

FROM : STEPHEN MURPHY

24th April 1974

"DJANGO"

I spoke to the distributor and said that this was a very marginal film for us. We could see little in it but violence without very much pretention to a plot. I said that we could pass it, but with heavy cutting. The distributor's view was that this film was either a first feature or at least an equal share of the bill, and that, heavily cut, it would be of little value to him. He therefore withdrew the film.

SDM

Date viewed: 04/12/92

Film: First: X English lang: X
Video: X 2nd/3rd: Foreign language:
Sub TV: Resub: Sub-titled/Dubbed:

INITIAL CATEGORY SUGGESTION	CLASSIFICATION ISSUES							QUANTITY OF VIOLENCE
	OUTLINE							Cult spaghetti western.
CATEGORY & CUTS	Uc	U	PG	12	15	18	R18	CUTS/REMARKS
THEME			X					
TREATMENT					X			
VISUALS: NUDITY								
SEX								
VIOLENCE						X		
SEXUAL VIOL								
HORROR								
LANGUAGE			X					
DRUGS								
IMITABLE TECHNIQUES								
LEGALITY: OBSCENITY								
CHILDREN								
ANIMALS								
BLASPHEMY								
FILM AS A WHOLE						X		

Keywords: Western/ Violence - Quantity of

Wonderful, but a little slow-moving, cult spaghetti western that I saw in India in the early 70s. Imagine my surprise therefore to read on the file that it was rejected twice by the Board!

Django (Franco Nero) wanders the bleak and barren landscape dragging behind him a mud-splattered coffin. He chances upon a woman, Maria, being whipped by the Mexicans, and then lewdly eyed by the rebel army faction of Major Jackson. A quick draw of his gun and Django has swiftly freed her of all the men. But Django has not travelled all the way to rescue frontier maidens. He has an old score to settle with Jackson, who has killed his woman. Meeting a renegade Mexican friend, Django tries to run off with the gold the two have stolen from Jackson. The Mexican does not take kindly to this and smashes Django's fingers. But Django has enough strength left in them to wipe out Jackson and his men without any help at an appropriately located cemetery.

Although two decades ago the feature may have seemed mindless violence, in the age of TERMINATOR 2 and Arnold Schwarzenegger, the feature has an almost naive and innocent quality to it. The mass shoot-outs where one bullet can descend a score of cowboys, what is remarkable is the absence of impact shots, blood spurts and splatter. One could even say that the feature is almost bloodless.

The areas of concern are:

At 3:45 mins The tying of Maria's hands to a pole and the whipping of her. A man tears the blouse off her back and then proceeds to whip her. Although we see the whip land on her back in medium long shot, several times, the whipping itself is not sexualized and nor is it depicted as a titillatory action. Category-wise it brings us to 15/18.

At 40 mins, The advancing Mexicans slice off the ear of one of Jackson's spies, stuff it into his mouth and then shoot him in the back. The slicing itself is slightly obscured by the victim's face. What is sliced off is undoubtedly made of plastiscene AND THE WOUND INFLICTED IS NEVER SHOWN.

1hr 12 mins Django's hands are smashed (below camera) with butt of a rifle. We see a foot placed on a hand (once for each hand) very briefly and the rest is all below camera.

None of this is strongly 18, but in view of its history and since the company have requested an 18, we felt an 18 would be reasonable, although I am certain with any other feature we would be asking for a 15.

Horsefall at 34 mins seems acceptable (after checking twice) but MT may want to re-check. Later horsefalls at 1hr 15 mins are all to the side, and therefore without problem.

Pass 18 uncut as requested.