

## WRITTEN REASONS FOR DECISION SECTION 12

### HEADNOTE

<b>Type of Publication:</b>	Film 35mm
<b>Title of Publication:</b>	Shooter
<b>Other known title:</b>	Not Stated
<b>OFLC Publication Reference No:</b>	700637
<b>Decision:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
<b>Display Conditions:</b>	Nil
<b>Descriptive Note:</b>	Graphic violence

*Shooter* is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years because of its treatment of matters of violence.

The publication *Shooter* is a 35mm film directed by Antoine Fuqua, based on the novel *Point of Impact* by Stephen Hunter. It is comprised of one complete feature with a running time of 126 min 53 sec.

The film *Shooter* is about a former Marine Corps scout sniper, Bob Lee Swagger, who moves into exile after being left stranded during a mission. With the threat of an assassination attempt on the President, Colonel Isaac Johnson persuades Swagger to come out of retirement in the aid of serving his country one last time. Due to his expertise in ballistics, Swagger is asked to plan an assassination for the purpose of determining whether or not a sniper can shoot the President from a range of up to a mile. Swagger puts in place this plan but at the time of the expected assassination attempt, the Archbishop of Ethiopia is shot instead of the President, with Swagger framed for the assassination. From that point onwards, Swagger is on the run to save his life and uncover the corruption, deceit and state sanctioned mass murder that has engulfed senior members of government and armed forces.

The publication deals with matters of crime, cruelty and violence in terms of s3(1) of the FVPC Act. The extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication depicts acts of significant cruelty and the infliction of serious physical harm is discussed in relation to s3(3)(a)(i). The publication does not deal with any matters relevant to s3(2).

The publication deals with matters of crime in terms of s3(1) of the FVPC Act through the prevalent gratuitous killing of men during armed warfare, assassination of the Archbishop, and the state sanctioned mass murder of a tribe in Ethiopia. The various violent acts resulting in death are discussed under s3(3)(a)(i).

The publication deals with matters of cruelty and violence. All of the acts of violence are formulaic and gratuitous with an emphasis on high impact, fast paced action sequences. This includes spectacular explosions that kill large numbers of enemy soldiers, as well as the final climactic scene of Swagger detonating an explosion in the house that holds the corrupt Senator and Colonel. This is further discussed under s3(3)(a)(i).

The infliction of serious physical harm is extensive throughout the publication. There are a high number of action sequences where large scale killings by guns and armoured helicopters occur. The first scene opens with Swagger and his Marine Corp colleague in a battlefield taking aim and killing enemy soldiers. The camera zooms in on the scope of the rifle so that the viewer can see the soldier as he is hit by the bullet and killed. The depiction of such killings is extensive throughout the film, with the viewer being exposed to many scenes of a similar nature.

Other acts of gratuitous violence include helicopter fire that shoots and kills enemy soldiers, point blank range killings, and hand-to-hand combat when Swagger stabs rival men to death whilst on the run. In many of these depictions of violence, the viewer sees the rival men suffering massive injury, including their heads being blown off and bullets penetrating their bodies. Some of the killings take on a cruel element, such as when Swagger shoots off the hand of a man on a mountain top, instead of killing him mercifully. The viewer is then exposed to the blood and fleshy remains of the injured man's wrist, followed by Swagger shooting off the remainder of the man's arm.

An act of torture and cruelty in this film is shown when an ostracised FBI agent is interrogated for information leading to Swagger. The man is tied up to a grisly apparatus and forcefully fed water to wash out the drugs he has been dosed with. The apparatus has a gun attached to it in an attempt to fake the suicide of the FBI agent. The interrogation is eventually foiled when Swagger shoots dead the men holding the FBI agent hostage.

The dominant effect of this publication as a whole is a formulaic, high intensity action film involving explosions and choreographed violence. The unrestricted availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. The publication contains extensive depictions of violence which are likely to be disturbing to children and younger teenagers. Older teenagers and adults are able to put these elements of the publication into context, because of experience and maturity which younger teenagers and children are unlikely to possess. Taking these factors into account the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good unless restricted to an audience of 16 years and over.

***Written reasons are not legally required for section 12 submissions, but it is the policy of the Classification Office to provide them.***

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Date	3/04/2007	OFLC Ref	700637
Applicant	FVLB		
Applicant to Labelling Body	PARAMOUNT PICTURES NZ		
Title (On Screen)	Shooter		
Other Known Title	NOT STATED		
Director/s	Antoine FAQUA		
Producer/s	Lorenzo di Bonaventura		
System Format	Film 35mm	Country of Origin	USA
Language/s	English		

Classification	R16		
Descriptive Note	GRAPHIC VIOLENCE		
Excision/s	N/A	Date Cleared	
Total Running Time	126:53	Total Running Time after Excisions	

0:00 Paramount Pictures

0:49 "SHOOTER"

1:54 LORENZO (Producer).

2:10 ANTONIA (Director).

2:25 Two men with rifles about to shoot animals.

3:23 Army barracks discussing enemy.

4:07 Two soldiers ready to shoot. See man shoot enemy in head, falls to ground and army vehicle crashes.

4:59 Montage of soldiers taking hits at enemy.

- 5:33 See man's head shot as bullet hits
- 6:48 Use of helicopter to bomb enemy vehicles
- 7:12 See man hit by helicopter fire, on ground dead - see blood on neck
- 8:15 Man shoots helicopter down.
- 8:33 Thirty six months later man in alpine woods with dog.
- 9:52 Langley, Virginia - Discussing Bob Schwaffer by politicians.
- 11:37 Officials approach Bob - Colonel Isaac Johnson
- 12:58 (line) Asked to plan a presidential assassination, not to carry out.
- 13:54 Colonel describes that an internal leak claims some will try to take a shot from further than 800 yards.
- 16:24 reel change
- 17:01 Bob on hill contemplating if he will take on the task of planning assassination.
- 17:55 Bob with rifle testing range of a mile. See close up of bullet hitting.
- 19:32 Washington, DC. Bob arrives into city.
- 20:38 Philadelphia -
- 21:48 Bob describes different best areas for bullet to colonel & others.
- 24:14 President arrives in area, Bob is with team responsible for keeping President safe
- 25:38 Archbishop speaking before President  
Ethiopia

- 26:44 On shit, fuck (police officer)
- 28:00 foreign rifle getting ready to fire.
- 28:27 Gun shots - policeman shooting at Bob.
- 29:00 off lens "How could you fucking miss!"
- 29:42 Bob shot, injured - approaches police officer. Get gun off him and steal car.
- 31:30 Police after Bob due to framing him as assassin.
- 32:49 See close up wounds of bullet shots on Bob.
- 33:23 Car chase pursuit for Bob.
- 34:30 Bob hits truck and comes to a halt - police firing at car - car goes into ocean.
- 35:11 reel change
- 36:07 Bob makes it to shore, still bleeding from gun shot wounds
- 37:16 Steals a truck/wre and uses that to get away.
- 39:13 Policeman getting interrogated for being a victim to Bob and having gun taken off him.
- 41:26 Bob takes a jacket from a truck.
- 42:28 Bob performing surgery on himself with needle.
- 44:28 See video tape of assassination with head hit by bullet & blood splattering.
- 45:38 Bob arrives at Donny's wife (old partner). Confesses his innocence.
- 46:54 Told to place vehicle in garage.

- 48:44 Bob and Sarah in house.
- 50:37 Policeman thinking about conspiracy of killing. He
- 51:54 Man shot point blank range in alleyway  
see marked man
- 52:28 Bob taking gas <sup>out</sup> of car to go unconscious for procedure.
- 54:19 Bob having dream about the shooting - gun goes off.
- 54:52 reel change.
- 55:25 Good policeman on top of church making measurements, potential crime took place here.
- 58:36 Bob having wounds cared for. Bob asks if she has a boyfriend.
- 60:46 Bob given rifle by Sarah.
- 62:06 Bob gets slapped by Sarah for causing his partner's life to die.
- 63:16 Sarah asked to do a mission.
- 65:20 Two police officers assaulted by Bob as they ask for ID.
- 68:28 policeman seized by internal.
- 69:04 hanging by rope under arms and being fed water.
- 70:07 Policeman being strong to shoot himself. Three bad policemen shot by swagger.
- 71:10 Policeman cut loose from apparatus (nick Memphis) (Special Agent FBI)

72:35 reel change.

73:48 Evil insiders work out that Swagger sends flowers every year.

75:15 Arrive in Tennessee to consult expert old man.

77:32 'locked his arse up' 'brutal son of a bitch' old man.  
off Larry

78:31 'Fuck me' Bob remembers seeing assassin.

80:47 Colonel discusses with Senator possibility of Ethiopian plane landing with soldier to kill Swagger.

81:35 Sarah shoots man with shot gun and kills him. Another man raises gun to her head.  
vio x

82:22 (Virginia) Bob and Nick marking weapons to use if they need them.

83:48 Nick practising shooting with Swagger.

84:26 Sarah bound up with man in room.

85:11 Swagger stabs man to death and pulls knives over him.  
vio x

86:20 Swagger kills another man in tunnel.

87:11 Swagger strangles a man with a cord, then shoots another one on roof.

89:10 Swagger holds gun to ex-sniper about why Ethiopian archbishop died.

91:00 reel change.

92:08 man shoots himself (suicide)

92:26 Swagger shoots soldier that come into house. see blood smeared on ground as he is dragged through house.

93:27 shooting and killings as Swagger leaves house

94:02 men burning in flames as bombs go off.

94:46 helicopter comes into try & kill Nick & Swagger.

96:24 Swagger shoots tanker that blows up and engulfs the helicopter that crashes and blows up

97:38 'what the fuck is going on!'

98:25 (Montana) Nick calls Howard (base) from cellphone.

99:43 Colonel Johnson calls Swagger.

101:28 Colonel has Sarah & meet Swagger on mountain top with the Senator.

102:49 man shot on mountain, followed by that man being killed

104:05 man killed in the head by shot

105:04 NO Man's head shot, then arm taken off graphic depiction of results of gun shot.

106:57 Sarah shoots man repeatedly point blank range - see body shudder from shots.

108:17 Senator accused of murders of tribes in Ethiopia. Admits it

110:29 Colonel & Swagger discussing who won & lost.



111:27 Swagger arrested.

112:41 "Fuck off"

113:04 Swagger admits the gun is his.

114:11 "You son of a bitch." (Attorney General)

114:45 photos of murdered people in Africa.

116:36 Bob Lee Swagger free to go.

117:52 man falls from roof due to being wounded.  
car explodes

118:58 man shot in knee from Swagger under house.  
see man holding leg with extensive blood.  
Swagger kills man point blank range.

119:57 Swagger shoots Senator in chair - see gun  
shot wounds of shots on dead bodies.

120:53 House explodes into flames as Swagger  
walks away.

121:46 Swagger & Sarah drive off down highway

122:13 Credits.

126:53 End.