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## **Reforming the Stage and Screen: Differences in the Film and Theatre Censorship Movements in Early 1930's New York**

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Oral Presentation O4.2

**REFORMING THE STAGE AND SCREEN: DIFFERENCES IN THE FILM AND  
THEATRE CENSORSHIP MOVEMENTS IN EARLY-1930S NEW YORK**

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Although Hollywood and Broadway shared a number of traits and talents in the early 1930s, the movements seeking to censor each medium were quite different in their ideologies, tactics, and outcomes. As this presentation will show, paternalistic attitudes about class and immigration, fears about the protection of children, the regional nature of theatre, the force of popular opinion, and the circumstances of the historical situation all played into the successes of each movement, while at the heart of these factors was a differing perception of the essential purposes of film and theatre. Together, these elements created a movie censorship drive that was concerted, powerful, and effective; they produced a stage censorship drive that was relatively weak and disorganized, taking a back seat to the efforts to reform the silver screen.