

Why I object to Object (and all the other prohibitionist groups)

Posted on [January 2, 2013](#) by [Edie Lamort](#)

Our striptease correspondent Edie Lamort takes on the anti-sex “feminists” who attack and want to censor what she does. [Edie is now on Twitter](#) and welcomes discussion and feedback.

We live in an increasingly puritanical age. The party of the Noughties is definitely over and times are tough. Words such as ‘objectification’, ‘hypersexualisation’ and ‘pornification’ are thrown around in an accusatory manner. Like a baying mob in a medieval court crying ‘Whore’ or ‘Witch’ creating an atmosphere of fear and guilt. This lexicon of fear is now frequently drawn upon by our media in a childish effort to explain all our social ills but it doesn’t quite work. There is something amiss, something that doesn’t quite fit.

I am a stripper and I am told that my work ‘objectifies’ me and, as a consequence, all other women, but I’m always puzzled by this denunciation. It seems to be an immature and one-dimensional way of describing human interaction. When I’m at work I interact with all kinds of people as a human being. Of course some groups of guys are drunk and immature but most aren’t, that is more to do with group mentality than what they really feel about us. In my job I meet many people from all ends of the social spectrum and people react in different ways. How you view something is based on your personality and your life experiences. On the whole the audiences in strip clubs are fun and as a performer I enjoy playing up to that. If I am viewed solely as an object then why do the customers want to talk to me? This does not indicate ‘objectification’. Yes they are visually stimulated but we all are and I regard it as one facet of communication and understanding. We’ve all heard the statistic that over 90% of communication is non verbal. Human interaction and discovery happen on many levels so that of course includes the visual level. In a [split second](#) we make a multitude of judgments and opinions.

A key word here is performer and one reason why it is so important to stand up to anti-sex ‘feminism’. I strip but I also do other things. I have always been in bands; playing guitar and singing. I have performed Burlesque and been a session singer. I have been on tours of the country and performed at festivals, been on TV and radio and I am once again viewed on many levels. I am hated by some and liked by some, depending on their personal triggers. Some like the music, some are just checking out my cleavage. Some of the girls tell me I’m inspiring, others hate me and won’t talk to me. It’s more about them than me. I find it strange to say one form of performance is so very different from the other.

Censorship is dangerous and it has gotten to the point where my job now feels like a feminist statement. Something necessary and important to maintain. Stripping and all the Erotic Industries are like the canary down the mine in terms of freedom. If we go, you’re next. We are like the first line of defence and it worries me where it will lead. These

'feminists' are winding back the decades and need to ask themselves 'where does this end?' It seems very strange that they want to encourage slut-shaming. If stripping is banned and even made illegal then what will be the next target in their sights? Burlesque and Pole dancing are the obvious next steps along with [Page 3](#) and music videos. Then what will be attacked after that? Edgy theatrical performance such as many [Matthew Bourne productions](#)? After all, they are sexual. Then will we regress back to the days were a woman couldn't walk down a street with a short skirt because she'd be called a 'tart'? If we go, you're next; the walls will close in around you too, to the point where the prohibitionists will eventually find themselves in the cross hairs. Censorship is a dangerous road.

I find these anti-sex 'feminists' quite fearful and paranoid, in stark contrast to my stripper friends who are bold, witty and strong. If you can strut your stuff on stage and captivate an audience you most definitely have an ego! I know I certainly do. We are told we must have low self-esteem but in fact I hold myself in quite high regard. I'm not fashion-model-perfect, I'm getting a bit of cellulite and I have a varicose vein developing on my lower left leg but I don't care. I still think I'm sexy and I know how to work an audience. I spend time practicing on the pole and making costumes; I want to be looked at and for my efforts to be appreciated. New art forms begin in the 'deviant' subcultures and it is where boundaries will be tested and new ideas will develop. It worries me deeply that these groups feel it's OK to attack a female art form. Pole and neo-Burlesque have evolved from the creativity of strippers.

They attack those who are unrepresented as they are fearful of taking on real institutions of inequality. For example they tiptoe around tackling religion. Campaigning against a strip club is easy for a number of reasons. You have a lot of social prejudice on your side and many dancers also have other jobs, are studying or have family commitments. The stigma prevents them from speaking out, as they must maintain their cover. I know part-time strippers who are also doing office jobs, who are training as paramedics, who are working as nurses and in various other jobs. They are unable to 'come out' for fear of losing said other job. For this reason too there is a lot of ignorance about the dancers and the job, and it is easy for prohibitionists to prey on established fears and prejudices.

What groups such as [Object](#) do is polarize the debate and this again is very frustrating. It is thrown to either extreme of 'ban everything' or 'save everything'. These groups have created an atmosphere where no one can raise any problems or 'out' any bad management due to the fact that it will be used as ammunition against all of us. This should be an issue of workers rights not a moral panic. If there are any problems, such as stage fees being too high, it should be treated as an employment issue. Fair working practices should be encouraged and enshrined in law, rather than a hysterical moralistic response, where the only solution given is an out right ban. I would encourage strippers to join a union such as [Equity](#) or [GMB](#) so the debate can be refocused on to workers rights.

Ironically their campaign reinforces an old and outdated view of women and if they succeed it will make things more dangerous. What can be achieved by censorship and winding back the decades? One of the most important social advances of recent decades has been the sexual emancipation of women and as a direct consequence of this; men, gay, lesbian and trans-gender people in our society. This is a very important step and one to be defended strongly against those who would take it away from us. Women's sexuality and sexual expression is something that has always been feared and suppressed, and a woman challenging this is always derided. Remember [Madonna](#) in the 80s? She provoked outrage by being in command of her sexual self and expressing it.

This conservative view of women will drag us all back to a more uptight and dangerous society. One of the most dangerous things about the current crusade against strip clubs is the way that it perpetrates divisive ideology regarding women. Harking back to the days of women falling either into the category of 'good woman' or 'fallen', the Madonna or the whore, rather than many millions of individuals with a variety of needs and desires. This pseudo-morality makes life difficult and dangerous for those of us who are different and would fall into the 'bad woman' category. It also gives misogynists license to abuse and blame the existence of 'bad' women for their actions. The control of women's sexual expression is at the heart of patriarchy and oppression, which is ironically what the prohibitionist 'feminists' want to do. If all strip clubs were banned tomorrow would that end rape? Definitely not. In fact it would be counter-productive as it would reinforce negative stereotypes and make sex more hidden and shameful. This is a social purity campaign dressed up as feminism.

In a [recent article](#) [Kat Banyard](#) of UK Feminista spoke in general about all the numerous things she disapproves of including the Dove commercials. The tone of her argument began more and more to sound like a condemnation of idolatry, the worship of images, with very religious tones. I think most people have more of a sense of balance than she gives them credit for. It ended up sounding like she'd prefer women to be covered or hidden, the thread of this thinking runs all the way back to religious controls, centuries back. This is not progress at all, this is a very old fashioned view.

There is also a very myopic obsession with females in the Erotic Industries and when you ask them about males they avoid the question. Difficult questions are always avoided by these groups. It is a moral panic that focuses only on women being looked at by men. What are their views on gay clubs that feature striptease? I have danced for gay women and there are male strippers. Why is this not attacked with the same vehemence? It seems to be very disproportionately aimed at keeping women 'pure' and a poorly concealed hatred towards heterosexual men.

The people who patronize us the most are in fact the 'feminists' who wish to outlaw us. If anyone objectifies us it is these people. Our opinions and decisions are not considered to be worth listening to. If any stripper, sex worker or adult film actress tries to explain the reasons they do their job they are told they are institutionalized, have Stockholm Syndrome or are too stupid to understand what they are saying.

When a small group of dancers went to parliament during the consultation of the [Policing and Crime Act of 2009](#), that introduced the nil policy legislation, one of them tried to speak. She tried to explain to the panel that she enjoyed her job and was fine. She was displaying a contrary viewpoint that was incompatible with the ideology of the 'debate'. This obviously riled the 'feminists' on the panel and they dismissed her opinions. Similarly on a radio show debate a dancer was dismissed with the comment, 'Oh you must have been abused.' If you do not parrot the correct ideology, you will be persecuted by these groups, and they can be very vicious.

The current left wing 'feminist' movement is something that dismays me and my experience of them has been shocking. Instead of being progressive and open-minded they have shown themselves to be infested with busybody, neurotic, hand-ringing, middle-aged, middle-class, academic 'feminists' who judge and prohibit. When was it that the left became so Victorian? How did that just creep up and where do you go from here? A few months ago I was speaking to a friend about this. She's quite an extreme performance artist and she mused that there needs to be

something new. 'I don't know' she said, 'something beyond what is now called feminism. I'm going to call myself a Femfuturist! Like a feminist but with out all the issues around sex.'

[Tweet](#) 20 [Like](#) 36 [1](#)  submit

▲ [Star](#)

This entry was posted in [Sex](#), [UK](#) and tagged [censorship](#), [edie lamort](#), [feminism](#), [kat banyard](#), [london](#), [morality](#), [moron](#), [morons](#), [object](#), [objectfication](#), [objectification](#), [sex](#), [sexuality](#), [stripper](#), [stripping](#), [striptease](#), [uk](#), [uk feminista](#) by [Edie Lamort](#). Bookmark the [permalink \[http://moronwatch.net/2013/01/why-i-object-to-object-and-all-the-other-prohibitionist-groups.html\]](http://moronwatch.net/2013/01/why-i-object-to-object-and-all-the-other-prohibitionist-groups.html) .

ONE THOUGHT ON “WHY I OBJECT TO OBJECT (AND ALL THE OTHER PROHIBITIONIST GROUPS)”



jemima101

on [January 2, 2013 at 12:43 pm](#) said:

Oh lord, Object, sadly they block anyone who does not join the true faith, like Normas and others debate is the last thing they want.

Having been encountering the antis for a while by the evil crime of being a literate sex worker i have reached one conclusion, it is a faith, it has all the criteria, including the belief in saving sinners, no need for evidence, anger towards heretics and tenants that must be adhered too.

AS for the left, it is sadly nothing new, remember it is the labour pary that introduced the Obscene Publications act, under vera bairds guidance (a great supporter of object). Consenting acts were criminilized because OMG porn. The Stalinist left has always been a feature of this country, even as the RCP have died.

There are sex positive pro sex work feminists though, I know them, I am one. They understand that without bodily autonomy feminism is nothing but people telling women what to do.

[Switch to our mobile site](#)

