

## CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

**Title of publication:** The Beach  
**Other known title(s):** Not stated  
**OFLC ref:** 1700542.002  
**Medium:** Film (online)  
**Distributor:** Timpson Films  
**Director:** Ruairi Griffin  
Grant McNaughton  
**FVLB Applicant:** Timpson Films  
**Producer:** Not stated  
**Country of origin:** Aotearoa New Zealand  
**Language:** English  
**Applicant:** Film & Video Labelling Body

<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted: Suitable for mature audiences 16 years of age and over.
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**Excisions:** No excisions recommended

**Descriptive note:** Deals with suicide

**Display conditions:** None

**Date of entry in Register:** 20 September 2017

**Date of direction to issue a label:** 20 September 2017

**Date of notice of decision:** No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	Running time
<b>Timed component(s):</b>	The Beach	2:56
<b>Total running time:</b>		2:56


**Summary of reasons for decision:**

Not applicable

## CONSIDERATION SHEET

<b>OFLC ref:</b>	1700542.002
<b>Submission channel:</b>	s12(1)

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<b>Medium:</b>	Film (online)
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<b>Applicant:</b>	Film & Video Labelling Body

<b>Examination transcript No:</b>	723
<b>Examination date:</b>	19 September 2017
<b>Classification Officer(s):</b>	
<b>Other identifying information:</b>	

**COMPONENTS OF FILM****Components of film originally examined:**

	<b>Components</b>	<b>Running time</b>
<b>Timed component(s):</b>	The Beach	2:56
<b>Total running time:</b>		2:56

**Components of film excised:**

**Description of publication:**

*The Beach* is a short film about a young woman who experiences flashbacks to a traumatic event in her life. The film begins with the woman landing on the shores of a beach, setting up a tent and collecting wood for a fire. She has apparitions of her partner on the beach and flashbacks to the couple in a bathroom. The woman experiences pain in her abdomen and a flashback sequence shows she was previously pregnant. The man appears to her on the beach and is shown walking along the beach with rope around his neck. The short film ends with the woman sitting inside a tent. When the tent collapses, she is seen sitting in a garage with her partner hung by rope from the roof, dangling in the air. It is implied that the man took his own life in response to the overwhelming stress of the couple experiencing a miscarriage.

The short film was created as part of the 2017 48 Hour film competition.

**Section 3(1):**

Does the publication deal with matters such as:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Horror
The short film has a dark, disturbing tone. The camera focuses in close-up on rope around the man's neck as he walks down the beach. The final scene depicts the man hung by rope from the roof of the garage.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crime
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cruelty
<input type="checkbox"/>	Violence
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above, <u>proceed to s3A and s3B</u>

<b>Section 3(2):</b>	
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.	
—	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
If the publication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used to remove the problematic content?	
—	No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. <u>Proceed to Conclusion</u>
—	Yes. Discuss:

<b>Section 3(3):</b>	
If any of the following criteria apply, discuss in terms of the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication:	
—	s3(3)(a)(i) Deals with torture, serious physical harm, significant cruelty
—	s3(3)(a)(ii) Deals with sexual violence/coercion
—	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
—	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
—	s3(3)(c) Degrades/dehumanises/demeans any person
—	s3(3)(d) Promotes/encourages crime or terrorism
—	s3(3)(e) Presents members of a class of the public as inherently inferior
✓	Publication doesn't deal with any s3(3) criteria

**Section 3A:**

Does the publication contain highly offensive language likely to seriously harm young viewers?

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):

**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 a person’s body other than that under s3(3)(a)(i)

The short film contains a scene depicting the aftermath of a suicide. The man is shown hung by rope, dangling in the air. The scene is likely to be disturbing and/or upsetting to audiences, particularly children. While the suicide is not glamorised, the narrative to a certain extent portrays suicide as a normal reaction to a negative life event.

—

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

### Section 3B:

If the publication does deal with these matters, does this content make the publication likely to cause any 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 likely harm/s or why the content is unlikely to cause these harms:

See conclusion for discussion.

### Other relevant information to be taken into account:

### Conclusion:

- 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

*The Beach* is not likely to cause injury to the public good if widely viewed. It is recommended, however, that due to the film's treatment of suicide it is more suitable for an audience aged 16 years and over. Mature audiences are likely to have the life experience to contextualise the suicide themes. The short film encourages thought and discussion about suicide and its effects on individuals, family and greater society. This classification does not limit the rights and freedoms expressed under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.



<b>Classification:</b>
Unrestricted M
<b>Descriptive Note to cover:</b> Deals with suicide

<b>Display conditions (restricted publications only):</b>	
Are display conditions necessary?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Reason for any display conditions:	

Date 19/9/17

OFLC Ref. 170054R.002

Title The Beach

Other Known title(s)

Medium Film (online)

Director (s) Ruairi Griffin / Grant McNaughton

Producer (s) Not stated.

Country (ies) Aotearoa

Language (s) English

Classification

0:00 Dwarf shortage notice opens short film

:35 Woman walks on beach after making it to shore. She falls to her knees in pain - possibly pregnant.

1:46 She collects sticks to build a fire - see a man in a suit by her tent.

2:22 Man in know - to woman - photo of woman in bush - switches back to

2:32 a rose crown next to her on beach. Woman is in tent - tent collapses to

slide show her in a garage with dog partner hung by rope - dead. Swinging

2:56 in air.  
end