



Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995

CLASSIFICATION BOARD

CLASSIFICATION OF A FILM:

DETAILS OF THE FILM:

FILE NO: 97/4286

Processing Date(s): 5.1.98

Title: Boogie Nights

Producer:

Paul Thomas Anderson, Lloyd Levin, John Lyons,
Joanne Sellar

Director:

Paul Thomas Anderson

Production Co:

Country of Origin:

USA

Applicant:

Roadshow Film Distributors

Version:

Running Time:

155 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:

13.11.97

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 sex scenes. Medium level violence.
Drug use

(3) RATIFIED BY:

- 24/2/98

(Senior Classifier)

SYNOPSIS:

Entertaining trawl through the ups and downs of the seventies and eighties porn industry, following the career of well endowed porn star, Dirk Diggler.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

In the Board's view this drama/comedy film warrants an R classification for sex scenes, violence, drug use and adult themes.

The film is a complex portrait of the porn industry as it moves from film to video technology. The changing fortunes of Dirk Diggler reflect what is happening on a wider industry scale as talent and techniques change. The film contains frank depictions of life in the seedy world of the porn industry, although it is non-judgemental and often surprisingly discreet. Nevertheless, the themes and depictions have an adult tone to them and an adult perspective is required. Some of the material may be offensive to some sections of the community. Stronger elements which contributed to the classification include:

SEX SCENES

The film includes frequent sexual references and occasional, realistically simulated sex scenes.

10 mins; a man discovers his wife engaged in implied rear entry intercourse with another man in mostly above waist visual in a comic context; some blurred below waist detail.

36 mins; a crowd gathers around a naked couple in a driveway engaged in simulated intercourse with male atop female; visuals are partly obscured by the crowd but repeated a number of times from different angles; the female's husband complains to another that 'She's down there with some idiot's dick in her.'

48 mins; prolonged scene in which Dirk appears on set for the first time in a sex scene; scene realistically simulates various sexual activity and is punctuated with cutaways to the reactions of the film crew; verbal references include '...come on my tits if you can...pull it out and come on my tits and stomach'.

VIOLENCE

83 mins; a man finds his wife implicitly having sex with another man and returns with a pistol and implicitly shoots the couple (offscreen) before putting the pistol in his mouth and pulling the trigger with explicit blood burst spray on the wall behind (this scene also contributes to the classification in terms of the adult theme of suicide).

120 mins; Dirk, reduced to hustling, is masturbating for a trick in a car when the tricks friends arrive and drag Dirk from the car and kick and bash him; this is intercut with pornmaker Jack and Rollergirl beating a man who turned sou at a porno shoot in a limo;

Rollergirl implicitly stomps the man's face in her rollerblades; pavs show bloody Dirk and man at their separate locations

124 mins; a robbery in a shop goes wrong and includes several blood burst bullet wounds as shots are exchanged; the robber implicitly (offscreen) shoots a man in the head with resultant blood spray on the face and clothes of the man nearby

136 mins; Dirk and his friends are involved in a drug deal that goes disastrously wrong and gunplay results in several implied shootings and bloody wounds and a blood burst bullet wound.

These depictions are justified within the narrative.

DRUG USE

The film charts the decline of Dirk and others in the porn industry into drug use, but depictions are not gratuitously detailed and drug use is not promoted or encouraged.

Drug use is mostly in the form of snorting what is implied to be cocaine, with depictions including at 33, 74, 93, 103 and 108 minutes. At 39 minutes a female is shown unconscious with bloody nose after heavily implied session of snorting. the woman is carried outside, convulsing; a man says 'This is twice in two days that someone has overdosed on me'.

Drug use is shown to have negative consequences for those involved.

ADULT THEMES

The film looks at the dark side of the porn industry, with adult themes including pornography, sex, drug dependency and suicide (see VIOLENCE 83 minutes reference). another scene at 90 minutes includes verbal references to implied child sex offences.

In the Board's majority view the treatment of these adult themes is sufficiently discreet within the overall context of this complex film as to not require a separate consumer advice.

Internal o

NAME:
SIGNATURE: _____

FILM VIEWED BY:
DETAILS OF VOTING.
use) o(adult themes)

UNANIMOUS

Key: s(imj) v(imj) o(drug

Handwritten notes: 112, 12, 10/2, 3