

The furore over censorship that marked 2009's ban on the play *Stitching* may have paid off, after Tourism and Culture minister Marco de Marco unveiled a draft law for the self-regulation of theatre productions last Tuesday.....

Alfred Buttigieg – known for the highly controversial *Rewwixta tal-Qassisin* from 1986s and whose upcoming play *Dwar Menopawsi*, *Minorenni u Muturi High Speed* will be staged at St James Cavalier next week – expressed a more ‘intimate’ side to the censorship debacle, which would perhaps have been one of the more insidious ways that the previous laws would have impinged on cultural life in Malta.

‘It works on you .... even though my upcoming play is hardly obscene, as I was writing it I was often fearful that it might be stopped by censors. I’ve read the script of *Stitching* and I didn’t find anything particularly obscene or blasphemous in it, so you begin to wonder what the censors’ benchmarks really are,’ Buttigieg said. While *Dwar Menopawsi* was given an 18 rating under the current regulations, Buttigieg hoped that it would have gone with a 16. However, he still welcomed the new amendments.

‘Of course we still have to see what the guidelines will be like, but shifting the responsibility onto the producers is quite a bold move, actually,’ Buttigieg said.

***Censored no more, Theodor Reljic, Maltatoday 22-1-2012***