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Tom Tykwer, Lana Wachowski, Andy Wachowski, David Mitchell
Creators, *Cloud Atlas*
Herbstfilm Produktion GmbH
Hufelandstrasse 44
10407 Berlin
Germany

Dear Mr. Tykwer, Ms. Wachowski, Mr. Wachowski, and Mr. Mitchell,

I urge you to consider the troubling portrayal of nursing in your film *Cloud Atlas*, to apologize to nurses, to avoid such depictions in the future, and to make amends to nurses by depicting nursing as a profession worthy of all genders, and one where nurses are depicted as three-dimensional, life-saving, college-educated science professionals.

As you know, the nurse character Noakes plays a key role in the film's Timothy Cavendish plotline. Unfortunately, Nurse Noakes is a battle-axe, overseeing the fake nursing home that actually serves to confine elderly people whose relatives have tired of them. Noakes resembles Nurse Ratched from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* in her desire to control and torment those under her "care." But Noakes is less subtle and more menacing than Ratched. As played by actor Hugo Weaving -- acting and dressing in a traditionally female way -- Noakes has no virtues, and she quickly resorts to violence against anyone who gets in her way. Noakes appears to be based on Ratched and her repressed sexuality, but she is even worse, in part because the film seems to link her malevolence to her gender ambiguity. You can see our full analysis here <http://bit.ly/cloud-atlas-the-truth>.

I understand that the character is part of a larger cinematic structure, one that seems to seek to explore connections among genders, races, ages, and other features of human life. And I doubt you intended to harm nursing. But that is the effect of portrayals that reduce female nurses with authority to malevolent oppressors from whom relatively innocent male patients must escape. The battle-axe stereotype continues to appear in film and television, often in an evolved version as a heartless enforcer of trivial rules, but also in the old school version that appears in your film. The image suggests that there is something unnatural about female nurses with authority, that their proper role is submission.

I urge you to avoid reinforcing nursing stereotypes in the future and to make amends to the nursing profession for your depiction of nursing in *Cloud Atlas*.
Thank you.

Sandy Summers
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THE TRUTH ABOUT NURSING

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to increase public understanding of the central, front-line role nurses play in modern health care. Our focus is to promote more accurate, balanced and frequent media portrayals of nurses and increase the media's use of nurses as expert sources. The Truth About Nursing's ultimate goal is to foster growth in the size and diversity of the nursing profession at a time of critical shortage, strengthen nursing practice, teaching and research, and improve the health care system.