

WRITTEN REASON FOR DECISION SECTION 12

TITLE OF PUBLICATION: The Beach

OFLC REF:108

HEADNOTE

Type of Publication: Video recording

Title of Publication: The Beach

Other known title: Not Stated

OFLC Publication

Reference No: 108

Decision: Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display Conditions: Nil.

Descriptive Note: Contains violence, offensive language, drug use and sex scenes.

The Beach is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. This classification is because of the extent and degree to which and the manner in which the feature depicts violence, drug use, sex, and offensive language.

The Beach is a British 35 mm film with a running time of 119 min 55sec.

The film revolves around Richard, a young American back-packer in Thailand. In a Bangkok hostel Richard meets a crazed Scot who gives him a map for a mysterious island in the Gulf of Thailand, before killing himself. With a French couple, Richard manages to get to the island, and finds it inhabited by a hedonistic commune of ex-patriot back-packers, as well as armed Thai marijuana farmers. Richard becomes part of the commune, and falls in love with François, the French girl he arrived on the island with.

Events turn sour for Richard after a trip to the mainland, when he relays to the commune leader, Sally, that he gave a copy of the map to a group of Americans. Richard is banished to one side of the island to await their arrival, then witnesses their murder by the marijuana farmers. The film ends with the dissolution of the commune.

The film is accompanied by a voice-over from Richard and a variety of mostly techno-dance music.

The film contains one sex scene and another scene involving female breast nudity. The sex scene, between Richard and Sally, takes place behind a mosquito net and is inexplicit. However, it is still clear what is taking place. There is also another scene where Richard and François finally make love. They are depicted in the surf under cover of moonlight kissing, and François's bikini top is removed, revealing her breasts. The scene is shown in a tender way, and is not particularly titillating.

The film also contains the regular use of offensive language, but it is not used in a gratuitous way, or in a manner which makes a significant impact upon the film.

Nothing in this film falls under s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The film does contain material that must be considered under s3(3), namely s3(3)(a)(i) and s3(3)(d), on account of the depiction of four American back-packers being shot, and the way in which drugs are dealt with.

The film depicts violence and the infliction of serious harm, occasionally to a high degree. There are three strong examples of this. The first involves a drawn out sequence depicting two men who have been attacked by a large shark. One of the men is seriously wounded: one of his legs has been badly mauled, and he has gaping wounds around his mid-riff. The wounds are only shown briefly and from a slight distance, but are realistically presented. The scene then depicts the other victim. He is shown on a beach with a large tear in his calf-muscle. Blood is shown strewn along the beach and in the water. The sequence in which Richard discovers the Scot's body is also disturbing. Dried blood is depicted sprayed all over the walls of a room before the corpse is discovered.

The other strong example of the infliction of serious physical harm involves four American back-packers being shot by the marijuana farmers. Having stumbled upon the field, they are caught by the farmers. When one of them starts to panic they are shot, one by one, not in an execution style, but at relatively close range. Blood is seen exploding from the wounds, and when one of the victims is shot, blood is sprayed onto Richard's face (who witnesses the murders). Two of the shootings are shown in slow motion. While the sequence is short, the shootings make a distinct impression upon the film. This is especially so since they follow a tense build up and because, up until this sequence, most of the film focuses upon the laid back and hedonistic lifestyle of the commune.

The film encourages a criminal act, namely the use and cultivation of marijuana, by consistently depicting it throughout the film.

In the first half of the film Richard is depicted smoking marijuana cigarettes. The smoking itself is shown in an indifferent manner. However, marijuana smoking is encouraged by presenting the lead character (and film's hero) smoking marijuana in a matter-of-fact, casual way. This ambivalent attitude is reinforced by the hedonistic and appealing way in which the

commune is presented, where marijuana appears to be freely available. However, marijuana smoking appears to be an accurate reflection of the culture associated with back-packers touring Thailand. Marijuana cultivation is also dealt with. One of the leading attractions of the island (to the back-packers) is the fact that marijuana grows abundantly there. On arrival, Richard and the French couple are elated when they discover a field of marijuana. Their elation soon wanes when they see the armed farmers. It is also revealed that the commune grows marijuana to sell in order to subsidise its existence. Again this is presented as normal and acceptable, if not legitimate. However, the dangerous side to growing is also shown, especially as the Thai farmers are always shown as dangerous: they carry assault rifles, and of course murder the four American tourists. However, no other negative aspects of drug taking or the drug trade are shown.

The film is an adaptation of a book which maintains a cult-status amongst back-packers in South-East Asia. The dominant effect is of a travel adventure which exposes the ugly underbelly of an attempt to preserve a secret back-packers' haven in Thailand. The excitement of the film's tempo is maintained throughout, the scenery in which the most of the film is set is beautifully captured, giving the publication artistic merit. The film's main star, Leonardo DiCaprio, will also increase the film's appeal to teenagers.

The extent, and degree which, and the manner in which the film depicts sex, violence, and drug taking, means that the film's availability is likely to be injurious to the public good unless restricted. The Classification Office is of the view that older teenagers will be able to cope with the film's content, and that a restriction to an audience of older teenagers and adults is necessary to minimise any likely injury.

Written reason for decision is not required for section 12 submissions. It is the policy of the Classification Office to provide written reasons for section 12 submissions.

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|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------|
| DATE | 07-02-2000 | COMPUTER NO. | 105 |
| TIME EXAMINATION COMMENCED | 1.35 | TIME EXAMINATION FINISHED | 3.00 |
| TITLE (ON SCREEN) | The Beach | | |
| COMMON TITLE (IF ANY) | UK BEACH | | |
| CAST | Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert Carlyle, Tilda Swinton | | |
| DIRECTOR | Danny Boyle | LANGUAGE | English |
| SYSTEM/FORMAT | 35mm film | COUNTRY OF ORIGIN | UK |
| EXCISIONS | | DATE CLEARED | |
| DECISION/CLASSIFICATION | R16 Contains violence, offensive language, drug use and sex scenes. | | |
| REMARKS | | | |
| TOTAL RUNNING TIME | 119.55 | TOTAL RUNNING TIME AFTER EXCISION | |

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(20) notice

0:4

Credits: deleted.

Buy soap voice over Richard. Talked bed.

B walks - foot of golden statue.

1:16 Bangkok market.

Leonardo + B. Thai

Snake blood. B te

1:16 Dark room. Case full of snakes.

Leo. drinks

st Leonard DiCaprio - Tilda Swinton, Viggo Mortensen, Alison Lohman, Robert Carlyle.

B. DANE

3:24 Apocalypse now on Cinema.

1:16 4:02 L. talking of death into room. Friend.

The Beach.

NS 450 Leonardo - bed - names of sex - bed.
It can hear noise. Bob Calyx - hallway

shortly after:

S25 It did knock. looking - Scottish identities

Bob rip screen. Pokes head -

x 617 Bob brings up joint. Pot smoking

It talks of a head.

NS 7 - Island - Bob Calyx talking about pepper.

Lagoon also returned. 2 victims.

751 Travels fuckin wanks. 2 of talk between 2 rooms.

Yoni - fucked - he lead of Leo -> Bob

9:10 Pot smoked. Bob drops away

NS 489 Benflood - Leo - hallway. Little old lady working call.

Map of has to get to head. Cult of Thailand

SL 11:06 Bloody room. Spattered. Dead Calyx of floor

Bladed throat? Grip. Knife on floor.

NS 1225 Police station - explains in voice. Tells him

to make statement. He writes something down.

NS 1324 has -> Leo room - talking to himself?

1549 Knocks a friend couples etc. Sedcons then.

143 Journey to idrive place. Trains + ferries.

Voice-over

1518 Tourist beaches

friend of bikini

1548 Head is in national park. (in open cage)

1622 Storm breaks

1649 Richard says: Looked at of ...

2 Americas beaches Ln.

α 30° st + smoke tab. 1957

1742 Urban myth of KFC mouth. Urban myth about food.

1842 Dope on beach, too.

am 1927 Richard makes copy of map. He was food too.

sr 2031 On boat journey. Boat lands

3 on beach.

2127 ♀ at night photographing sky

Rich. plays with photo + camera. The talks of space. Pato

2303 ♀ makes quip about Americans.

FX of sky making

2407 3 looking at island. It's a long way away

They all swim off. Underwater shots.

friend of seen film.

Francis of disappears.

He comes up its a joke

2705 They all laugh.

Play new of island.

2718 They had a lead.

nb 27 In bush

2819 RL

2855 Field full of marijuana.

2906 ♂ on floor in kitchen.

♂ Thai wakes up.

♂ L fed keep quiet.

Now Thai ♂ eat guns arrive.

30 ♂ search my monkey - leads - sees Rida.

They bring into bush.

3214 They walk in stream. Then walk up it.

Waterfall. ♀ wants to jump

♂ start to fight. 25' then jump.

3515 I don't, back ♂ - effort applauds them.

nb 3555 They walk to rest.

Voice on of talking travellers comment.

3650 at hut - making. Tilda - 'Sally' - Eynon

3780 Map so burnt. 'Daffy' is calge'

3820 Group walk to bed.

Empty beam.

3908 Lagoon.

Richard was back.

RIC 39.53

4011. In hut. ♀ makes speak Thai?

4109 Richard speak Thai

n/s Jellyfish voiceover about Sell.

Grow marijuana to support.

Deal with dark James.

4280 Comic novels.

Topless ♀.

4355. R.O. caught. Soccer. Coast.

4457 09 - tree.

Tattoo ritual. on head of pt.

4586 Voiceover cont. desire. Edward looking for

Francois

4641 Richard on ready. Black ♂ kama

4732 ♂ wards Lin ff Francois.

Harry ♂ wants a dentist.

4831 Tooth ripped out.

4928 R.O. on head of pt.

Francois becomes Lin for water

♂ & ♀ : nearby waters.

So gentle

4956 She reports ♂?

Ekeme in favor. They swim ← gliding just stops.

They kiss under water.

She beats! Kissing.

n/5202 ♂ eating bamboo. Ekeme. (angry)

Ekeme wilds make. 'Frustrated' He's upset.

n/s Rain - growl - dead. Ear goes spee-ah-ah.

Shark - uck. Big noise ♂

n/5505 at night did → tells of tale. of shark.

at in top seas of shark attack.

5717 ♂ asks of Bugs. questions. Richard winds him up.

5825 R1C

5800/5 Meeting an. Rice contained. No volunteers to go to market.

Sally wants Richard. Ko-Pin - Yang.

5845 Laughing gives orders. Rice, soap, karpas.
Dead.

6121 Bugs gave Richard by labels.

n/s in town. Snow. coming End. Then.

Richard makes phone call.

6240 Phone book.

6313 2 Americans meet Richard at bar.

Red light. Richard gets aggressive.

6421 Richard + Sally.

Sally leaves.

66- Richard + Sally ^{sex} : mossy net. ineffect. bears?

Richard mentions Bugs.

6703 Supplies loaded... Boat enters cave...

6822 Supplies divided out.

6856 Richard + Francois. She questions the whole Sally thing.

6931 "Nothing happened" They kiss.

Group photo.

7054 2 of ... come back from beach.

Badly nauted leg.

Shark attack victim.

2nd of ... is dead.

7246 L hurt, negotiate victim wants to stay Sally

wants to go.

7329 Funeral of Stan. Snijder team Bob McLaughlin

7505 On beam.

W/S Etienne comforts Swede. Christo

7623 The take in to bed.

7701 Volleyball

775 Richard - Flashback. - Jeffy - corpse -

X He gets up. ~~Sorely~~ Loud jolt.

780 Sally & Richard. sees. Tourists on the island.

R/C 7950 Richard on beach. Frances arrives -
drops him. Fr. upset.

8084 P

Richard - beach.

8145 Farms with guns. voiceover.

Complex scene Richard & Jeffy scene. Rollman.

His argument - Judge.

8356 He catches James / with guns. He dies then.

Voiceover

86 - fx - Flashback to Jeffy He was at the gun -

bar scene. - made for.

8725 Richard - shed. Steve & James Richard speed out

8826 Richard forced to get up. Hears nothing about himself.

Dark shed. Eye only visible. Richard turns on P.

8945 Spiked hole / man trap

9025 Richard & Jeffy at night - early mid room

Jeffy talks to Richard.

913 Richard - shed at night. He the farmer.

He steals valachikov

9324 He puts gun back. Steals bandana

Americans wire by Bobt.

They find feed of duck.

Farmers find Americans.

9537 Cannon buldoye.

1st shot.

1 of escapes. rest of shot dead.

Good spotted Red and free.

9753 Red runs away. Chased by 2nd gen.

3 falls: bea pt. Red jumps off waterfall.

4/1 99-12 Daily loading ~~last~~ meeting for celebrations

100-18 Francois + Robert scarp above him. He throws L to floor + talks to L.

101-17 2 friend + Robert Etienne still late by L

102-10 Farmer outside - Party.

Richard kisses Aniko Richard suffocates.

Aniko

10333 Richard cries

10404 Can see Party stopped.

4/1 10423 Speed from Thai farmer.

1044 Farmer angry.

He wants them to go home. Sally says 'no'

106.04 Richard (with head wounds) Thai farmer empties gun.

107.05 Russian Roulette ? Sally given gun.

Dave. Everyone cries. Sally can't do it

108.11 Richard scream + shots. Good's Sally

Gun doesn't fire.

109.12 Everyone leaves. 'Capt Sally'.

110.14 Dark going from band.

n/b Map of world and four chart clips.

Richard - job.

Alex's E-mail. - Francois has search something.

Bo with...

113.18 Credits ? dark.

Donny Boyle Dir
Andrew McDonald Prod.

119.55