

TITLE: ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS **DATE** 14 3 86 **FILM** ☒ **VIDEO** ☐

DISTRIBUTOR: Palace Pictures **CATEGORY:** '15' **FIRST** ☒ **RESUB** ☐

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom **CUTS** ☐ **NO CUTS** ☒

GENRE: musical pastiche

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ☒ **SUB-TITLED** ☐ **DUBBED** ☐ **FOR BOARD DISCUSSION** ☐

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

SYNOPSIS AND COMMENTS:

Loosely modelled by Julian Temple on Colin McInnes's book ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS, this is the story of Colin who climbs on the teenage band wagon to make money out of the music and style and the economic purchasing power of the youth generation. He falls for Crêpe Suzette (Patsy Kensit) who is also after the big-time and marries couturier Henley (James Fox) who is really involved in a 'Rachman'-type racket to redevelop Notting Hill Gate. In this enterprise he is aided by cool 'dream-seller', a David Bowie-character who with their thugs are depicted as stirring up the 1958 riots in the area. Here they tangle with Colin, who lives there and whose friends and sympathies are the coloured population. In the mayhem that occurs Suzette and Colin become reunited.

Over....

Clearly aimed by the director at the teenage market, the moments that took it out of 'PG' were a reefer-smoking and joint passed at the end of reel 4; the vehement incitement to hatred of coloured people by the National Front (Steve Berkoff) at the end of reel 6, and the tough fights that occur in the last reel during the riot. We see numerous flick knives and razors wielded although no actual slashes; we see a chain being thumped onto bodies and a piece of a broken bottle held menacingly at the neck of the white thug. Although the fight turns into a choreographed kind of ballet, it does suddenly, in the last two reels, at the end of reel 5 and reel 6, shift genre and I certainly thought this became too tough for 'PG'.

In the Soho sequences towards the beginning of the film there is an underage girl and her pimp - Wizz - a friend of Colin's and there's numerous sight of prostitutes including 'Baby Boon', a child singer, on the bed of a prostitute as well. Although this is all rather colourful and jokey I suppose the quantity of references to prostitution with children again put it out of 'PG'. At the end of reel 2 in the 'Family' scenario, there is also visual reference to rear sex and masturbation, transvestism and at the very end of reel 6 in the sex scene, there is sight of Colin's hand at the top of Patsy's thigh which again is a bit steamy for 'PG' although for us old fogies it's full of period nostalgia and visual references, but it'll be interesting to see how it's consumed by the present teenage market.

TITLE: ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

DATE 14-3-86

FILM ☒ VIDEO ☐

DISTRIBUTOR: PARADE

CATEGORY: 15

FIRST ☒ RESUB ☐

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UK

CUTS ☐ NO CUTS ☒

GENRE: MUSICAL PASTICHE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ☒ SUB-TITLED ☐ DUBBED ☐

FOR BOARD DISCUSSION ☐

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

SYNOPSIS AND COMMENTS:

Bags of style here as Colin and Suzette, teenagers in love in a 1958 that exists only in the mind of director JULIAN TEMPLE are seduced by the lure of money and success into the commercial world of adults who seek to exploit the teenage market. Suzette, who works for Henley's fashion house rather prematurely invents the mini-skirt and is swept to Paris and marriage with her employer. Colin falls foul of Vendis who takes him and his camera into the world of advertising. But beneath the gloss the working class blacks suffer Rachmanism and a National Front movement develops; a West Side Story version of the Notting Hill Riots brings Colin and Suzette together again as they seek to rediscover the non-racist purity of their youth.

over...

With some great singing and dancing numbers this could well have been 'PG' but more adolescent sexual humour starts to creep in with the marvellous cross section of Colin's home. Here, for a quiet life, his father puts up with his mother's lovers who tenant the house, and a second son who spends most of his time reading sex magazines and masturbating under the bedclothes. Brief, inverted, humping under bedcovers, as seen through a keyhole feature here. By this stage a mildly rauchy sexual innuendo has crept in, and Whizz, one of Colin's friends, has a girlfriend on the game for whom he is, effectively, pimp. The 'PG' slips irrevocably away at the nightclub the kids attend. Cool lights up a huge joint and passes it to Colin who has a toke and passes it on. '15' is finally confirmed with the closing fight where razors are out, as well as chains and knuckledusters. Cool wins his man to man duel with the guy from the National Front, and abjures from thrusting the broken bottle into his face. Yes, truly, all British life is here. This energetic fantasy just might get Goldcrest out of its revolutionary hole: I'd like to think so. By no means a great movie, but possibly a quick buck winner if they haven't missed the boat for street dance movies.

Recommend '15' Category, no cuts.