

IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Jeremiah Cummings, Pro Se  
9151 Shadowbrook Trail  
Orlando, Florida 32825

Plaintiff

Vs.

Lionsgate Corporation  
75 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10019  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor

(Defendant)

FILED  
2020 APR 23 PM 11:01  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
OF FLORIDA  
ORLANDO

COMPLAINT

I, Jeremiah Cummings, appearing as pro se and for complaint against the defendant, Lionsgate Corporation of New York alleges and avers as follows: The distribution of my image, name and or person without my permission and defamation and Racial Profiling of my character in the movie documentary, "Religulous".

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

I am Jeremiah Cummings, a citizen of the United States and living in the state of Florida files the following complaint: I was contacted back in November of 2006 by a company called, One World Productions, which is a company out of Seaside, California. I was informed that I had been chosen to be part of a documentary for the PBS Broadcasting Network about my faith and conversion. I was told that I had been seen on the Trinity Broadcasting Network by Lisa Rudin, an associate producer a few weeks prior to the call, and for this reason I was chosen. This documentary, I was told was called, "A Spiritual Journey".

I was not aware at that time that I would be cast in a motion picture being distributed by the Defendant, Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation entitled, "Religulous", nor was I told that I would be interviewed for a motion picture called "Religulous", in which my true character was totally distorted onscreen before millions of viewers for laughs, distributed by Defendant, Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation.

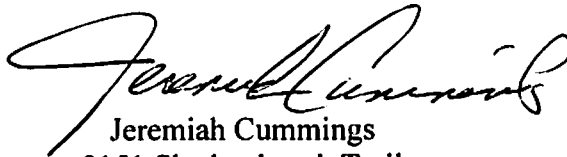
In an interview seen on the CNN News network it was stated by Larry Charles the producer of this movie and Bill Maher who interviewed me that they both lied to get me and others in this movie, which is distributed by Defendant, Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation.

I, the Plaintiff, Jeremiah Cummings pro se, am seeking damages of Fifty million dollars for defamation of character, racial profiling, stress, sleepless nights and Lionsgate part in this Fraud and also for lost of wages in my ministry, speaking engagements which has caused great strain on my family. This movie was released on October 1, 2008, but was seen prior to this date on Bill Maher's MySpace page and many television talk shows.

The lawsuit against Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation is a complaint that I gave them no permission to distribute or use my image or name for this movie, and for racial profiling, which has caused me and my family great stress and great loss of financial support in my ministry as well as the defamation my character

Therefore, I Jeremiah Cummings, pro se wishes to be compensated for the defamation of my character, for the unlawful use of my name and image onscreen by the distributor and Defendant, Lionsgate Entertainment Corporation in the amount of fifty million dollars.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah Cummings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeremiah Cummings  
9151 Shadowbrook Trail  
Orlando, Florida 32825  
PRO SE

# BusinessWeek

ASK THE ETHICS GUY! October 24, 2008, 1:56PM EST

## There's Nothing Holy About *Religulous*

Bill Maher seems to make fun of everyone he interviews in his documentary about religious beliefs. What a shame

By Bruce Weinstein, PhD

Bill Maher's *Religulous* is a perfect example of how not to make a good documentary.

A self-confessed agnostic, Maher sets out on a worldwide trek to understand how people can place their faith in something as seemingly irrational as religion. At least, this is what he claims his mission is.

It doesn't take long, however, to see that Maher's real goal is to make fun of just about everyone he interviews, and to use the formal elements of filmmaking, especially editing and music, to show himself to be a morally superior human being. What a missed opportunity.

### NO REGARD FOR THE TRUTH

Artists are not exempt from the ethical obligation to treat others with respect, and one of the most important ways we show respect for people is by telling the truth. What makes *Religulous* so troubling both from an artistic and an ethical perspective is that Maher shows almost no regard either for the truth or for the integrity of other human beings. His interview subjects can best be described as fringe-dwellers: an anti-Zionist rabbi, an Orthodox Jew who invents contraptions to get around the prohibition against working on the Sabbath, a Dutch fellow whose religion is based on the virtues of marijuana, and a Miami man who claims to be Jesus Christ 2.0.

What these oddballs are doing in a documentary that purports to be a serious exploration of rationality and religion is hard to fathom. Maher may want you to come away from these interviews thinking, "Boy, these religious people are real lunatics," but all you get is the sour feeling that Maher is using delusional people for entertainment value. By taking cheap shots in the name of philosophical inquiry, Maher abuses his privilege as a documentary filmmaker and reveals himself to be more petty, smug, and self-righteous than those he thinks he is exposing. (Is it really news that some people use religion to justify any bizarre point of view they can come up with?)

Another ethical problem is the issue of informed consent. This doctrine applies not just to health-care providers and patients; documentary filmmakers also have an ethical responsibility to ensure that their subjects are apprised of the nature of the project in which they're participating.

### DECEIVED THE INTERVIEWEES

But Maher told the *Los Angeles Times* in August that he had no regard for any of this: "It was simple: We never, ever, used my name. We never told anybody it was me who was going to do the interviews. We even had a fake title for the film. We called it *A Spiritual Journey*."

How a major film distributor like Lionsgate could release a documentary made under such conditions is a mystery. Why were the rights of these interview subjects treated with such contempt?



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# Religulous

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Religulous* (IPA: /ɹəˈlɪdʒʊləs/) is a 2008 American comedy/documentary film written by and starring political comedian Bill Maher and directed by Larry Charles. According to Maher, the title of the film is a portmanteau derived from the words "religion" and "ridiculous"; the documentary examines and satirizes organized religion and religious belief.<sup>[3]</sup>

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A range of views on the various world religions are explored as Bill Maher travels to numerous religious destinations, such as Jerusalem, the Vatican, and Salt Lake City, interviewing believers from a variety of backgrounds and groups, including Jews for Jesus, Christians, Muslims, former Mormons,<sup>[4]</sup> Satanists, and Hasidic Jews.<sup>[5][6][7]</sup> He travels to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, London and satirically preaches Scientology beliefs.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

## Interviews

- Father George Coyne, former director of the Vatican Observatory.
- Father Reginald Foster, Catholic priest, senior Vatican scholar, Pope's principal Latinist.
- Pastor Jeremiah Cummings, or Jerry Cummings, former member of Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes. Cummings is founder of *Amazing Life World Outreach* in North Carolina.
- Francis Collins, part of the Human Genome Project, an evangelical Christian, and author of *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*.

*Religulous*

From **Larry Charles**  
the Director of "Borat"



Theatrical poster

<b>Directed by</b>	Larry Charles
<b>Produced by</b>	Bill Maher Jonah Smith Palmer West
<b>Starring</b>	Bill Maher
<b>Distributed by</b>	Lions Gate Entertainment
<b>Release date(s)</b>	October 1, 2008 (NY and LA) October 3, 2008 (limited)
<b>Running time</b>	101 min.
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$2,500,000 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Gross revenue</b>	\$11,478,638 <sup>[2]</sup>

**Official website • IMDb • Allmovie**