



Australian Government

Classification Review Board

20 June 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

***Behind the Candelabra* classified M**

A three-member panel of the Classification Review Board has unanimously determined that the film *Behind the Candelabra* is classified **M (Mature)** with the consumer advice '**Drug use, coarse language and sex scenes**'.

The National Classification Code and Classification Guidelines allow for themes to occur at the M level if they have a moderate sense of threat or menace, if justified by context. In the Classification Review Board's opinion *Behind the Candelabra* warrants an M classification because the themes in the film are moderate in impact and justified by context.

The lack of explicit visual detail contributed to the Review Board's decision that the themes could be accommodated at the M level.

The overall impact of the classifiable elements in the film was no higher than moderate.

Films classified M are not recommended for persons under 15 years of age. Consumer advice is additional information about the main content of a film which is intended to help consumers decide if they want to view this type of material.

The Classification Review Board convened today in response to an application from the original applicant, Roadshow Film Distributors to review the decision made by the Classification Board on 30 May 2013 to classify *Behind the Candelabra* MA 15+ with the consumer advice 'Strong themes and sex scenes'.

In reviewing the classification, the Classification Review Board worked within the framework of the National Classification Scheme, applying the provisions of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*, the National Classification Code and the *Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games*. This is the same framework used by the Classification Board.

The Classification Review Board is an independent merits review body. It makes a fresh classification decision upon receipt of an application for review. This Classification Review Board decision takes the place of the original decision made by the Classification Board.

The Classification Review Board's reasons for this decision will appear on the Classification website when finalised.

Statement authorised by Melissa de Zwart, Chair, Classification Review Board