



Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995

CLASSIFICATION BOARD

CLASSIFICATION OF A FILM:

DETAILS OF THE FILM:

FILE NO: 97/3709

Processing Date(s): 15/10/97

Title: U-Turn
Producer: Dan Halsted, Clayton Townsend
Director: Oliver Stone
Production Co:
Country of Origin: USA
Applicant: Columbia Tristar films **Version:**
Running Time: 124 mins
Format : 35mm
Colour/B&W: Colour **Language:** English
Dubbed: **Subtitled:**
Application Type: PE + SH

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: 23.9.97
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) The film YES
(iv) Other NO

DECISION:

- (1) FILM CLASSIFICATION: R
- (2) CONSUMER ADVICE: Medium level violence. Adult themes. Medium level sex scene.
- (3) RATIFIED BY:  20/10/97
(Senior Classifier)

Synopsis : When Bobby has mechanical troubles in the Arizona desert he takes a U-turn into a small, desolate town. He meets a series of bizarre and treacherous characters who thwart his attempts to leave town again. He is seduced by Grace, the half-Indian wife of one of the locals, who later hires him to kill her. The plot thickens.

Comments : In the Board's view this clever and darkly comic noir film from Oliver Stone warrants an R classification for depictions of violence, adult themes and a sex scene.

The film brings together a Fellini-like cast of small town weirdos, larger than life, mostly caricatures, and uses their strangeness to trap Bobby. The film is decidedly adult in tone, despite its fresh and comic treatment. Depictions of violence occur throughout the film and many could be accommodated in a lower classification. However, there is some cumulative impact and scenes towards the end of the film include stronger depictions of realistic violence linked to adult themes and a sex scene which contribute to the adult tone of the film, including:

89 mins; after a strong sex scene (see below) between Jake and his daughter/wife Jake confronts Bobby who has gone there to kill him; he hits him with pistol, points gun to his head and makes him plead for his life then promise to Kill Grace; Grace soon implicitly hits Jake with a tomahawk with pav of protruding weapon; a bloody wrestle ensues before Grace implicitly hits Jake in chest with tomahawk with pav of protruding weapon before it is removed with sfx and pav of bloody gaping wound to chest; Jake gurgles blood, blood on mattress, and dies; Bobby and Grace then implicitly make love alongside Jake's body and make reference to him 'looking on'

105 mins; Bobby and Grace attempt to escape town but are pursued by the Sheriff who has also had a sexual liaison with Grace; after a quarrel Grace implicitly shoots the Sheriff in the head with pav of a blood spot wound to his forehead; his body is later thrown over a cliff

111 mins; the bodies of Jake and Sheriff are tossed over a cliff before Grace also pushes Bobby over; pav shows him down below, writhing and covered in blood; she climbs down to help him, he grabs and implicitly strangles her; she grabs a gun and implicitly shoots him before she dies; he drags himself up the cliff to the car, much bloodied, from a scene of cliff carnage.

The treatment of adult themes including incest between Jake and Grace also contributes to the R classification. There are verbal and visual references to this theme. Grace says at 53 mins '...he was raping me the whole time, for years...my Mum...she became an alcoholic'; at 85 mins a flashback depicts Jake implicitly naked and engaged in kneeling rear entry intercourse with a naked Grace on a bed; he declares 'you've been a bad girl' and she responds 'please forgive me poppa' while he says 'fuck it away, fuck it away' before weeping; the scene is intercut with scenes of sexual activity and implied abuse with Grace's

mother; at 108 mins Grace says 'Yes I was fucking my Daddy and I married him...I just wanted to be a kid and he took that away from me...treated me like a piece of meat'.

In the context of this incestuous relationship the sex scene described above also contributes to the R classification in its own right, having visual and conceptual strength including intercuts to implied sexual activity with Grace's mother.

The minority view was that a consumer advice for 'sex scenes' was appropriate, to also signify a sex scene between Bobby and Grace at 52 minutes and a stylised intercut montage of body parts in implied sexual activity at 108 minutes. The majority view was that these scenes could be accommodated at MA level and did not require coding at the R level.

This is a clever and well-made film which has elements and treatments which warrant restriction to an adult audience, in the Board's view.

The trailer is passed.

Internal office use only

NAME: [REDACTED]

SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

FILM VIEWED BY: RE PW JD

DETAILS OF VOTING: Unanimous
themes) s(imj)

Key: v(imj) o(adult

John 16/10/97
JD 16/10/97