

FILM CENSORSHIP BOARD

File No. T95/853
Screening Date 17.3.95

Title

LITTLE ODESSA

Producer

PAUL WEBSTER

Director

JAMES GRAY

Applicant

ROADSHOW

Country of Origin

USA

Running Time

98 MINS

Viewed by

EAA, PMB, SAS

Special Conditions**Version****Production Co****Size**

35MM

Language

ENGLISH

Key

V (I-M-J)

B&W/Colour

COLOUR

Theatre 1

Consumer Advice

MEDIUM LEVEL VIOLENCE

Voting

UNANIMOUS

Decision

R

Signature.....

**Synopsis**

In the Russian-Jewish quarter of New York a teenage boy with a dying mother tries to mediate between his outlawed hitman brother and his mafia father but is tragically caught up in the violence.

Comments

This drama warrants an R classification, in the Board's view, for its depictions of violence:

Strongest element is the final prolonged sequence which shows a series of people shot in a back yard with blood-burst bullet wounds and post-action visuals of bodies lying in a pool of blood, including the teenage boy shot mistakenly. The hitman is then shown struggling to carry the bloody body of his brother from the back of his car. Blood smears over him as he does this. He pushes the body into a furnace then sets it alight. His jacket is by now covered in blood.

Other depictions are less visually confronting but also have a tone of cruelty which gives them conceptual strength. They include the hitman shooting a man in broad daylight, with blood spray shown; and the kidnapping of a man from his bed, the man then shown outdoors being forced to kneel, crying, before the hitman shoots him, with blood spray from the back of his head.

These depictions are sufficiently realistic and explicit to warrant restriction to audiences 18+.

