



Australian Government

Classification Review Board

1 May 2014
23-33 MARY STREET
SURRY HILLS, NSW

MEMBERS:	Ms Fiona Jolly (Acting Convenor) Dr Melissa de Zwart Mr Peter Attard
APPLICANT	Roadshow Films
INTERESTED PARTIES	Roadshow Films
BUSINESS	To review the Classification Board's decision to classify the film <i>Blended M</i> (Mature) with the consumer advice 'Sexual references and crude humour'.

DECISION AND REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Decision

The Classification Review Board (the Review Board) unanimously classified the film PG (Parental Guidance), with the consumer advice 'Sexual references and crude humour'.

2. Legislative provisions

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

Relevantly, the Code in paragraph 5 of the Table under the heading ‘Films’ provides that:

Films (except RC films, X 18+ films, R 18+ films, MA 15+ films and M films) that cannot be recommended for viewing by persons who are under 15 without the guidance of their parents or guardians are to be classified ‘PG’, and

Films (except RC films, X 18+ films, R 18+ films and MA 15+ films) that cannot be recommended for viewing by persons who are under 15 are to be classified M.

The Code also sets out various principles to which classification decisions should give effect, as far as possible.

Section 11 of the Act requires that the matters to be taken into account in making a decision on the classification of a film include:

- (a) the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults; and
- (b) the literary, artistic or educational merit (if any) of the film; and
- (c) the general character of the film, including whether it is of a medical, legal or scientific character; and
- (d) the persons or class of persons to or amongst whom it is published or is intended or likely to be published.

Three essential principles underlie the use of the *Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games 2005* (the Guidelines), determined under s 12 of the Act:

- the importance of context
- the assessment of impact, and
- the six classifiable elements – themes, violence, sex, language, drug use and nudity.

3. Procedure

The Review Board met on 1 May 2014 in response to the receipt of an application from Roadshow Films to conduct the review.

Three members of the Review Board viewed the film on 1 May 2014.

The Review Board heard oral submissions from two representatives of the applicant. This was provided in addition to a written submission.

The Review Board then considered the matter.

4. Evidence and other material taken into account

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

- (i) Roadshow Films’ application for review
- (ii) Roadshow Films’ written and oral submissions

- (iii) the film, *Blended*
- (iv) the relevant provisions in the Classification Act, the Code and the Guidelines, and
- (v) the Classification Board's report.

5. Synopsis

After a bad blind date, a widower and divorced mum, end up with their five kids at a resort for 'blended' families in Africa. Through a series of events involving each other's children they are forced to spend time together and consequently develop a romantic attraction.

6. Findings on material questions of fact

The Review Board found that the film contains aspects or scenes of importance under various classifiable elements:

(a) Themes – The film involves themes of death of a parent and family breakdown. These themes are justified by context and can be accommodated within the PG classification.

(b) Violence – The violence is very mild and justified by context.

(c) Language – The film contains mild and infrequent coarse language.

(d) Sex – The film contains references to sexual activity which are discreetly implied and justified by context.

Examples include a number of references to the son Brandon masturbating, These are justified in the context of a teenage boy's behaviour and are discussed rather than shown. There are brief images of a centrefold picture and a cable TV adult channel depicting women wearing lingerie. There is also a brief image of rhinos mating, this is justified by the African location and due to brief duration is mild in impact. There is a number of other sexual references, for example, at 64 mins and 75 mins, and in the Review Board's view these are mild and discreetly implied.

(e) Drug Use – There is no drug use in the film.

(f) Nudity – There is no nudity in the film.

7. Reasons for the decision

The main classifiable element is sex. The film contains numerous sexual references however it contains no depictions of sexual activity other than a brief depiction of mating rhinos. The sexual references are mild and discreetly implied. The references to sexual activity are mitigated by humour and justified by context.

The film contains mild coarse language which can be accommodated within the PG classification.

The other classifiable elements can be accommodated within the PG classification or lower.

8. Summary

The film is classified PG with consumer advice of 'Sexual references and crude humour.'