

● Even if the 15,000 complaints to the BBC were orchestrated, this does not invalidate them — those who demonstrated against the war in Iraq did so as a result of organisation and publicity. You also miss the substantive point: the complaints about this show are less to do with the swearing than a grossly offensive portrayal of God and Christ. Since the BBC would never portray Mohammed in such a way, why is it acceptable for the central figures of Christianity to be so denigrated? We quite rightly treat Muslims with courtesy and respect, but when it comes to Christians, it seems fine to give them a good kicking — and to laugh while doing so.

**Rev David Baker**  
Surbiton, Surrey