

TITLE: ROMANCING THE STONE

DATE: 24 3 84

FILM VIDEO

DISTRIBUTOR: 20th Century Fox

FIRST RESUB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA

CATEGORY: '15'

CUTS NO CUTS

GENRE: Adventure romance story

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUB-TITLED DUBBED

FOR BOARD DISCUSSION

APPROPRIATE CATEGORY	U	PG	15	18	R18	CUTS	REJECT
THEME		✓					
TREATMENT		✓	✓				
VISUALS: NUDITY		?	✓				
SEX							
VIOLENCE		?	✓				
HORROR							
LANGUAGE		✓					
DRUGS							
CRIMINAL TECHNIQUES		?	✓				
LEGALITY: OBSCENITY							
CHILDREN							
ANIMALS							
BLASPHEMY							
FILM AS A WHOLE			✓				

SYNOPSIS AND COMMENTS:

The film is an enjoyable adventure action-cum-comedy/romance story. It opens with a beautiful blonde in a Western threatened by a baddie and then rescued by a classic goodie. This turns out to be the creation of Joan Wilder, top romantic fiction writer seen weeping over her manuscript in a modern American city. Soon Joan becomes involved in an adventure in Colombia every bit as wild as her novels. Some gangsters (Ralph and Ira) have captured Joan's sister in an attempt to get at a map, that she has, telling of the whereabouts of a priceless heart-shaped emerald. Joan gets trapped in many a South American jungle chase with Michael Douglas (called Jack in the film).

Basically, the plot gets hectic towards the traditional climax when Joan and Jack have to fight off both the two hoods and the shifty cop-cum-super-baddie, Zolo.

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They escape in the end, and Joan makes her real-life adventures into another bestseller. Jack realises his ambition to buy a huge World-cruising boat and is seen in the closing sequence, kissing Joan up on deck, as they are driven through the streets.

In many ways this film would be an ideal 'PG' (the US rating at the end was 'PG'). However, there are three specific precedent points that would make '15' the Board's safer choice. Firstly, Jack is a tearaway anti-hero who used to be a cannabis smuggler. In Reel 3 we see him throw a kilogram bag of grass on a campfire while he and Joan get totally stoned on the fumes. Jumping to the end, there is a late scene in which wicked Zolo gets his hand bitten off by a crocodile. This is realistic enough (all the stunts are well done), but what is particularly problematic for 'PG' is that we come back to a realistic bloodied stump three or four times in the scene. Lastly (in the latter part of Reel 4), there is a pleasant bed scene between Michael Douglas and Joan. He is shown throughout lying (post-coitally ?) upon her, and the camera pans down the side of their bodies so that, while we do not see any "detail", it is obvious that they actually are nude. This is a non-exploitative shot (and scene) but do we/should we take this sort of shot at 'PG'? At present, the best thing to do would be to decide upon '15' uncut and, if the Company comes back wanting a 'PG', tell them about the three trims that would be required as outlined above.

EXCEPTIONS

16th April, 1984
ROMANCING THE STONE
20th CENTURY FOX
Proposed Cat. PG

Reel 4 Towards end of reel, remove all sight of
naked couple on bed where man (Jack) is
lying on top of woman (Joan).

Reel 6 At beginning of reel, after Zdo character catches
jewel, and has hand bitten off by crocodile, remove
all sight of bloody wrist stump.

Minimum cuts. Please resubmit reels 4 and 6 marked up.