



**Australian Government**  
**Classification Review Board**

**CLASSIFICATION REVIEW BOARD**

**10 May 2004**

**23-33 MARY STREET  
SURRY HILLS, NSW**

**MEMBERS:** Ms Maureen Shelley (Convenor)  
The Hon Trevor Griffin (Deputy Convenor)  
Ms Kathryn Smith

**APPLICANT:** Roadshow Film Distributors Pty Ltd

**BUSINESS:** To review the Classification Board's decision to classify the film *Troy* MA (Mature Accompanied) under the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995*

**DECISION AND REASONS FOR DECISION**

**1. Decision**

The Review Board in the majority determined that the film, *Troy* is classified M15+ with the consumer advice 'moderate violence'.

**2. Legislative provisions**

The *Classification (Publications, Film and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Classification Act) governs the classification of films and the review of classification decisions. Section 9 of the Classification Act provides that films are to be classified in accordance with the National Classification Code (the Code) and the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games 2003.

**3. Procedure**

The Review Board convened in response to an application from the applicant,

Roadshow Film Distributors Pty Ltd. The Review Board watched the film *Troy*, and received written submissions and heard oral submissions from the applicant's representative Mr Brett Rosengarten, National Sales Manager, Roadshow Film Distributors Pty Ltd.

#### **4. Evidence and other material taken into account**

In reaching its decision the Review Board had regard to the following:

- (i) the applicant's application for review (including written and oral submissions);
- (ii) the report of the Classification Board relating to *Troy*;
- (iii) the film *Troy*;
- (iv) the relevant provisions in the Classification Act;
- (v) the relevant provisions in the Code, as amended in accordance with section 6 of the Classification Act; and
- (vi) the *Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games 2003*.

#### **5. Synopsis**

The film *Troy* is a cinematic representation of the events and characters from Homer's *The Iliad*. It details some of the historical battles from the siege and sacking of Troy.

#### **6. Findings on material questions of fact**

The Review Board in the majority found that *Troy* contains:

- (a) scenes of violence that had a moderate impact
- (b) some scenes of violence that were moderate to strong where the impact was mitigated by the historical nature and educational merit of the film
- (c) scenes of death and risk-taking behaviour that had a moderate impact.

It was the Review Board's finding that the film-makers had made a bone fide attempt to produce an entertaining film that would appeal to a teenage to adult audience and provide a reasonable cinematic representation of historical events.

#### **7. Reasons for the decision**

In the Review Board's majority opinion, the film warrants an M15+ classification because the scenes of violence were moderate in impact. Whilst, one member asserted some scenes had a strong impact, the majority did not concur and found that scenes of violence, battle scenes, had moderate impact and were mitigated by the film's historical nature and some educational merit.

In regard to other classifiable elements, the Review Board noted that there was no coarse language, no drug taking, no sexual violence – although one scene involving Briseus, Hector's cousin, involves the possibility of sexual violence when she is man-

handled after being captured by Achilles' warriors – little nudity and no full nudity. The sex scenes are suggestive rather than explicit and can be accommodated by an M15+ classification.

#### Violence

At approximately 41 minutes a javelin is depicted as being driven through a warrior's head and emerges out the other side.

At 43 minutes a sword is embedded in a soldier's head with some blood.

At 77 minutes Hector kills King Menelaus stabbing him with a sword. This follows Menelaus' battle with Paris. Paris is wounded and clings to Hector's leg.

At 80 minutes Hector stabs a warrior and some blood detail is shown.

At 103 minutes Patroclus is slashed across the throat by Hector who believes him to be Achilles. Patroclus is shown lying on the ground and a close up of his face/ throat and the blood is shown coming from his mouth. Hector is distressed when he realises he has killed Patroclus in mistake for Achilles.

The scene has a moderate to strong impact.

The events as shown at 77, 80 and 103 minutes are all recorded by Homer in *The Iliad* and are represented with reasonable accuracy in accordance with Homer's description.

The Review Board in the majority accepted Mr Rosengarten's submission that the scenes were brief, contained no great detail, were not repeated frequently and were not prolonged.

Further the Review Board accepted in the majority that as an historical epic that some attempt at "realism" was necessary and that the violence was justified by the context.

The Review Board found that the violence was not exploitative, nor gratuitous. Further it was a finding of the majority of the Review Board that the scenes were depicted with some compassion, that while scenes of violence and the consequences of death were shown they were depicted without a high sense of menace.

### **8. Summary**

The Review Board believed in the majority of the classifiable elements in the overall context of the film did not warrant an MA15+ classification. The Review Board found that while the film contained one moderate to strong scene of violence and some scenes of moderate violence they were justified by the context and the impact mitigated by the film's historical nature and educational merit.

In the minority, one member found that some scenes were strong in impact.

The Review Board determined in the majority that the film, *Troy* is classified M15+ with the consumer advice 'moderate violence'.