

Title: HOUSE OF CARDS

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Code: MMAV29920

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Film:

First: X

English lang: X

Video: X

2nd/3rd:

Sub-titled:

Sub TV:

Resub:

Dubbed:

Foreign language:

INITIAL CATEGORY SUGGESTION	CLASSIFICATION ISSUES							IMPLIED THEME OF INCEST/COCAINE SNORTING
	OUTLINE							
CATEGORY & CUTS	Uc	U	PG	12	15	18	R18	CUTS/REMARKS
THEME					X			
TREATMENT					X			
VISUALS: NUDITY								
SEX					X			
VIOLENCE				X				
SEXUAL VIOL								
HORROR								
LANGUAGE					X			
DRUGS								
IMITABLE TECHNIQUES								
LEGALITY: OBSCENITY								
CHILDREN								
ANIMALS								
BLASPHEMY								
FILM AS A WHOLE '18'	KEYWORDS		<u>POLITICAL</u> , DRAMA*, DRUGS (GENERAL)					

Synopsis & Comments

Contemporary tele drama about politics starring Ian Richardson as the Chief whip Francis Urquhart, a kind of Macbeth figure who, with his wife (childless like Lady M) manoeuvres his way to being PM, but at the cost of a lot of dirty tricks and several lives. Francis later latches up with a young political journalist Matty Corin (Suzannah Harker) and this is the occasion for one of the issues for category - on telly it was a 9pm start, because quite explicitly they play a father/daughter relationship in the bedroom. The first reference in Part One comes at 87 1/2 mins when there is talk between them of him being old enough to be her father and that having something to do with their attraction Francis always wanted a daughter.

Then in Part Two at 10 mins she says, twice "I want to call you daddy" and they kiss. At 25 1/2 mins they kiss again and go upstairs. The strongest scene at 42 1/2 mins has his bare back to camera with her under him on bed with some brief humping movements and she says "Daddy" during sex. Francis comments on the pleasure (51 1/2 mins) of playing with a daughter's hopes and fears and the feeling of power and there is an over head shot of their heads lying together.

COMMENTS

Of course it isn't actually incest but the theme and discreet affair with this overtone certainly gets into the '15' category.

Which is confirmed by the cocaine habit of Francis political goffer - a wild Irishman called Roger. At 36 mins in part One as he sits in the car we see a brief shot of a tube stuck in his nose and he sniffs and snorts but we don't see powder taken in but it is clear what he is doing and that he does it conspicuously while his girlfriend is out of the car. Of course the habit referred to as expensive (27 mins) makes him blackmailable and is never seen as glamorous only as a debilitating curse which leads to his death (71 1/2 mins Part Two) where he sits in a public loo saying "It does you no good" as he takes what the audience learns is his last dose laced with arsenic - which we have seen cut in to the cocaine at 67 mins by his murderer. I think the Falcon and the Snowman went out on video at '15' and there was quite glamorised young people - Sean Penn! Surely in that so I think the '15' category appropriate here and it is worth remarking no actual taking of drug is seen and taker is a middle-aged has been.

Lastly there is the plot point of Roger pimping his lover Reny, a black girl, for white politician which she does for love of him. (10 mins) Part One "Do you lease her out?" and at 47 1/2 mins - "Is she available to others?". And at 58 1/2 mins in an ugly little scene she is slapped by a client who thinks she is blackmailing him. She defends herself with some scissors and says (58 1/2 mins Part Two) that she never enjoyed the sex - which we briefly hear humping sounds of on tape at 51 mins. At that point we hear Reny say "You're hurting me". It isn't easy to pick up but she does say it laced in with his orgasmic noises. This in theme and treatment is certainly '15' again but not so nasty or explicit that the '18' would be required.