

FILM CENSORSHIP BOARD

T95 / 2010

Screening Date: 4.7.95

Title: DESPERADO

Version:

Producer: Bill Borden, Robert Rodriguez

Production Co: Los Hooligans

Applicant: Fox Columbia Tristar Films


Director: Robert Rodriguez

Country of Origin: USA

Size: 35mm Colour

Running Time: 103 mins Theatre: 2

Language: English

Viewed by: 

Key: V (FMJ)

Consumer Advice: Medium Level Violence

Voting: Unanimous

Decision: R

Signature: 

Synopsis : The sequel to Robert Rodriguez's Il Mariachi. A guitar case wielding hitman seeks revenge for the murder of his girlfriend.

Comments : In the Board's opinion this hip action / comedy warrants an R classification for violence.

The nameless mariachi wreaks havoc in a small Mexican town in his search for the drug baron who killed his girlfriend. The film maker uses a witty excess of unrealistic and exaggerated gunplay (including multiple blood burst bullet wounds) and fist fights (including implied arm, leg and neck breaks). The strongest depictions include:

A long shoot out sequence in a bar starting at 27 minutes and ending with post action visuals of a pile of bodies in a pool of blood as a completely unfazed man mops the blood off the floor;

At 54 minutes an assassin throws knives into the mariachi and his friend. The mariachi explicitly pulls a throwing knife out of his back with a blood spurt;

The final shoot out at 86 minutes includes numerous blood burst bullet wounds and a small boy being wounded by a stray bullet.

Whilst some sections of the adult community may find the film's irreverent attitude to violence offensive, however, in the Board's opinion, they are contextually justified in this intelligent, self referential and humourous piece of genre film-making. Nonetheless, the strength and frequency of the violence warrants an R classification.

