

“So long Disneyland’s sad clowns”:
Unanswered messages from Intertalent concerning an
unauthorized screening of the films of Guy Debord

On 5 March 2006, we organized a public screening of the films of Guy Debord in New York City.¹ The month before this screening took place, we received a couple of weird emails from a *mec* named Julien Messemackers, who identified himself as an employee of Intertalent, which is the agency that “represents” the Debord estate. Undaunted by these emails, which we reported and reproduced verbatim (with no commentary) as news to the New York City Independent Media Center,² we went on with the screening, for which we did not request – and of course did not receive – any official permission.

To date, these emails have never appeared on the NOT BORED! website. But we thought it good to publish them today on account of receiving yet another weird email from Mr. Messemackers (see below).

Here’s the first message, reproduced with no changes or corrections made to it. The discerning reader will see that this message forwards to us a message originally written by François Samuelson (also at Intertalent, it would appear) and then CC’d back to him when the message was forwarded to us.

From Julien Messemackers
Sent Wednesday, February 1, 2006 12:38 pm
To Info@notbored.org
Cc François samuelson
Subject Guy DEBORD Retrospective

Dears Sir,

Ms. Alice DEBORD got an information according to which you are putting together a retrospective of Guy Debord Films in New York City on Sunday 5th March.

Since we are the worldwide exclusive agent estate, could you please explain who did you get the rights from and where did you get the reels from ?

I look forward to hearing from you upon receipt of this mail.

¹ Our account of this screening appears here: <http://www.notbored.org/debord-screening.html>.

² Still available here: <https://nyc.indymedia.org/en/2006/02/64455.shtml>.

Regards,
François SAMUELSON

We did not respond. For what was there to say?

And here's the second message, also reproduced without changes or corrections.

From Julien Messemackers
Sent Monday, February 6, 2006 1:36 pm
To notbored@optonline.net
Subject Re: Guy DEBORD Retrospective

You make money with Guy DEBORD's work (30 dollars for the screening, woow !

the price you paid for the dvd's !! Good business for you!) but please don't call you situationist or something like this, better small traders. Poor guys of you... So long disneyland's sad clowns !

Once again, we did not reply.

Unknown to us, Mr. Messemackers saw our postings to the New York City Independent Media Center (NYC IMC) and, two months later, posted a comment of his own. Here it is, reproduced without any change or correction.

i wrote the weir mails
Apr 17, 2006 02:23PM EDT
julien messemackers

To NOT BORED !,

This message is my personal opinion.

I'm surprised to see my emails published on your website. Its not very fair of yours not to published your own sarcastic answer, which would have explain my negative reaction. That way, its very easy to make me out to be the bad guy. I was very interested to read the different reactions from supporters of NOT BORED ! whom I want to answer.

Intertalent, where I work, is an artistic and litterary agency in Paris which represents Guy Debord's estate and Alice Debord. You can find the entire talent list of the agency on the unifrance website.

Since Alice Debord authorized the screening of his movies, I don't think that Guy Debord "will roll over in his grave" to know that Alice Debord tries to keep an eye open, without consideration of money, on what is done with his work, films, books, drawings and who are the people who wants to promote his works and thought. Guy Debord's philosophy don't give anybody the rights to make whatever people wants with it and he was very concerned about this.

Guy Debord's work is wellknown as so from museums, festivals, networks, publishers, students, audience and university from all over the world, even in the US. Did you thought that you were the only people in America knowing Guy Debord and the situationists ? It seems a bit presumptuous of yours.

If smb told me, I would have been able to understand the functioning of NOT BORED ! as describes by Bill. I dont understand why you didn't simply answer our first email, except by your mail which created anymosity. And agressivity from JPL³ who seems to be the exact stupid type of the "more situationist than the situationist and we fuck everybody" . Can i remind him that the copyright is an american law some country fight againts during the WTO talkings ? There is no copyright in Europe. So before telling bullshit my friend, open your small brain full of pizza.

Discovering your method and all your aggressive reactions gives me a strange idea of you are. Nobody from NOT BORED ! told me that my email will be published and people can react on it and insult me, without any possibility of reply for me. Is that your idea of equity ? You make me think of a popular tribunal who declares gulty without trial.

Anyway, I hope that you had a good retrospective. Its a shame that this event has been organised by people who seems not to be bored by their own sens of responsibility.

³ JPL had defended NOT BORED! against complaints that \$30 was too much money to charge for a screening that included six films. Cf. <https://nyc.indymedia.org/en/2006/02/64455.shtml>.

Just apprized of the existence of this message, we have nothing to say in response to it.

One might have thought that Julien Messemackers would have been satisfied with his intervention. But he wasn't. And so, on 4 April 2017, *more than 11 years after the commission of the crime* – is there a statue of limitations on charges relating to the violation of intellectual property rights? – he sent us the following missive (once again reproduced without change), this time directly and not to the NYC IMC, which he mistakenly thinks is *our* website.

To whom it may concerns :

I discovered that your organization have published with my name and contacts details, some correspondances which I wrote ten years ago in the context of my work for Paris-based literary agency Intertalent :

<https://nyc.indymedia.org/en/2006/02/64455.shtml>

I warned my former employer of that situation (Intertalent is still legal representative of Ms. Alice Debord, widow of Guy Debord : http://www.intertalent.fr/LISTE_INTERTALENT.pdf).

As I don't personally have material means to engage any legal action, I demand to Google, in my name, to suppress the link for this page and report your website for invasion of privacy.

I ask you to suppress this publication of your website.

Under a pretended independancy, allow me to say that your organization has no respect for people and privacy, with such methods consisting in publicly injury reputation of anybody.

People don't act like this here, especially for such matters.

Julien Messemackers

And so, eleven years from now, when he finds that our “violations of privacy” have spread from the NYC IMC to our own website, Mr. Julien Messemackers can add the name “NOT BORED!” to his list of publications to be “suppressed.”

4 April 2017