



Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995
CLASSIFICATION BOARD

DETAILS OF THE FILM:

FILE No T00/1509
Processing Date: 02-May-2000 10-May-2000

Title: AMERICAN PSYCHO

Producer: EDWARD R. PRESSMAN/CHRIS HANLEY/CHRISTIAN HALSEY
SOLOMON

Director: MARY HARRON

Production Co:

Country Of Origin: USA

Applicant: COLUMBIA TRISTAR FILMS PTY LTD

Language: ENGLISH

Format: 35 mm

Duration: 102 MINUTE(S)

Version:

Dubbed: **Subtitled:**

Colour/B&W: Colour

Application Type: dual PE + S/H 91-120 mins

Legislative Provisions:

The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (the Act) requires that publications, films and computer games are to be classified by the Classification Board in accordance with the National Classification Code and the classification guidelines as agreed by Commonwealth, State and Territory Censorship Ministers. The Act also sets out the matters to be considered by the Classification Board in making classification decisions.

Item Viewed: YES **Viewing Date:** 02-May-2000 10-May-2000

Written submissions: NO **Oral submissions:** NO

MATERIAL CONSIDERED:

In classifying this item regard was had to the following:

- (i) **The Application** YES
- (ii) **A written synopsis of the item** YES
- (iii) **The Item** YES
- (iv) **Other** NO

DECISION

(1) Classification: R 18 +

(2) Consumer Advice: MEDIUM LEVEL VIOLENCE
MEDIUM LEVEL SEX SCENES

(3) Key: S(i-m-j) V(i-m-j)

(4) Ratified By: _____
(Senior Classifier)

SYNOPSIS:

This film is a satire on the 1980's about an investment banker obsessed with trying to one-up his competitive friends and colleagues whilst juggling a fiancée, a mistress and homicidal tendencies. He kills a homeless man, a business associate and several sexual partners with cold indifference before plunging deeper into a state of paranoia and anger. It is unclear at the close whether the crimes were real or the product of his psychotic imagination.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

In the Board's opinion the film warrants an R classification as, in accordance with Part 3 of the Films Table of the National Classification Code, it contains material that is unsuitable for a minor to see.

Pursuant to the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Videotapes, the film warrants an R classification for medium level violence and medium level sex scenes that are unsuitable for those under 18 years and require an adult perspective.

Violence:

28.30 mins. A business associate is visiting Patrick's apartment and is seated on the sofa. Patrick struts around in a hyperactive manner, puts on a raincoat and stands menacingly behind the sofa with a shiny axe. The axe is seen raised, followed by the sound of it making impact as Patrick whacks his friend below screen. He strikes several times at the friend's body out of camera shot, blood is seen to pool on the ground and Patrick is splattered heavily with blood spray. He has a frenzied expression on his face during the action. Immediately after the murder, Patrick drags the body through the lobby of the building leaving a bloody trail as he goes.

74.00 mins. Patrick emerges from under bed sheets with Elizabeth, the sheet has blood on it, as does Patrick's leering face in a suggestion of sexual violence. Christy flees from the room and throws open a door but finds it is a cupboard with bloodied bodies hanging inside, she runs screaming down the corridor. She sees another room with blood splattered around and is then caught by Patrick as she races through another door. Grappling on the floor with her, he grabs Christy's leg and bites it as she kicks and struggles. They are both covered in blood. Christy escapes and runs screaming through the building with Patrick after her, full length visuals of him naked, blood covered and wielding a chainsaw. Christy manages to flee down several flights of stairs as Patrick observes her over the bannister, the chainsaw still running. He drops the chainsaw down the stairwell and it is seen to hit her at the bottom. Post action visuals show Christy's body, in long shot, laying on the floor.

The theme of violence is given strength by continuous misogynistic references to women, for example at 4 mins. Patrick says to a barmaid, "You fucking ugly bitch I want to stab you to death". At the end of the film Patrick's personal assistant finds his diary which is filled with drawings of violence towards women.

Sex:

The film contains realistic depictions of simulated sexual activity that cannot be accommodated at a lower classification.

44.00 mins. The two prostitutes, Christy and Sabrina are in Patrick's bedroom. He tells Christy to get on her hands and knees "so Sabrina can see your arsehole". He then says to Sabrina, "don't just look at it... eat it". There follows various depictions of simulated sexual activity. Visuals from a number of angles include Patrick thrusting in a simulation of rear entry intercourse while admiring himself in the mirror and simulated fellatio.

The depictions of sex and violence, implications of sexual violence, themes of psychotic murder and misogyny in an extremely glossy production, add up to an adult film that requires restriction to adults 18 years and over.

In the Board's minority view, the film requires a mature perspective and warrants an MA classification. For a minority of the Board, the satirical nature of the film lessens the impact of the violence, and/or the scenes of violence are infrequent and are not prolonged or gratuitous.



Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995
CLASSIFICATION BOARD

CLASSIFICATION OF A FILM :

DETAILS OF THE FILM:

Processing Date: 24.12.96

Title: LOST HIGHWAY

Producer: Deepak Nayar, Tom Sternberg, Mary Sweeney

Production Co:

Director: David Lynch

Country of Origin: USA

Applicant: UIP

Version:

Running Time: 134 mins

Size/Type: 35mm

Colour/B&W: Colour

Language: English

Dubbed: **Subtitled:**

PROCEDURE:

The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 and the Classification Guidelines approved by the Standing Committee of Attorneys General are followed when classifying films.

Film viewed: YES
Screening date: 17.12.96
Written submissions: NO
Oral submissions: NO

MATERIAL CONSIDERED:

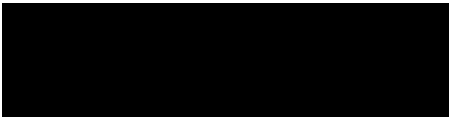
In classifying this film regard was had to the following:

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| (i) | The application | YES | |
| (ii) | A written synopsis of the film | YES | |
| (iii) | Advertisements for the film | | NO |
| (iv) | The film | YES | |
| (v) | Other _____ | | NO |

DECISION:

- (1) FILM CLASSIFICATION: R
- (2) CONSUMER ADVICE: Medium Level Violence, Medium Level Sex Scenes

(3) RATIFIED BY
Classification Board Decision



(Senior Classifier)

Synopsis : When jazz trumpeter Fred's wife Renee is murdered Fred is imprisoned for the crime. Guards find that Fred has become Pete, a young man who becomes infatuated with Alice (Renee's double). After an accidental killing the couple flee to the desert where Pete becomes Fred and Alice/Renee disappear. Fred is chased by police into the night.

Reasons for the Decision : In the Board's opinion this David Lynch film warrants an R classification for violence and sex scenes.

Violence

At 41 minutes Fred is shown sitting on the floor next to his wife's naked dead body. She is very bloody. The sheets are also very bloody. The image is very brief. It is repeated at greater length as an image on a TV. The low resolution of the picture disguises many detail. At 50 minutes in a dream sequence Fred rolls in the blood on the bed, shaking and holding his head.

At 91 minutes Alice is taken in to a room full of men. A gangster sits in an armchair. A man points a gun at her head and the gangster indicates that she should respond. She removes her top, then her bra and skirt. She walks bare breasted and in a g-string towards the gangster. The music over is 'I put a spell on you.'

At 102 minutes Pete implicitly clubs Andy in the head with a statue. He falls away with bloody wound to the head. Alice joins Pete. Andy leaps at Pete and he fends him off. Andy falls into the corner of a glass topped coffee table. He lies still, a pool of blood forms around his head. A close up post action visual from beneath the table shows the glass corner embedded in his forehead, a large pool of blood forming on the table and running down his face.

At 122 minutes a man's throat is explicitly slashed with a knife. He holds his bloody throat and is forced to watch bizarre images on a small TV before he dies several minutes later (with accompanying loud gurgling noises).

In my opinion these strong depictions of realistic violence warrant an R classification. The depictions do not have a high degree of impact. The depictions are consistent with David Lynch's surreal vision and are not gratuitous.

Sex Scenes

Scenes of realistically simulated sexual activity include:

At 104 minutes a huge movie screen shows a black-and-white porno film showing a man and woman engaged in vigorous implied rear entry intercourse her face to camera. Although the scene is visually discreet it has a strong impact.

At 114 minutes a man and a woman engage in (brief) full length implied thrusting intercourse. Then she sits astride him and continues to thrust in a closer visual. The scene occurs at night in the desert illuminated by car headlights and flares out into white. He says, 'I want you.' She says, 'You'll never have me.' and walks away fully naked.



Classification (Publications , Films and Computer Games) Act 1995
CLASSIFICATION BOARD

DETAILS OF THE FILM:

FILE No T02/3413
Processing Date: 16-DEC-2002

Title: NARC
Version: ORIGINAL
Format: 35 mm
Duration: 105 MINUTE(S)
Producer: DIANE NABATOFF/ RAY LIOTTA/ MICHELLE GRACE/ JULIUS R NASSO
Director: JOE CARNAHON
Production Co: PARAMOUNT
Country Of Origin: USA
Language: ENGLISH
Colour/B&W: Colour
Application Type: dual PE + S/H 91-120 mins
Applicant: UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES PTY

PROCEDURE:

The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games)Act 1995, and the Classification Guidelines approved by the standing Committee of Attorneys General, are followed when classifying films.

Item Viewed: YES **Viewing Date:** 16-DEC-2002
Written submissions: NO **Oral submissions:** NO

MATERIAL CONSIDERED:

In classifying this item regard was had to the following:

- (i) **The Application** YES
- (ii) **A written synopsis of the item** YES
- (iii) **The Item** YES
- (iv) **Other** NO

DECISION

- (1) **Classification:** R 18 +
- (2) **Consumer Advice:** MEDIUM LEVEL VIOLENCE
- (3) **Key:** V(i-m-j)
- (4) **Ratified By:** _____
(Senior Classifier)

SYNOPSIS:

An undercover narcotics officer, Nick Tellis, is partnered with rogue policeman Henry Oaks, to solve the case of a murdered police officer.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

In making classification decisions, the Classification Board applies the National Classification Code and the Classification Guidelines. The Classification Board follows the procedure set out in the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995.

The National Classification Code states in Part 3 of the Films Table that:
"Films.... that are unsuitable for a minor to see" will be classified R.

This category is legally restricted to adults. Some material may be offensive to some sections of the adult community.

In the Board's majority view the film warrants an R classification for violence.

Classifiable elements are as follows:

VIOLENCE

The film contains scenes of high impact violence. These are as follows:

The film opens with a shooting scene. The undercover narcotics officer is seen in pursuit of a drug offender. During the chase a man has a hypodermic plunged into his neck by the alleged offender. He lies on the ground making choking sounds. (It is later revealed that the man's throat has been severed). The alleged offender grabs a little girl and holds her to his chest as hostage. Nick shoots him in the neck as the child screams in terror. The scene then shows the pregnant mother of the little girl hit by a stray bullet. Blood pours from the wound as Nick applies a tourniquet. In the next scene the viewer learns that the injured mother later lost her baby due to blood loss. There are flashbacks to this scene during the film.

The rogue police officer, Henry, is portrayed as unstable and out of control throughout the film. He frequently bashes suspects and others in a brutal fashion.

At 15 minutes he is seen to put (what looks like) a billiard ball in a sock and attack an already staggering and bleeding suspect.

At 40 minutes Henry describes how, when on a raid, he found a 10 year old girl naked in a closet. He says "Her stepfather had been pimping her out for rent. I beat that mother fucker half to death". The description is accompanied by a flashback to the event with Henry shown bashing the man.

At 76 minutes Henry beats up two suspects. They are seated back to back, tied up together and he punches them repeatedly. They are shown with battered and bleeding faces in a long scene from 79 minutes and then intermittently until the end of the film.

At 83 minutes Henry turns on Nick and bashes him, knocking him to the ground. Nick staggers to the car with bleeding face.

These scenes are accompanied by extremely aggressive verbal violence and death threats to the victims.

There are also frequent flashbacks to the murder scene under investigation portraying every possible explanation to the killing. In one of these scenes (at 75 minutes) the victim is shot in the head with a blood spurt shown. In another (95 minutes) the victim puts the gun to his own head and shoots (offscreen).

In the majority view the film warrants an R classification. The intensity of the violence in the opening scene, combined with the ferocity of Henry's attacks on suspects and others throughout the film have a culminative effect. Although individual scenes could be accommodated at a lower level, the culminative effect of scenes of brutal violence requires an adult perspective.

MINORITY VIEW

A minority of the Board considered that the high impact depictions of violence were infrequent, not prolonged or gratuitous and could therefore be accommodated at the MA classification with a consumer advice of high level violence.

DECISION

In the Board's view the film warrants an R18+ classification as it contains material that requires an adult perspective and is not suitable for viewers under 18 years.

Classification Board Decision: **NARC**



Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995
CLASSIFICATION BOARD

DETAILS OF THE FILM:**FILE No** T01/985**Processing Date:** 12/4/01**Title: 3000 MILES TO GRACELAND****Producer:** DEMIAN LICHTENSTEIN/ E. MANES/ ELIE SAMAHA/ RICHARD SPERO/ ANDREW STEVENS**Director:** DEMIAN LICHTENSTEIN**Production Co:** FRANCHISE PICTURES/ MORGAN CREEK/ WARNER BROS/ LIGHTSTONE ENTERTAINMENT**Country Of Origin:** USA**Applicant:** ROADSHOW FILM DISTRIBUTORS PTY LTD**Language:** ENGLISH**Format:** 35 mm**Duration:** 124 MINUTE(S)**Version:** ORIGINAL**Colour/B&W:** Colour**Application Type:** dual PE + S/H 121-150 mins**PROCEDURE:**

The Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995, and the Classification Guidelines approved by the standing Committee of Attorneys General, are followed when classifying films.

Item Viewed: YES **Viewing Date:** 12/4/01**Written submissions:** NO **Oral submissions:** NO**MATERIAL CONSIDERED:**

In classifying this item regard was had to the following:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) The Application | YES |
| (ii) A written synopsis of the item | YES |
| (iii) The Item | YES |
| (iv) Other | NO |

DECISION**(1) Classification:** R 18 +**(2) Consumer Advice:** MEDIUM LEVEL VIOLENCE**(3) Key:** V(i-m-j)**(4) Ratified By:** _____

(Senior Classifier)

SYNOPSIS:

An Elvis impersonator conference provides a cover and a distraction for a group of ex-cons to rob a Las Vegas casino.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

In the Board's view this film warrants an R classification for medium level violence that, in accordance with Part 3 of the Films Table of the National Classification Code, is unsuitable for a minor to see.

This film warrants an R classification as it requires an adult perspective.

This film contains strong depictions of realistic violence. Depictions with a high degree of impact are not gratuitous or exploitative.

At 28 mins a man is shot in the head through the closing doors of an elevator. Blood splatters from the back of his head onto the mirrors in the elevator. His assailant is also shot and exhibits a smoking bullet wound in the forehead. The scene turns to slow motion as blood spurts from the wound.

At 118 mins Police open fire on an ex-con with a series of different pistols and machine guns. The man's body girates as he is shot and he falls to the ground. A post action visual shows the heavily bloodied man lying motionless in pools of blood. Blood stains the walls, floor and toilet around him.

Notwithstanding the above depictions there are several high impact scenes of violence that individually could be accommodated at a lower classification, however, the cumulative impact of these scenes contribute to the R classification.

This film contains material that may be offensive to some sections of the adult community. This film is unsuitable for those under 18 years of age and warrants an R classification.