

# AN IMMODEST DEMAND

Valerie Solanas and *SCUM Manifesto*

# ABSTRACT

- ❖ *SCUM Manifesto*: copies available
- ❖ Please save questions for the end
- ❖ I'm nervous!

This paper explores the "outlaw text" status of *SCUM Manifesto*, written in 1967 by Valerie Solanas, through its lack of impact upon the culture in the time it was published and now. Solanas and her manifesto have largely been left behind in the turbulent wake of second-wave feminism. This paper, written for one of the inaugural classes of Gender Studies 219, argues for increased visibility and analysis of the manifesto in feminism, academia, and popular culture.



Warhol © Jack Mitchell  
Solanas © Fred McDarrah, 1967

*SCUM Manifesto:*  
**Unknown in 1967 and Hardly Relevant Now**

*SCUM Manifesto:*  
**After the Shooting**

# *SCUM Manifesto:* In Philosophy



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“What will liberate women, therefore, from male control is the total elimination of the money-work system, not the attainment of economic equality with men within it.”



Valerie Solanas  
{on feminism}

“The female function is to explore, discover, invent, solve problems, crack jokes, make music—all with love . . . create a magic world.”

“A woman . . . knows instinctively that the only wrong is to hurt others, and the meaning of life is love.”

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Valerie Solanas  
{on philosophy}



“There’s no reason why a society consisting of rational beings capable of empathising with each other, complete and having no natural reason to compete, should have a government, laws, or leaders.”



Valerie Solanas  
{on politics}

**Both Valerie Solanas and *SCUM Manifesto* need critical and objective analysis across academic disciplines.**

**Her voice deserves to be heard in the fragmentation of modern feminism.**

**She served her time for the crime. How long will we continue to punish her?**

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