

NEW YORK TIMES BACKS GORY TRUMP-LIKE “CAESAR”

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on an offensive play funded by the *New York Times*:

New York’s Public Theater has decided to malign the president and his wife in its production of “Julius Caesar.” The Shakespeare in the Park play opens today at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park.

It depicts President Trump as Caesar—the dress and iconography are unmistakable—and Melania as Caesar’s wife Calpurnia, complete with a Slavic accent. Trump/Caesar is brutally assassinated.

Delta and Bank of America both withdrew their sponsorship of the play, saying that it crossed the line. But the *New York Times* is standing fast, citing its allegiance to free speech. “As an institution that believes in free speech for the arts as well as the media,” the newspaper said, “we support the right of the Public Theater to stage the production as they chose.”

This is a lie. The *New York Times* is standing by the play because it likes it—it has nothing to do with its alleged commitment to free speech. I will prove it.

On February 29, 2016, the *New York Times* ran an op-ed page ad I wrote blasting Disney-ABC for airing a TV show, “The Real O’Neals,” based on the life of Dan Savage, an obscene anti-Catholic. It was not the ad I wanted—I settled for it after my initial submission was rejected. Click [here](#) to read the ad the *Times* would not print.

The *Times* explained its decision to nix my ad saying, “the use of off color examples of Mr. Savage’s quotes, still leaves our

readers with the offensive comments of Mr. Savage, less a vulgar word or two. Even with the particular vulgarities reduced to astericks [sic], the comments are still too off color for this newspaper. It's like telling a dirty joke, and using asterisks for the offensive words. The joke will still be offensive to our readers."

Now how about them apples! The *New York Times* put on its Victorian hat by refusing to offend its readers with Dan Savage's vulgarities, but it has no qualms about sponsoring a vulgar assault on President Trump and his wife Melania.

The *Times* has every right to establish its house rules, and we have every right to call them out for being rank hypocrites.

Contact Dean Baquet, executive editor: dean.baquet@nytimes.com