

Mr. Walter Chaw from **Film Freak Center** interviews "Persepolis" creator Marjane Satrapi (Iranian writer/cartoonist/columnist/filmmaker on 4/13/08). The following are 2 questions that Mr. Chaw asks and Ms Satrapi answers; for the full interview please go to:

<http://filmfreakcentral.net/notes/msatrapiinterview.htm>

Mr. Chaw: *What's the state of dignity in this world?*

Ms. Marjane Satrapi: Very bad. I mean, we're in a world where everyone goes in the same direction. There's no anti-power. We have created this war against something that we don't understand. Millions of people judged with no attempt to understand them. I'm talking about both sides rushing towards mutual destruction. We're in a time in our development that's so conservative that even the notion of pleasure has been oppressed. Consider that smoking? Cancer. Eating? Cholesterol. Fucking? AIDS. I mean, fuck you. All of these maladies used to be the pleasure of smoking and eating and making love. How much hope is left when there's no pleasure?

Mr. Chaw: *Our films reflect that conservatism.*

Ms. Marjane Satrapi: You know, I was just thinking about this. About the last eight or ten years of film in America and how many times in that period is abortion ever considered the good option for a woman? It is a woman's right to have an abortion in this country, you know--it's her legal, protected right and there are many valid reasons to have an abortion, but when is that ever portrayed in the movies as a positive thing? No, in the movies, the girls have the babies and give them for adoption, or raise them themselves--there's nothing that says abortion is your legal right and given your situation you need to make this hard decision--and then celebrates them for doing it. In all the movies, abortion is bad thing.