SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

Under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act)

HEADNOTE

Title of publication:

Ιt

Other known title(s):

It: Part 1 – The Losers' Club/It: Chapter One

OFLC ref:

1700444,000

Medium:

Film

Classification:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted

to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Descriptive note:

Violence, offensive language and horror.

Display conditions:

None

It is an American horror film based on Stephen King's 1986 novel of the same name. In a small town in Maine in the summer of 1989, a group of outcast teenagers discover that an evil supernatural clown named Pennywise is responsible for kidnapping and murdering numerous children in the town. The friends who wryly dub themselves the 'Losers' Club' are led by Bill, a boy in his early teens whose little brother was taken by the clown. Bill, Beverly, Stan, Eddie, Ben, Richie and Mike resolve to solve the case of the missing children, all the while trying to avoid the high school bullies, who cruise around town terrorising their victims.

They discover Pennywise and his activities revolve around the sewer system and hunt him down. They are all faced with the psychopathic clown who is able to shapeshift and manifest the deepest, darkest fears of his victims, as he lives off of their fear.

Under s3(1) of the FVPC Act the film deals with is matters of sex, crime, cruelty and horror. A theme surrounding sexual abuse is dealt with under s3(3)(a)(ii). There is nothing under s3(2) that requires discussion.

There are no depictions of sex, but there are some crass sexual references. Richie is known as "Trash Mouth' due to his vulgar language. He refers to masturbation as "tickling the pickle", calls his penis his "wang", makes "your mother" jokes to his friends and teases them about their virginity even though he is just as likely to have had limited to no sexual experiences himself.

The film has artfully been constructed to be as frightening as possible for the viewer. Pennywise has a large forehead and strange mouth which he is able to stretch and extend, revealing many rows of very sharp teeth. He moves in unnatural ways and has supernatural powers — he is able to adopt the physical characteristics of any person or object he chooses. Each of the friends endures a terrifying encounter with Pennywise. For example, Bill sees his missing little brother in the basement. As he talks to Bill, his face begins to decay and his voice deepens. Pennywise lunges at Bill and chases him up the stairs.

OFLC Ref: 1700444.000

Stan is shown in his father's office at Temple after studying the Torah. He walks past a painting which features a woman who has a distorted, long face. Stan is obviously afraid of this painting, and this woman appears in front of him in the office – she lunges and opens her mouth revealing very sharp teeth. Eddie is chased by a decomposing zombie like figure, Beverly hears voices coming from her bathroom plughole and is attacked by sinewy hair that reaches out of the hole, which proceeds to spew a huge amount of blood, completely covering her and the room. Mike sees Pennywise in the shadowy doorway in an alley, and sees smoke and fire and many clamouring hands – his parents died in a house fire. Ben is chased by a headless figure in a library.

There are depictions of Pennywise holding disembodied limbs with blood around his mouth, confirming that he murders the children and eats them. There are images of dead and decaying zombie type creatures, disembodied voices, jump scares and an effective soundtrack which amplifies the effect on the viewer.

Henry, the town bully and his friends are cruel to those who they regard hold a lower social status than them. Their bullying is particularly cruel. Violence tends to be serious – there are a few scuffles between the friends during more heated moments. See s3(3)(a)(i) for further discussion surrounding cruelty and violence.

Pennywise is a killer – he is shown killing Georgie, Bill's little brother. Georgie is shown floating a homemade paper sailboat in the gutters during a rainstorm. He follows the boat happily, however despairs when the boat floats down the open drain. He peers in to find Pennywise holding the boat. After Georgie decides to leave, Pennywise opens his mouth to reveal his many teeth, and bites Georgie's arm off to the shoulder. Georgie crawls across the road, but Pennywise extends his arm and pulls him down the drain.

Pennywise tries to kill each member of the Losers' Club and terrorises them with visions of the missing children, some of whom are mangled and decomposing. The group grows unafraid in their anger, causing him to lose power. Beverly is captured by Pennywise and placed in a catatonic state in his lair – they are able to save her. His lair also features the floating corpses of his past victims. Bill sees Georgie, who begs with him to come home. However, Bill knows this is a ploy and shoots Georgie in the forehead with a bolt gun – this is quite shocking. Georgie's body then contorts in a grotesque manner and Pennywise emerges from the body.

Henry is shown carving his initials into Ben's stomach with a knife. He is goaded by Pennywise to murder his father — he finds a switchblade in a gift box and approaches his father who is asleep in his chair. He presses the knife against his neck and deploys the blade. His father clutches his neck and bleeds profusely. He dies. Beverly attacks her father in self-defence by throwing an object at his head. He dies, sprawled on the bathroom floor, bleeding heavily from his head.

It is strongly suggested that Beverly is the victim of sexual abuse. She lives with her father, an incredibly oppressive and threatening figure who often forces Beverly to say that she is his "little girl". Beverly's murder of her father in reaction to these encounters makes it clear what she has been subjected to. Although there are no negative consequences for Beverley, murder is not condoned.

The publication contains limited use of highly offensive language, primarily the word "fuck" and its derivatives. This language supports the need for a restriction as it is likely to inure younger viewers due to its use by teenage characters.

The dominant effect is of an effective horror film. It is well-made and visually striking. The frequent images of violence, gore and horror directed at children and young teenager characters are likely to be distressing and disturbing to younger teenagers and children. The supernatural theme and depictions of children being terrorised by monsters are likely to frighten and disturb younger viewers who may not instinctively know that such things do not exist. Adults and older teens are considered more likely to be able to put the images and themes of the film into the context of the story and treatment. Therefore the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. Considerations under s3 have been weighed against the right to freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. This limitation on the publication's availability is the lowest reasonable restriction that can be applied in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.

Note:

Copyright Office of Film and Literature Classification. This document may be reproduced in whole but not in part without written permission except for brief quotations embodied in articles, reports or reviews.

CONSIDERATION SHEET

OFLC ref:

1700444.000

Submission channel:

s12(1)

Title of publication:

Ιt

Other known title:

It: Part 1 – The Losers' Club/It: Chapter One

It: Chapter One

Medium:

Film

Director:

Roadshow Film Distributors

Andy Muschietti

Producer:

David Katzenberg

et al.

Country of origin:

United States

Language:

English

Applicant:

Film & Video Labelling Body

Examination transcript No:

705

Examination date:

01 August 2017

Classification Officer(s):



Other identifying information:

COMPONENTS OF FILM

Components of film originally examined:

	Components		Running time
Feature(s):	It		134:48
Total running time:			134:48

Components of film excised:

Description of publication:

It is an American horror film based on Stephen King's 1986 novel of the same name. In a small town in Maine in the summer of 1989, a group of outcast teenagers discover that an evil supernatural clown named Pennywise is responsible for kidnapping and murdering numerous children in the town. The friends who wryly dub themselves the Losers' Club' are led by Bill, a boy in his early teens whose little brother was taken by the clown. Bill, Beverly, Stan, Eddie, Ben and Richie and Mike resolve to solve the case of the missing children, all the while trying to avoid the high school bullies, who cruise around town terrorising their victims.

They discover Pennywise and his activities revolve around the sewer system and hunt him down. They are all faced with the psychopathic clown who is able to shapeshift and manifest the deepest, darkest fears of his victims, as he lives off of their fear.

Section 3(1):

Does the publication deal with matters such as:



Sex

There are no depictions of sex, but there are some crass sexual references. Richie is known as "Trash Mouth' due to his vulgar language. He refers to masturbation as "tickling the pickle", calls his penis his "wang", makes "your mother" jokes to his friends and teases them about their virginity even though he is just as likely to have had limited to no sexual experiences himself.



Horror

Section 3(1):

The film has artfully been constructed to be as frightening as possible for the viewer. Pennywise has a large forehead and strange mouth which he is able to stretch and extend, revealing many rows of very sharp teeth. He moves in unnatural ways and has supernatural powers – he is able to adopt the physical characteristics of any person or object he chooses. Each of the friends endures a terrifying encounter with Pennywise. For example, Bill sees his missing little brother in the basement. As he talks to Bill, his face begins to decay and his voice deepens. Pennywise lunes at Bill and chases him up the stairs.

Stan is shown in his father's office at Temple after studying the Torah. He walks past a painting which features a woman who has a distorted, long face. Stan is obviously afraid of this painting, and this woman appears in front of him in the office – she lunges and opens her mouth revealing very sharp teeth. Eddie is chased by a decomposing zombie like figure, Beverly hears voices coming from her bathroom sinkhole and is attacked by sinewy hair that reaches out of the hole, which proceeds to spew a huge amount of blood, completely covering her and the room. Mike sees Pennywise in the shadowy doorway in an alley, and sees smoke and fire and many clamouring hands – his parents died in a house fire. Ben is chased by a headless figure in a library.

There are depictions of Pennywise holding disembodied limbs with blood around his mouth, confirming that he murders the children and eats them. There are images of dead and decaying zombie type creatures, disembodied voices, jump scares and an effective soundtrack which amplifies the effect on the viewer.

 \checkmark

Crime

Murder, discussed under s3(3)(a)(i)

 \checkmark

Cruelty

Henry, the town bully and his friends are cruel to those who they regard hold a lower social status than them. Their bullying is particularly cruel and violent and requires discussion under s3(3)(a)(i).

 \checkmark

Violence

Violence tends to be serious – there are a few scuffles between the friends during more heated moments. See s3(3)(a)(i) for a

_

None of the above, proceed to s3A and s3B

Section 3(2):

Does the content of the publication raise any of these issues? If it does, discuss, and conclude whether the publication promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, that matter.

OFLC Ref: 1700444.000

Section 3(2):				
_	s3(2)(a) The exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes			
_	s3(2)(b) The use of violence or coercion to compel participation in or submission to sexual conduct			
_	s3(2)(c) Necrophilia			
_	s3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with sexual or degrading conduct			
_	s3(2)(e) Bestiality			
_	s3(2)(f) Acts of torture or extreme violence or cruelty			
✓	None of the above			
	ication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used the problematic content?			
	No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. <u>Proceed to Conclusion</u>			
_	Yes. Discuss:			
	s3(2)(c) Necrophilia s3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with sexual or degrading conduct s3(2)(e) Bestiality s3(2)(f) Acts of torture or extreme violence or cruelty None of the above ication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used the problematic content? No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. Proceed to Conclusion			

Section 3(3):

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

Section 3(3): s3(3)(a)(i) Deals with torture, serious physical harm, significant cruelty Pennywise is a killer – he is shown killing Georgie, Bill's little brother. Georgie is shown floating a homemade paper sailboat in the gutters during a rainstorm. He follows the boat happily, however despairs when the boat floats down the open drain. He peers in to find Pennywise holding the boat. After Georgie decides to leave, Pennywise opens his mouth to reveal his many teeth, and bites Georgie's arm off to the shoulder. Georgie crawls across the road, but Pennywise extends his arm and pulls him down the drain. Pennywise tries to kill each member of the Losers' Club, but they grow unafraid in their anger, causing him to lose power. Beverly is captured by Pennywise and placed in a catatonic state in his lair – they are able to save her. His lair also features the floating corpses of his past victims. Bill sees Georgie, who begs with him to come home. However, Bill knows this is a ploy and shoots Georgie in the forehead with a bolt gun – this is quite shocking. Georgie's body then contorts in a grotesque manner and Pennywise emerges from the body. Henry is shown carving his initials into Ben's stomach with a knife. He is goaded by Pennywise to murder his father - he finds a switchblade in a gift box and approaches his father who is asleep in his chair. He presses the knife against his neck and deploys the blade. His father clutches his neck and bleeds profusely. He dies. Beverly attacks her father in self-defence by throwing an object at his head. He presumably dies, as he is sprawled on the bathroom floor bleeding heavily from his head. s3(3)(a)(ii) Deals with sexual violence/coercion It is strongly suggested that Beverly has been the victim of sexual abuse. She lives with her father, an incredibly oppressive and threatening figure who often forces Beverly to insist that she is his "little girl". Beverly's reaction to these encounters makes it clear what she has been subjected to. s3(3)(a)(iii) Deals with degrading/dehumanising/demeaning sexual or physical conduct s3(3)(a)(iv) Deals with sexual conduct with or by children and young people See s3(3)(a)(ii) s3(3)(a)(v) Deals with sexual satisfaction from inflicting or suffering pain/cruelty s3(3)(b) Exploits the nudity of a child or young person

OFLC Ref: 1700444.000 Page 6

Section 3(3):					
_ s3(3)(c) Degrades/dehumani	ses/demeans any person				
_ s3(3)(d) Promotes/encourag	es crime or terrorism				
_ s3(3)(e) Presents members or	f a class of the public as inherent	ly inferior			
 Publication doesn't deal with 	any s3(3) criteria				
Section 3A:					
Does the publication contain highly offer seriously harm young viewers?	nsive language likely to	✓ Yes			
		□ No			
Discuss (including any necessary consideration of offensive language that is not "highly offensive" or any highly offensive language which is not likely to cause serious harm to young viewers):					
The publication contains the use of the word "fuck" and its derivatives. This language is likely to inure younger viewers as it's used by children					
Section 3B:					
Does the publication deal with any of the	following?				
Conduct that, if imitated, would pose a risk of serious harm to self or others					
✓ Self harm/suicide or harm to	✓ Self harm/suicide or harm to a person's body other than that under s3(3)(a)(i)				
The friends cut their palms with bro	ken glass to make a blood oath	198 (198 1995 1995 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1996 1			

OFLC Ref: 1700444.000 Page 7

Section 3B:				
	Physical conduct which is degrading, dehumanising or demeaning other than that under s3(3)(a)(iii)			
	Visual images of a body that are degrading/dehumanising/demeaning other than that under s3(3)(c)			
_	None of the above			
_	ication does deal with these matters, does this content make the publication likely to of the following harms to persons under a specified age? Likely to cause them to be greatly disturbed or shocked			
=	Likely to increase significantly the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to, themselves, others, or both			
•	Likely to encourage them to treat or regard themselves, others, or both, as degraded			
Discuss lik	ely harm/s or why the content is unlikely to cause these harms:			
Unlikely to	shock or disturb in comparison to the rest of the content and unlikely to encourage			

Other relevant information to be taken into account:							

Conclusion:

emulation in the context of a fantastical horror film

- In addition to all of the above matters, consider relevant s3(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

\sim		•			
Co	1	വ	1101	10 to	۰
	11	v.	LLOI	CHI	

The dominant effect is of an effective horror film. It is well-made and visually striking. The unrestricted availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good due to its treatment of matters of horror, cruelty, and violence and to a lesser extent sex and the theme of sexual abuse. The images of violence, gore and horror are likely to be disturbing to younger teenagers and children and inure them to gruesome violence. The supernatural theme would frighten and disturb younger viewers who may not instinctively know that things such as Pennywise the clown do not exist. Adults and older teens are considered more likely to be able to put the images and themes of the film into the context of the story and treatment. Therefore the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. Considerations under s3 have been weighed against the right to freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. The availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good unless it is restricted. This restriction is reasonable, justified and in accordance with the law. This limitation on the publication's availability is the minimum restriction that can be applied in order to prevent likely injury to the public good.

Classification:				
	R16			
Descriptive Note to cover: Violence, horror, sexual refs ,offensive language				
Display conditions (restricted publications only):				
Are display conditions necessary?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
Reason for any display conditions:				

6 Sec. Timer. OFLC Ref / 770444 Title (+ Other Known title(s) It: purt 1- The Loser's Clib Medium Film Director (s) andy Muschetti Producer (s) David Katzenkery Country (ies) U.S Language (s) Eylich Classification R16 Raining Suburba tolding paper boat Cellar for wax. 1988 3.04 Cellar - dark.
foreshadaurg. Munder.
4.48 paints boat to floot-hugs Bro Gilly. Koy Lin From

رع ک 10 Raincocat watching float gutter. 6.03 Mits Lead. Chasing Boat domp drain geors in Eyes Clown greorgie has boat 8 Kluring Gorgie Jacquis Stops Rich Gorgie Jacquis dro Bits orm Bleeding Badg. Gains Time '89 3 gun to execute Shoaring shot. 3 young man. Shap Killed On Screen Mike Cl-49 School Bill friends.

dis Barmitz Bulliad, girl-greta. Bully-girl smoking, Damp "tickling your pickle Betty Missing. · refuking losers 15-16 New Kid-Ben-Ben Sign his year book Bill. home in trouble. Seassel

رډېر 18:19 "This dead". y 9.31 mike hidus from Butties, anising in wanan. DOOK in alley. Many hards. like a furnace. disp. 20-24 Sees Clour glowing eye Bullies come 21.05 practing. Stan Rubbis can. in dads office. Pantig falls (nall.

27.32 lights thicker.

Noman in it missing door

creaks open. Flute · propss it · Asmiles Brigglat 23-FF hards-going to sever. 21.30 hi brang. Ben - Easter Explosion. 26:36 Bodies de Ballovn. 27.M Eosty eggtvart. Filing Room. figure dartig-about. Staggers dan Stairs Headess Moves jerkity. clown Bully calls him "tits", marching to bridg. I-shirt over fre flame - aerosol con punches free Bloody feer-

11 ccurt). carre-H unore you fuck ast. 21.45 Sener Beth I Sneak Ben-finals Boys. Bully on chart. Sever. aerosol & litter 35 duses to light may. Shadons decared files smite Runs falls. Boloon . L. y Devry. Cloud head lifts - cast Buying first aid things. Bour 38-1 Ber flirtig u/ Phaim whilst the steals. & Whit is longer than my warmer. father abustie. "tell me ton Still my " He god. tand - Smells for. 41.3786 pholy. 420 Cuts hair . flacting. 42.17 under parts quarry bevery suntathing - Stores history books

46.50 Ben Joye - Research Perry Patricksmisty. 3. Research Derry creepy old house dilapidatel 49-91 Popr opens. growl from within Eddie. Hard. - Zombe - type figure. ST.15 old house · Staguis ·

Cloup · Burch baloons Pennymon

M. 10 baloons pop get aug locks set brom (Ber) postcar-Means a unisper "Bevery "Help me, glease. Sink hole.
Children "We all Float down here
"Come Clost". 534 pokes tope masur don Keeps. pullbach A Blood, hali Blood lastos hands. Hair faco. all dor too & malls Sits on flow Coatsfoom coplety. water-lety.

SX Shodow leave Footpants follow. Paincoat
Basement. 8848 BULY. Collar - fullyater: +alking. "it floated off." fice-decomposes. Reprodusse-slams-clown chases. Blead Go WBEN'S apartment - Should-Cleanin telling about usions. homeschool Kids lake. Bullie. "Canony wigers". prop kbi. head - Skul Meat. Sees Cloub. lating an arm. waves w/it. Rock in hand. about to purch. Rocks. Fuck u Bligh . Henry on floor blow your dad now all together. parado. 327 years.

70.45 Mile-parent perished houseful. II.M fich scared of down 7300 Miarchale A neorgil-mums face turns inte P's-face. Keeps going pops out of screen grant 74-M pull open garage -4500 Bill goly. Well house. 78-77 gasping, Rasping noises-Betty on floor prayged V Suddeng back hears 20mbe hargs pack asthre-A Dow Slams Eddie Stuck. Har Jalgang. Zombie falls on bottom Flor Stuk · Richiet Ba In Robin Sheet.

(5 ' & Sheet fall away clown is inc. ventra dumme coffin-8mings open. 17FOUND 84 Body Dimmy of set maggets. Pennyw. Jumps out. head. Vomits and nuarra play lugie -23.33 annspoler. Hard/MS contorly out of Ref. Utime to floot droolig teeth many teen. Reals , no ban Jungel autold drols · leas · follows · WEU BIOGO - Lewet. Mam mad muble punches Diche 39-07

Shooting. Show I dat. Eddic-bound am. She tell him his meds are placelos. Signs something mean Menny- Jo Mous balloon. Jotterhor. gitt. nite. sæms possessed. 94.05 father Miscle. Pozing. teleisin- "KLL Tim Sur-tehbade - Releases grabs Avey bloods but them all. 5:36 Berery-dad grabbing how hard. quelling her hand portcard faut back grabs her legs. on top - Kicks him in ball.
Wide they know you're my give hits him and pot Bleeding from pennyn-grats Lov Ber's. And har father

ا لو / 99-10 Ber Missing gatherighted. 100-27 Richie challenges mother munchhausels Willer prings bott Killer toning selus. Henry-watching. - Rom Climbing D. 104. 9B. alive Wakes up sout Boolies floating-orbiting around trush pile 106.09 Show Regins. Flames. Behind. dancing grabs Lor by the throat teeth. on teeth on toth mouth opens paging to Mot. Henry + 11 to Mito. Henry. A Henry - points Bolfgun. ploses. mile, this hima tod pushs him down nell drops.

\V (D. 03 Noman - from painting mouth dor fow many took only. Little Bite marks Han or (-11 Bills-gone sess le Hle Fro. Charge finds lair 112:19 BNM1.

A corrsps floating in grey water. gary find Ber. pulling for eyes are miles asley 114.19 Kisses B. Wateshoro georgie "what took usu long" ongin. [15-12 arm missing. enory. " Du Bu - not him. A Shoots him forehead Crying to bt. turns into leprywo. Rather grocterque Corpse look Roall. had - lungles Bitis gr. Dunctes MG H8:15 Frenzy - Mas Bill. Will take only Bill.

رهنح gang - pole-thru month. Laughig - Sibbig. Crow. Bar. 1220 Shull opens Slips down nell-Kirds are floating. PROMISE Como Ber golag cred