le 16.8.19 CILC Ref 1900394 The Charlie Says Cher Known title(s) Navium DVD Director (s) May Harron Producer (s) USA Country (ies) Language (s) Ey lish 0.00 Copywight warning 0.34 chils 10.00 - Richard Says goodbye.

1000 Drugs - Marijuana. Sex-affair. 9.00 Charlie Says 9.40 Trale Tends 0.00 Feature Mary Harron film - Director. I F & 1 M - hitchtrking Katie & Luly.
High when I first healt of that song
M said he was homosexnal to gettout of war 11.40 George- elderly man. Young girl/woman is

nost sebating him in chapt.

We don't get hung up about sex

12 Katie & Leslie & elstasy.

13 CM tells Sondy to take off her chithes— Olhes—

undress hu She is badly scarred Nated

59 Katic - CM throws kenfe - Sign of toust
Drugs - speed snorting.
+ abs Race war - deeply raeist ideas. Helter skelter 105 CM training women to stab-all holding knives. stabbing chair Fricking special security Unit
SSUF duration of their sentence Jesus fucking christ. Women shaved heads-Charlie spoke to us. Jold 45 to profest.

1.10 Who the fack are you

Get the fack out Get the fack out of my born

whoring around. Mess with their styff. Steal wallets. 1.16 CM takes Luly to top of cliff. You want to leave

ine jump

CM loading and CM loading guns.
" who's the piggy" "Kill the piggy"

Krife- discyosing with Text that he can kill him Charling 1.21 CM- fack. den you eyes out. Sharon Tate. 1.23 D-49 450-1.25 Dead bodies front yard. Shodied Tex katie colved blood. Standing ever begging to live to have to baby leather stys "kill by". Tex slies her face knife Shocking of Tate Footage of Jute 130 Tex has man & wife bound. Hooded Screaning Wraps wid dround neck. Stabs to repeatedly. Blood sprays up in to be force

CONSIDERATION SHEET

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OFLC ref:

1900394.000

Submission channel:

s12(1)

Title of publication:

Charlie Says

Other known title:

Not stated

Medium:

DVD

Distributor:

Madman Entertainment

Director:

Mary Harron

Producer:

Dana Guerin

et al.

Country of origin:

United States

Language:

English

Applicant:

Film & Video Labelling Body

Examination transcript No:

753

Examination date:

14 August 2019

Other identifying information:

OFLC Ref: 1900394.000

COMPONENTS OF FILM

Components of film originally examined:

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Charlie Says	105:37
Timed component(s):	Richard Says Goodbye	1:41
Total running time:		107:18

Components of film excised:

CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLICATION UNDER THE FILMS, VIDEOS, AND PUBLICATIONS CLASSIFICATION ACT 1994 (FVPC ACT)

Description

Charlie Says is an American film on DVD. The plot centres on the infamous "Manson girls", Leslie Van Houten, Patricia Krenwinkel and Susan Atkins. It is the late 1960s and the young women have been kept in isolation from the general prison population having been convicted of murders they carried out on behalf of Charles Manson. Their death sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment and the prison warden is concerned about their wellbeing, cut off potentially indefinitely from any community. Several years after their crimes, they continue to spout Manson's apocalyptic inspired doctrines with which they have been brainwashed. Enter Karlene Faith, a graduate student who is tasked by the warden to provide the girls with a connection to the world outside of Manson's horrifying influence, and ultimately help them achieve a sense of remorse and rehabilitation.

The film interposes flashbacks to scenes on Spahn ranch where Manson's young cult following lived together prior to the infamous murders. These scenes develop and attempt to rationalise why the Manson girls participated in such heinous crimes. We also see depictions of murder being carried out by Manson's followers.

The DVD also contains a trailer for Richard Says Goodbye. Trailer content is no stronger than that of the feature.

Section 3(1): the Subject Matter Gateway

Does the publication describe, depict, express, or otherwise deal with matters such as:



Sex¹

There are several depictions of sexual activity on Spahn ranch, where Manson has made his base and attracted a group of young adults with anti-authoritarian, anti-conformist ideals. It is the 1960s and Manson's diatribe spouts free love and sexual freedom. Female characters are treated abusively as sex objects on several occasions. This is never challenged, the characters simply go along with it as Charlie's pawns.

Leslie arrives at Spahn ranch and is given a tour. She witnesses a young woman masturbating George, the elderly and apparently blind owner of the ranch, as he sits in a chair in front of the television. The sexual act is implied by the woman's arm motion which is largely obscured by the couch. Katie tells Leslie they "don't get hung up on sex" at the ranch.

¹ Note that a publication can be found to deal with a matter such as sex if (a) the publication is or contains 1 or more visual images of 1 or more children or young persons who are nude or partially nude; and (b) those 1 or more visual images are, alone, or together with any other contents of the publication, reasonably capable of being regarded as sexual in nature. (s 3(1A)).

Section 3(1): the Subject Matter Gateway

The young women venture out to take food from a dumpster outside a restaurant. A young male waiter remonstrates with them, and one of the women distracts him by flashing her breasts at him. Another woman leads him behind the bin and starts to undress him, suggesting some form of sexual activity is about to occur. Little detail is shown.

Leslie and Charlie move to his room. She looks apprehensive and he tells her she doesn't have to do anything she doesn't want to. She undresses herself and her naked breasts and backside are exposed. Charlie asks her about the parts of her body she doesn't like, such as "your tits are too small, your ass is too big?" and slaps her bottom. After this teasing he tells her she is perfect. Charlie lies on top of Leslie, unbuckles her pants and her facial expression indicates penetration. The sex is very brief and the camera remains on their faces. Charlie continues his indoctrination of Leslie while having sex with her, discussing "girls making love to their daddies".

Another woman discusses the incredible sex she had experienced with Tex, describing when she "came" having had her fists clenched at her sides.

Charlie performs a musical audition to a few men, with three of his women as backing singers. He strips their tops off, exposing their breasts, saying he needs more "titties". They continue to dance with their breasts exposed.

A few men on motorcycles visit the ranch. One of them kisses Leslie and talks about making love. The scene cuts and they are next shown waking in a barn as if they have had sex. Charlie finds them and is incensed, accusing Leslie of "whoring around" and yelling at the man, "put your dick in your pants".



Horror

Not horror as such but there is a slightly disturbing scene where one of the women is shown giving birth. Charlie intervenes, using a knife to create an incision in the woman's vagina to allow the baby to emerge. This isn't directly shown but is mentioned. There is a lot of blood in the scene and the woman is screaming in pain and exertion. Another woman chews through the umbilical cord once the baby is delivered.



Crime

There are depictions of recreational drug use, home-invasion and burglary, assaults and murder.

A young man says "time for communion" and gives Katie and Leslie a small white tab on their tongues. Later someone places something onto women's tongues. In another scene a couple briefly snort 'speed' from a knife then kiss. On the way to commit murder, Tex talks about doing Acid and 'Orange Sunshine' and believing an apocalypse is near. No effects of these drugs are shown but drug use is clearly part of the lifestyle on the ranch.

None of these crimes are promoted or encouraged. They are well known to be actual crimes committed by Manson and his followers and the film simply tells that story.

Section 3(1): the Subject Matter Gateway				
The trail	er for Richard Says Goodbye has some mild verbal references to drug consumption.			
✓	Cruelty			
Refer to	o s 3(3)(a)(i) below.			
✓	Violence			
Refer to	o s 3(3)(a)(i) below.			
	None of the above, proceed to s 3A and s 3B			

Section	3(2): Certain publications are "deemed to be objectionable"
	content of the publication raise any of these issues? If it does, discuss, and conclude he publication promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, that matter.
	s 3(2)(a) The exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes
_	s 3(2)(b) The use of violence or coercion to compel a person to participate in, or submit to, sexual conduct
_	s 3(2)(c) Sexual conduct with or upon the body of a dead person
	s 3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with degrading or dehumanising
_	conduct or sexual conduct
	s 3(2)(e) Bestiality
	s 3(2)(f) Acts of torture or the infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty

Section 3(2): Certain publications are "deemed to be objectionable"						
✓	None of the above					
_	If the publication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used to remove the problematic content?					
_	Yes. Consider the rest of the publication under s 3(3) and s 3(4) and discuss the required excisions in the conclusion.					
	No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. Proceed to Conclusion					

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight

If any of the following criteria apply, discuss in terms of the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication:

√

s 3(3)(a)(i) Deals with the infliction of torture, serious physical harm, significant cruelty

While the Manson 'family' are seated at the dinner table, Charlie picks a fight with Susan, one of his female followers. He insults her cooking and she retorts that she had 'pissed' in the salad dressing. Charlie stands and slaps her hard several times, causing her to cry out. She fights back, and there is a struggle that is disturbing to watch, where Charlie overpowers Susan and threatens, "I'll break your fuckin' wrist". A cracking sound is heard. Everyone else at the table stays seated, too intimidated to intervene. Charlie wrestles Susan to the floor then lies over her and kisses her. The assault ends and Charlie orders Susan in to the kitchen to clean up. She later tells Leslie, "getting hit by the man you love is no different than making love to him".

Charlie leads his followers in training for Helter Skelter, an apocalyptic vision he has forecast. He instructs his followers how to stab with knives and the group take turns thrusting and stabbing a chair. They later chant "who's the piggy" and "kill the piggy" and yell at Tex that they can kill him. Tex participates in the chanting. Charlie has clearly brainwashed his followers to commit murder.

Tex and some of the women are shown threatening a pregnant Sharon Tate, who sobs and begs to be spared so she can have her baby. Katie and Tex are covered in blood, having committed previous murders that weren't shown. We see bloodied bodies lying in the lounge and out in the front yard. Katie whispers to Tex, who is wielding a large knife, to kill Tate, and he leans in and slices her cheek with the blade. Tate recoils and screams. This is fleetingly shown. The scene is shocking, and its basis in true life events may be foremost in a viewer's mind, adding to the horror that is depicted.

Shortly after this, Leslie accompanies Tex and Katie on another raid of a private residence. Tex places a hood over a man's head as he is bound on the ground in his pyjamas. The man is distressed, asking if they are going to kill him and repeating "I've got money". Tex asks the girls if

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight

Charlie said to kill them and apparently terrified, they nod to indicate yes. Tex wraps a cord around the man's neck and the man gurgles as if being suffocated. Tex then fetches a knife. The scene cuts away but the man is later heard calling for his wife and then screaming in pain. Leslie and Katie enter a bedroom where the wife is also hooded and crying as she lashes out blindly with a bedside lamp in an attempt to protect herself. Katie begins duelling with her with a knife. The camera cuts to Tex standing over the body of the husband, covered in blood and gripping the knife. The man's body is still and lifeless. Leslie walks in to the room as Tex pulls out the knife from the wife's body. Tex then invites Leslie to take the knife, because "Charlie says everyone has to do something". Leslie takes the knife and repeatedly stabs the corpse. Blood sprays up and covers her face and she screams maniacally with each stab. The camera focuses on her face and not the blade stabbing the body.



s 3(3)(a)(ii) Deals with sexual violence or sexual coercion, or violence or coercion in association with sexual conduct

When the Manson "family" are gathered together around a fireplace, Charlie instructs a young woman called Sandy to take off her clothes. She is initially reluctant and frightened. Charlie tells the others to help her, and she is fully undressed exposing her breasts, pubic area and naked backside. Charlie shows the group the long scar on Sandy's spine and calls it a sign of parental abuse. He kisses her and has the others tell Sandy that she is beautiful. They embrace her and Sandy then looks relieved, as if this has been a breakthrough moment for her.

There is a stronger sexual scene where Charlie tells his followers they need to break down inhibitions and to touch each other and "touch yourselves". He appears to gain satisfaction and a sense of power and control from everyone following his instructions. He tells a young man called Tex that mouths are for sucking, and to perform oral sex on one of the women. An orgy-like scene takes place where this oral sex is implied, naked breasts are visible, and a couple appear to be having sex to the side of the camera's view. There is little focus on the sexual activity, more so on the character's faces with Leslie looking confused. Tex's discomfort and Sandy's sobbing create a sinister undercurrent to the sexual activity.

_	s 3(3)(a)(iii) Deals with other sexual or physical conduct of a degrading or dehumanis or demeaning nature
_	s 3(3)(a)(iv) Deals with sexual conduct with or by children or young persons
_	s 3(3)(a)(v) Deals with physical conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from inflicting or suffering cruelty or pain

Section	3(3): Matters to be given particular weight
	s 3(3)(b) Exploits the nudity of children or young persons
_	s 3(3)(c) Degrades or dehumanises or demeans any person
<u>—</u>	s 3(3)(d) Promotes or encourages criminal acts or acts of terrorism
_	s 3(3)(e) Represents that members of any particular class of the public are inherently inferior to other members of the public by reason of an characteristic that is a prohibited ground of discrimination specified in s 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1993
	ouches on issues of race relations in terms of Manson's views on race war, but not in a last encourages racist attitudes.
_	The publication doesn't deal with any s 3(3) criteria
Section	3A:
	publication contain highly offensive language to such an extent or Yes t it is likely to seriously harm viewers under a certain age?
	ncluding any necessary consideration of offensive language that is not 'highly offensive' or offensive language which is not likely to cause serious harm to young viewers):
uses "mot	usages of highly offensive language include "fuck" and its derivatives. Charlie in particular herfucker" and "fuck" in anger in concert with physical violence or aggression in a kely to seriously harm younger viewers.
Section	3B:
Does the	publication contain any of the following material?
_	Harm to a person's body, including self-inflicted death, self-mutilation or harmful body modification (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).

Section 3B: Conduct that, if imitated, would pose a risk of serious harm to self or others (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria). As a sign of trust, Katie allows Charlie to throw a large knife in her direction, narrowly missing her and hitting the wood beside her. She declares that she would die for Charlie. Physical conduct of a degrading, dehumanising or demeaning nature (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria). Visual images of a person's body that alone or with any other contents of the publication are of a degrading, dehumanising or demeaning nature (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria). None of the above Does the extent and degree of the material make the publication likely to cause any of the following

Does the extent and degree of the material make the publication likely to cause any of the following harms to young people under a specified age because of their general levels of emotional and intellectual development and maturity?

- Cause them to be greatly disturbed or shocked
- Increase significantly the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to, themselves, others, or both
- Encourage them to treat or regard themselves, others, or both, as degraded, dehumanised or demeaned.

Discuss likely harm/s or why the content is unlikely to cause these harms:

Katie is unharmed and in good spirits as this scene occurs. It is extremely unlikely to encourage imitation amongst others, and demonstrates the bizarre hold Manson had over his followers which makes it likely to be disturbing to younger viewers.

Submissions & consultations (if applicable)				
_	Consultation or enquiries required under s 21			
	Submissions received from interested parties under s 20			

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Any other information to be taken into account (if relevant)

(e.g. previous OFLC decisions, decisions of other classification bodies, research, books, articles, reviews, etc.)

Conclusion

- In addition to all of the above matters, consider relevant s 3(4) matters: the dominant effect of the publication, character of the publication (including any merit, value or importance), impact of the medium, intended or likely audience, intended purpose, and any other relevant circumstances relating to its use
- Identify any likely injury to the public good from the unrestricted availability of the publication
- Determine the classification, taking into account the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) and the need to impose the least restrictive limitation on the right to freedom of expression that will prevent injury to the public good

The dominant effect of is a crime-based drama about the experiences of the "Manson girls" who were imprisoned for life as a result of killings they did at Manson's behest. The film is intended to entertain, by recreating supposed real life events that occurred both in the lead up to the 1969 murders and afterwards inside the prison.

The DVD's unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good. There are depictions of sexualised nudity, sexual objectification and sexual activity which are likely to give younger viewers a distorted view of adult sexual behaviour and relationships. The short but strong sequences showing the brutal and bloody home invasion and murders are likely to be highly disturbing to children and younger teens, particularly given they are based on real life events and involving young adults.

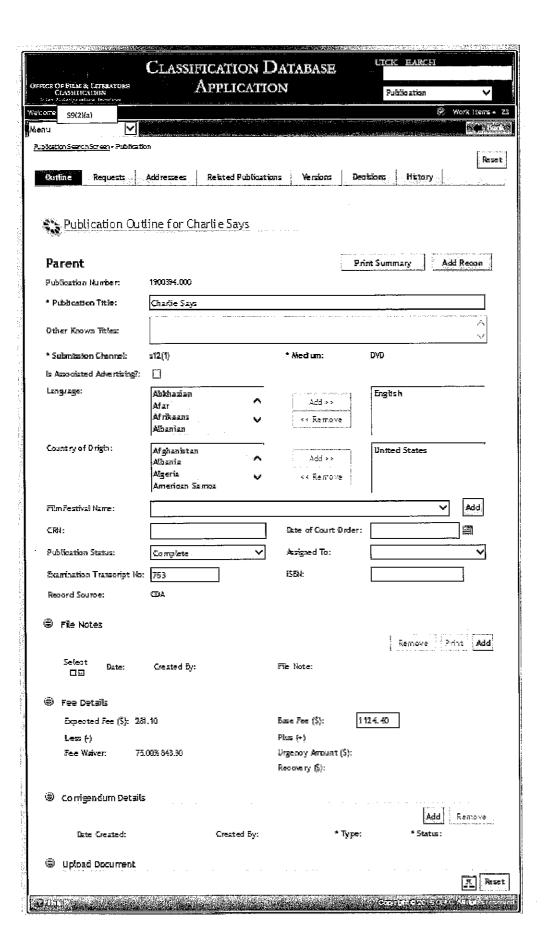
Considering these factors, the DVD is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. This limit to freedom of expression is considered reasonable, demonstrably justified and the minimum required to prevent injury to the public good.

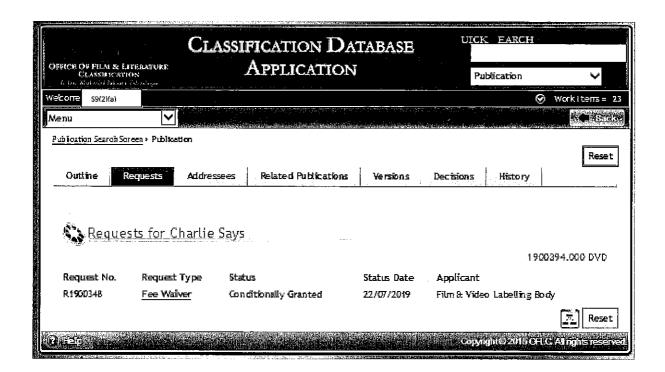
Classification

R16

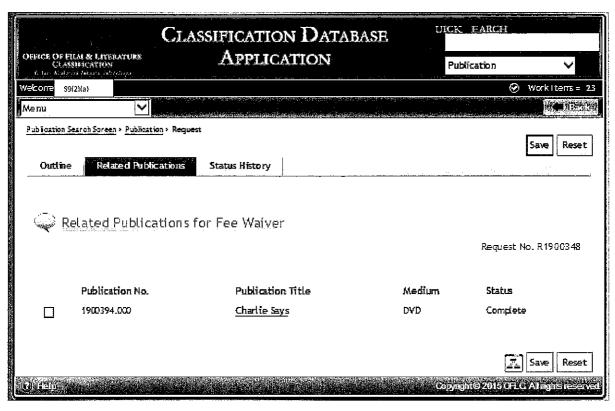
Descriptive note to cover: violence, sex scenes, offensive language, nudity

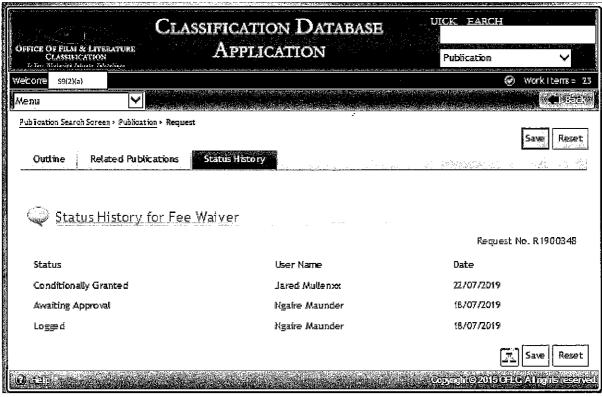
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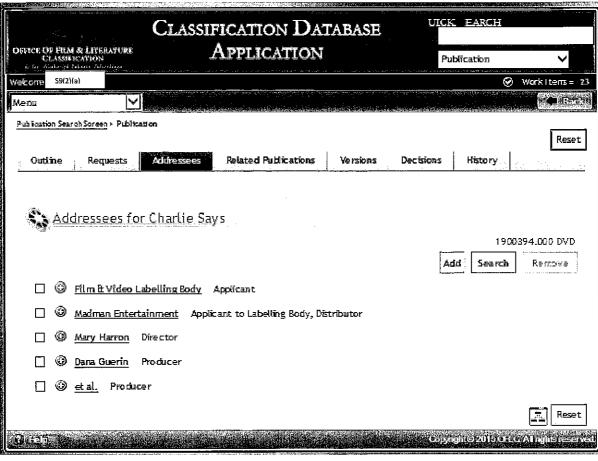


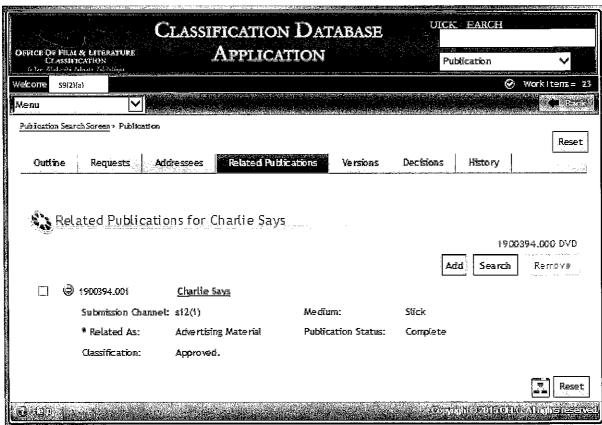


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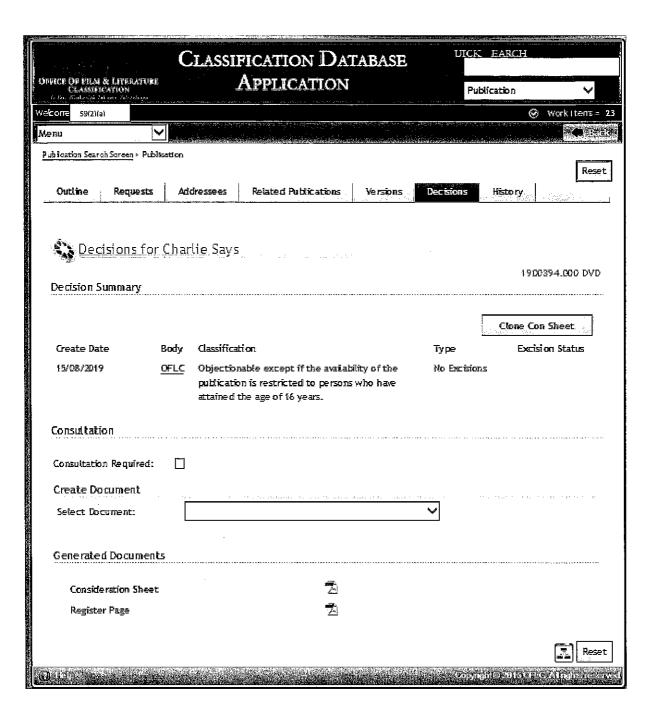








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