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Berlingske Tidende - Denmark | Sunday, October 26, 2008

Prostitutes on stage

In the alternative Copenhagen district of Vesterbro the play "Pretty Woman A/S" is currently on show. It has attracted criticism from both cultural and political circles owing to the fact that a prostitute plays the leading role. The daily Berlingske Tidende comments: "Artists enjoy the same freedoms and rights as everyone else and are therefore entitled to provoke and spark debate on controversial issues. ... Whether the performers will indeed succeed in 'depicting an inhuman sale situation and influence the public, the media and the decision-makers', which is the justification that has been given for staging this provocative production, remains to be seen. Judgements based on aesthetic and moral considerations should only be pronounced once the general public has formed an opinion. As far as one can tell at this point, nothing immoral or ethically reprehensible is taking place. Those working on the production, as diverse as their backgrounds may be, are all being paid for work they do of their own free will. Those appointed to act in the name of culture should be guided by this fact alone instead of playing the role of judges of good or bad taste in the name of art and prostitutes."

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